

Marry Me 321

CHAPTER 321

Su Ziyue did not know what could have happened to force Qin Muchen, a man who was so powerful that he was almost omnipotent, to suffer an emotional breakdown.

When Nan Chuan heard Su Ziyue's words, he was obviously shaken.

He hesitated for a while more and said, "It's...It's about the incident back then."

"Back then?" Su Ziyue was a little confused. "What happened back then?"

However, Nan Chuan looked reluctant to tell her.

He knew that that incident was a bad memory for Su Ziyue, so he didn't want to mention it if possible.

After careful consideration, Nan Chuan said, "I think you should wait for Mr. Qin to tell you by himself. This matter involves the both of you, so you need to discuss it among yourselves. There is one thing I must tell you though. You are the person he cares about most, both two years ago and now. He would rather hurt himself than hurt you."

Hearing this from an outsider, Su Ziyue had an indescribable feeling.

However, since Nan Chuan didn't want to tell her, she wouldn't force him to.

She smiled and said, "Alright, I understand. Thank you, Nan Chuan."

Nan Chuan nodded slightly.

He found that Su Ziyue had changed a lot since two years ago.

Before this, he felt that Su Ziyue had become more indifferent, but at this moment, he felt that she was actually a very gentle person.

These two feelings were quite contradictory.

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When Qin Muchen returned home after he took Beef out for a stroll, he found that Su Ziyue had not yet returned.

At this moment, the sound of a car engine sounded outside the door.

He strode to the door with a grim look on his face.

She came home so late!

However, when he walked to the gate, he discovered that it was not Su Ziyue who had come back. Instead, Bai Jingshu had arrived along with An Xia.

An Xia held the beautifully-packaged wine in her hand which was probably a gift from Bai Jingshu.

Seeing Qin Muchen's dark expression, An Xia swallowed nervously. "Hello, Mr. Qin!"

Qin Muchen nodded and then said to Bai Jingshu, "Why are you here?"

"It's the weekend, and I feel sad and lonely being at home alone, so I came to your house to steal your food!" Bai Jingshu said as he walked toward An Xia.

After walking to An Xia, he raised his arm to put it around An Xia's shoulders.

An Xia had been his secretary for two years, so she knew Bai Jingshu's personality well. Seeing him like this, she already knew what he was going to do.

She then moved aside quietly.

Bai Jingshu tsked and violently stretched out his hand to take over the two bottles of wine in her hand. "Why are you avoiding me? It's not like I'm going to eat you! Isn't the wine heavy?! Let me take it!"

An Xia glared at him.

Meanwhile, Qin Muchen just ignored their bickering and turned to look at An Xia. "Where is Su Ziyue?"

"I had tea with her in the afternoon, and then we went our separate ways. Hasn't she come home?"

An Xia trailed off when she saw Qin Muchen's expression getting increasingly dark.

Bai Jingshu stepped forward in a timely manner and stood in front of An Xia. He then turned around and glanced at her. "Call Su Ziyue and ask her where she is."

An Xia was preparing to call Su Ziyue when Qin Muchen's cell phone rang.

Qin Muchen's expression was gloomy just now, but when he saw that the call was from Su Ziyue, he looked cheerful all of a sudden.

He answered the phone and asked, "When will you be back?"

"I'm on the way home now. An Xia called me just now and said that she would be coming to our house

for dinner with Bai Jingshu, so I went to the supermarket to buy some groceries. I will be home soon.”

“Alright. Be safe.”

After Qin Muchen hung up, he saw An Xia and Bai Jingshu staring at him, both of them looking extremely shocked.

Qin Muchen just said calmly, “Come in.”

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When Su Ziyue returned, Qin Muchen was playing with Beef in the yard.

Su Ziyue asked, “Where are An Xia and Bai Jingshu?”

Qin Muchen walked over and took the things she was carrying. When he saw that she had bought two bottles of wine, he was a little surprised. “Why did you buy wine as well?”

Su Ziyue played with Beef while walking toward the house. Then, she answered casually, “I bought some since I saw them at the supermarket.”

As soon as she walked into the hall, she saw An Xia chasing Bai Jingshu around the living room.

As she ran, she kept yelling, “You rascal, hooligan, pervert...”

The two had been bickering with each other for more than two years now, and yet they were still not bored with each other...

Moreover, An Xia would throw the same insults at him each time.

Beef’s eyes darted between An Xia and Bai Jingshu, then it suddenly ran over and bit onto Bai Jingshu’s trouser leg. Currently, An Xia was running toward him while the dog was tugging at his trouser leg from behind.

Then, Bai Jingshu begged for mercy pitifully.

Seeing this, Su Ziyue couldn’t help laughing, but still she deliberately scowled and yelled, “Beef, come here!”

Beef quickly released Bai Jingshu and ran over with its tail wagging before sitting in front of Su Ziyue. It tilted its head to the side and blinked its little bright eyes as if it was waiting to be praised.

Unable to resist the pleading look on its face, Su Ziyue kicked it gently and went into the kitchen with Qin Muchen.

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They had a scrumptious meal for dinner.

The dinner was cooked by Su Ziyue and Qin Muchen together.

Bai Jingshu opened two bottles of wine before putting a bottle each in front of himself and Qin Muchen, determined to get wasted tonight.

On the other hand, Su Ziyue just pretended as if she didn't see that and didn't stop them. She then chatted quietly with An Xia while eating.

Later on, she and An Xia started playing rock, papers and scissors, while the two men drank according to the outcome of the game.

Su Ziyue was very unlucky today and lost more than a dozen times in a row.

Su Ziyue glanced sideways at Qin Muchen's reddish ears and asked him in a low voice, "Can you still drink? Maybe I should stop playing rock, papers, scissors with An Xia."

"It's okay." Qin Muchen raised his eyes to look at her, a trace of blur in his eyes.

He had already drunk a lot with Bai Jingshu previously, and now that he was drinking so much, he was already slightly drunk.

Su Ziyue smiled and said, "Alright then."

Then, she lost another dozen times.

When An Xia saw that the second bottle of wine in front of Qin Muchen had already been finished, she whispered to Bai Jingshu, "Mr. Qin is so pitiful..."

Bai Jingshu snorted coldly without a word.

He felt that he himself was even more pitiful.

At least Su Ziyue was concerned for Mr. Qin.

As for him, An Xia was not worried for him at all. After having her as his secretary and spending the majority of their time together for two years, they still had not progressed in their relationship...

Thinking of this, Bai Jingshu couldn't help pouring himself a glass of wine to comfort himself for living a monk-like abstinent life for the past two years.

By the end of the dinner, Qin Muchen was completely drunk.

Bai Jingshu and Su Ziyue helped Qin Muchen back to the room. As they walked, Bai Jingshu said, "I knew it. Muchen became drunk just after two bottles of wine!"

Su Ziyue just kept mum. After putting Qin Muchen down on the bed, she finally said, "Thank you."

"Don't worry about it. Muchen and I have been friends for so many years. You and him are both my precious friends. Don't hesitate to tell me if you need help in the future."

Plus, he was also counting on Su Ziyue to help him solve his issues with An Xia.

After seeing An Xia and Bai Jingshu off, Su Ziyue boiled a pot of water and went upstairs.

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Qin Muchen was spreadeagled in the middle of the bed with his face looking slightly crimson.

He rested one of his arms casually on the bed while he bent the other and placed the back of his hand on his forehead.

"Qin Muchen?" Su Ziyue edged closer to him and called his name in a soft voice.

Was he completely wasted?

Su Ziyue had no choice but to clamber into the bed to remove his clothes, which was a laborious task.

Just as she had freed one of his arms from the sleeves of his shirt, her wrist was gripped by him tightly.

She glanced down and found he had already opened his eyes.

Obviously, he was still in a drunken state, because his dark and profound eyes looked misty and glassy.

Qin Muchen did not look aggressive at all in his current state.

Su Ziyue's heart softened and she cajoled him while she caressed his face with her free hand. "Let go of me first so that I can remove your shirt."

To her surprise, her free hand was clasped tightly by him too, who then called out her name in an uncertain voice, "Su Ziyue?"

Su Ziyue had always wondered why girls in movies were always portrayed as weak and feeble after getting drunk, causing them to be taken advantage of, meanwhile in reality, Qin Muchen was still so strong even though he was hammered.

Patiently, she reassured him, "Yes, it's me. Can you let me go now?"

Qin Muchen was still fixing his gaze on her and it was unsure whether he heard her clearly or not.

Suddenly, he exerted force on his grip, causing Su Ziyue to lose her balance and fall onto him.

His warm breath which came with traces of the refreshing smell of alcohol hit her in the face. "You're back?" he asked.

Su Ziyue could be sure he was indeed wasted from the way he was speaking, and it was the exact outcome she had wanted to achieve.

A drunken man would have a clear mind because it was uncluttered. In the state of intoxication, his brain would relax and he would forget his troubles temporarily, and he would let down all his guard and be able to voice out things he usually was reluctant to or did not dare to say.

As she could not come up with other ideas to make Qin Muchen speak, making him drunk was her last resort.

Keeping her body still while she lay prone on his body, she urged in a gentle voice, "Yes. So, you have to be nice now and let me remove your clothes. Then, you have to go to the bathroom to take a shower, or I'll leave you alone again."

"No way!"

Qin Muchen abruptly drew both of his arms closer in a quick and deft motion but he spoke slower than usual probably because of the effect of alcohol. Therefore, he sounded less intimidating than usual.

Su Ziyue, who found him more adorable when he was drunk, couldn't help but stretch out her hand to pinch his cheeks.

She then cajoled him in a mellow voice, "Let's sit up."

"Okay..."

She pulled him up and removed his jacket with much effort. Her face couldn't help but flush when she dealt with his suit trousers.

Then, she dragged him to the bathroom and put him into the bathtub, which was a tiresome task that made her sweat profusely.

While she was filling up the bathtub with water, she asked him, "Is the water too hot? Is this the right temperature for you?"

Leaning on the edge of the bathtub lethargically, Qin Muchen stared straight at Su Ziyue with his glassy eyes. Perhaps he was looking at her too intently, Su Ziyue had the illusion that he was staring at her affectionately. She quickly looked away and did not dare to meet his gaze.

All of a sudden, he rose to his feet in the bathtub and demanded, "Where's my wife? Su Ziyue, where are you?" Stunned by his sudden movement, Su Ziyue first moved her eyes away from him hastily and said, "I'm here..."

"My clothes..." Splash! Following the sound, Qin Muchen collapsed back into the bathtub, splashing water in all directions that wet Su Ziyue's clothes. She knew this wouldn't be easy.

She grabbed the towel beside her to wipe her face dry before turning back to check on Qin Muchen, who was sitting in the bathtub and looking lost. With his hair wet, Su Ziyue couldn't help but laugh out loud at his unusually hilarious look.

She then squeezed out some bath gel and applied it all over his body while she asked him at the same time, "Has anything unpleasant happened to you recently that you feel like sharing with me?"

Qin Muchen, who sat motionless in the bathtub, questioned, "Who are you?"

Patiently, she answered him, "I'm Su Ziyue."

"Why are you here?" Qin Muchen cocked his head to one side confusedly as he seemed unconvinced. For some reason, Su Ziyue thought he looked adorable this way.

"Of course I have to be here, because you're here." Su Ziyue spread the bath gel on his body evenly then rinsed it away.

Then, she lifted the shower head to wash his hair since it was already wet.

Suddenly, Qin Muchen pushed her hand away and yelled at her, "You lied to me! You aren't her because she doesn't want me anymore! Who are you? Get out of here now!"

Su Ziyue, who glanced at her arm which had turned red because of him, pursed her lips and asked, "Why doesn't she want you anymore?"

Yet, he only muttered, "She doesn't want me anymore..."

She did not expect to get a clear answer from a drunkard.

But did he subconsciously think that she did not want him anymore?

Why would he harbor such a thought?

She picked up the shower head to rinse the shampoo from his hair before she pressed on, "Why do you think she doesn't want you anymore?"

Qin Muchen, who seemed to enjoy her service a great deal, commented with his squinted eyes, "Your hands... feel exactly like those of Su Ziyue..."

Oh please, she was Su Ziyue.

Su Ziyue gave up any hope of getting an answer from him while he was showering.

She got it done quickly then dragged him out of the bathtub. After wiping his body dry with a towel in a sloppy way, she dropped him, who seemed to have fallen asleep, onto the bed.

After pulling the blanket over him, she went to the bathroom to wash herself up before fetching him a glass of water.

When she turned around to put the glass of water onto the bedside table, Qin Muchen clung onto her body immediately.

The smell of the bath gel which they carried made the atmosphere sensual especially on this quiet night.

"Qin Muchen?" Su Ziyue caressed his head with her hands instead of pushing him away.

It was unsure whether he was aroused by her voice or the movement of her hands on his head, he suddenly turned over and lay on top of her.

In a deft and accurate movement, he found her lips.

He kissed her so passionately as though he was trying to swallow her while his large palms travelled adeptly from her shoulder downward.

When he reached her chest, he let out a blurred moan.

It had been two years since Su Ziyue last had such intimate interaction with Qin Muchen. Although she had moved back in with him, he had never done anything to her as the two of them seemed to be protecting something cautiously.

Mentally, she had already become somewhat rusty with things of such a nature but her body was familiar with Qin Muchen's touches.

Being left somewhat out of breath by his kisses, she held his broad shoulder with her slender hands and exerted some force to push him slightly further away...

Yet, it just triggered a more vigorous reaction from him.

He grabbed both her hands and lifted them over her head while he pressed his burning body tightly against hers to keep her from running away.

Suddenly, he lifted his head and gazed at Su Ziyue with his glassy eyes...

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Finally, Su Ziyue had a chance to catch her breath. She turned her head sideways to gasp for breath, her chest heaving up and down. Qin Muchen was no better than her. Beads of sweat had formed all over his forehead while he stared at her without blinking. His glassy eyes found their focus for a second but soon returned to their original state.

After smoothing out her breathing, Su Ziyue extended her hands to wipe away the sweat on his forehead. "What's wrong?" she asked in a soft voice.

Shaking his head, Qin Muchen seemed to be feeling dizzy, and next, he lay down on her body with his head on her shoulder. Their bodies were very close to each other, and amidst their breathing, Su Ziyue could vaguely hear him asking, "Does it still hurt?"

She felt his hands resting on her belly the next second. Petrified, she shoved him away forcefully without thinking.

Thump! She exerted so much force that he fell onto the floor. Trembling, she sat up on the bed and stared dazedly and speechlessly at Qin Muchen who had stumbled onto the floor.

Qin Muchen's head had hit the ground when he fell. After a short-lasting dizziness, he rubbed his head and sat upright, and he seemed to have sobered up substantially. His chest tightened the moment he saw Su Ziyue's look clearly. Then, he rose to his feet and returned to the bed where he hastily drew her into his arms. Sensing that Su Ziyue was trying to push him away, he drew his arms even closer and tighter around her body and said repeatedly, "I'm so sorry, I'm so sorry..."

All of a sudden, Su Ziyue lost it. Hitting and punching Qin Muchen, she wailed, "Let me go! Let me go!"

The last remaining bit of his drunkenness dissipated when he felt her warm tears drip onto his shoulder. In a croaky but determined voice, Qin Muchen insisted, "I won't!"

Su Ziyue, who was crying her heart out, questioned in a helpless and feeble voice, "Why did you mention that..."

"It was all my fault. It was all my bad..." Qin Muchen kept repeating the same thing.

Su Ziyue only stopped crying when she was tired. Qin Muchen wiped away the tears on her face, his eyes filled with endless grief. He felt as though he was suddenly seized by a surge of helplessness which

made his apology sound unconvincing. It was too late now no matter what he did.

Su Ziyue slowly calmed herself down and pushed him away gently. "It's all in the past now. Let's not mention it again in the future, alright?" she said weakly. She believed Qin Muchen's love for her was genuine. But her baby... She once had the intention to confront him, to ask him why he could do something so cruel and why he didn't trust her. However, she did not have the courage to voice it out everytime she felt the urge to ask him.

"Please don't be like this..."

Of course, Qin Muchen knew that although she was trying hard to move on from the misfortune, it just showed how difficult it was for her. "It was all my fault. If I had not left you behind alone and if I had brought you away with me, it wouldn't have happened. It was all my bad..." He had never loathed himself so deeply and regretted making a decision so badly before.

Silently, Su Ziyue watched his agonized look and felt sympathetic, but she slightly relished it at the same time. To be honest, she hated herself deep down inside and she did harbor some resentment toward Qin Muchen too. But now, at least she could share the misery, which she used to suffer alone at first, with him. This thought comforted her.

"Just punch me because I'm a b*stard!" Gazing at her intently, Qin Muchen suddenly grabbed her hand to land a forceful slap on his own face. Feeling that was not enough, he gave himself a few more slaps.

Su Ziyue was dumbfounded. According to Gu Hanyan, he had decided to leave her behind back then because he did not trust her. So, he should have been aware of the miscarriage she had suffered before all this while. But, why did he only suddenly react in this way now?

"Do you know that two years ago, I did go back to the mansion before? I happened to catch you telling your grandfather that I'm a fickle woman but even so, I still wanted to look for you after news about your marriage with Gu Hanyan was announced. It was because I didn't believe you would really marry her and I believe your love for me was true. But according to Gu Hanyan, you didn't trust me because you thought my relationship with Gong Zeyang was suspicious..." For some reason, although she was calm, tears still trickled down her face without her realizing. She looked up at Qin Muchen, who was looking tense, and continued with a smile, "At that time, I didn't want to believe what Gu Hanyan said but I couldn't find any loophole in her words. I couldn't even come up with an excuse to convince myself that what she said wasn't true..."

Su Ziyue did not sound intimidating at all because her voice had become slightly hoarse, feeble and barely audible after all the crying just now. But to Qin Muchen, he felt his heart was pummeled by each and every word she said as though they were huge hammers. With his lips pursed tightly, he looked so uptight that his face had gone pale.

Even though he had no idea exactly what Gu Hanyan told Su Ziyue back then, he could guess that she must have told her the worst thing of all, because it was capable of making Su Ziyue lose all her hope to

stay and convince her to leave without hesitation. And he had been silly enough to assume that she had refused to come back just because of his engagement with Gu Hanyan. He had never thought things could be so bad.

After making that statement, Su Ziyue took a deep breath and added, "I never thought that I would be able to tell you this so calmly."

Qin Muchen was taken aback by how calm she sounded. Abruptly, he pulled her toward his chest and muttered, "Please don't ever forgive me." He asked her not to forgive him forever so that he could make it up to her with the rest of his life.

Su Ziyue patted his back with her hands and said, "Don't talk nonsense. It's all in the past now and I believe we will have kids again, but I'm a very careless person. So, you have to promise me that next time, you'll take care of me well, and you won't have doubts in me ever again." He had to make sure she did not become ignorant of her pregnancy again.

Qin Muchen quickly clarified, "I didn't suspect you; I just had no idea that you were pregnant at that time. Also, I've never believed that you would get entangled with Gong Zeyang." Back then, he would never say stuff like this because he had always thought them unimportant. However, never had he thought that one day, those stuff that he didn't say would actually cause them to go into separation, bring them misery and make them nearly miss out on each other forever.

A trace of shock was evident in Su Ziyue's voice when she questioned, "How could you have no idea that I was pregnant? Didn't you arrange for the family doctor to do a body check-up on me?"

With his throat dry and croaky, Qin Muchen confessed with some difficulty, "The family doctor was a close friend of Gu Hanyan's... So, according to the health report she showed me, you were fine."

All at once, Su Ziyue had no idea whether she should be sad or happy. She pushed him away and asked him again to confirm, "So you never knew that I was pregnant at that time?"

As he had acquiesced in his grandfather's decision to let Gu Hanyan move in with them, Gu Hanyan was given the chance to undermine their relationship.

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Su Ziyue was not sure whether she should feel glad about the fact that Qin Muchen did not have doubts in her or feel sad that their relationship had been sabotaged by Gu Hanyan's wicked plot. No plans in this world could be so flawless without any loopholes. Yet, deep down inside, she still found the truth hard to accept. For Qin Muchen to be ignorant of her pregnancy was even more saddening than knowing about it but decided not to trust her.

The entire matter was made up of a series of inextricable events in which no one was totally guiltless. Qin Muchen had allowed Gu Hanyan to move in with him without a word and through which Gu Hanyan was given the chance to execute her plot, whereas Su Ziyue had made a mistake by being careless...

However, no one was perfect. Through the passage of time, not only would one become more mature, one would also learn how to be more forgiving and compassionate. Although Su Ziyue still found it hard to move on from the unfortunate event, she understood from the bottom of her heart that she wouldn't just leave Qin Muchen for those things which had taken place in the past.

Looking apprehensive, Qin Muchen croaked, "I've just learned about it recently, and that is..." He rested his palms on her belly and continued in a tender voice, "This place once carried a baby that belonged to the both of us."

With a lump formed in her throat, she asked him, "Recently, you've been getting up in the middle of the night to take a puff. Is it because of the truth that you've just found out?"

Qin Muchen, who was stunned for a second, nodded his head in silence before he added, "I've been careful to keep my movements light and gentle, thinking that I wouldn't wake you up, but you noticed it after all."

Su Ziyue chuckled with tears dribbling down her face. "Do you think I'm still as easily deceived as before?" she asked.

"Yes." He truly hoped that she didn't have to go through all this. Although the agonizing experience would make her grow up, the joy she lost would be irretrievable.

She gave him a gentle punch and snapped, "Dream on! I'm much smarter now than before, so you better behave yourself from now on. If you were to do anything to let me down, I will not hesitate to file for divorce and then claim for half of your wealth."

Qin Muchen held her hand and promised in a firm voice, "If there was such a day, I would give all of my wealth to you."

Sniffling, she laughed out loud, looking haggard with her entire face covered in tears. "You better remember you made that promise yourself!"

"Yes, I'll surely honor that..." With that, he lowered his head and gave her a kiss. One soft smooch after another landed on both her forehead and her cheeks.

Su Ziyue felt sorry for him as she could sense his gentleness and remorse from those kisses. She pecked him back and said in a mellow voice, "Don't be so hard on yourself because both of us were not good enough back then. That was why our baby decided to leave us. When we become better and be more prepared in the future, I believe he'll be back..."

Never did she expect that Qin Muchen had been having sleepless nights and emotional breakdowns lately because of that matter. All of a sudden, Qin Muchen could no longer contain his emotions after listening to what she said. He buried his head on her shoulder and held her in his arms so tightly that her

bones felt painful, as though they were about to be broken. However, she did not complain because she could feel his warm tears dropping near her neck.

The man was powerful, rich, detached and steady. All the while, he had been a legendary presence but at that moment, he was sobbing silently with his head on her shoulder. It melted her heart completely. Regardless of what would happen in the future or who might doubt Qin Muchen's love for her, she would be able to refute those skepticisms confidently and firmly once she thought of this moment. This was when he stripped away all disguises, laying bare his most vulnerable true self to her.

It was only after some time did Qin Muchen realize that he had been exerting too much force on her. "Did I hurt you?" he asked in a panicked tone.

"No, you didn't." Su Ziyue shook her head. She took the initiative to snuggle in his arms and muttered to him, "Can you tell me everything about the matter?" She could feel him nodding his head before he slowly started to speak.

"Grandpa was gravely ill and dying at that time. As I cared about him a great deal, I rushed to the hospital without a further thought. At that time, I planned to have Nan Chuan bring you back to the mansion directly..." What happened next was something both of them had been avoiding to recall.

Qin Muchen was having difficulty carrying on. After all, he had indeed neglected Su Ziyue because of his grandfather. Su Ziyue too thought of the same thing. She gently held his hands and said soothingly, "He was your only family member and I know how important he was to you. If the same thing were to happen to my father, I would have made the same decision too." At the mention of her father, she could clearly sense how his body stiffened.

She decided against probing about the matter because she believed he would not let her down again, no matter what sort of motive he once had when he first acquainted her, and no matter how he was related to what had happened to her father.

Later on, he shared some more details with her intermittently but when he was halfway through, she felt sleepy and soon dozed off. It was only when Qin Muchen could feel her breathing slowing down to a steady pace did he place her back onto the bed with care.

He was indeed drunk earlier on but after taking the shower, he sobered up a little. Apart from the sexual attraction he felt toward her, what he had for Su Ziyue originated more so from the emotional stress that came from the issue which had been bothering him all this while.

He was greedy and despicable. On one side, he yearned to be forgiven by her and to have their relationship returned to how it was back then. On the other side, he did not want her to forgive him too freely. Moreover, he even hoped that she could throw a tantrum and had a row with him. In that way, he could treat her even better to assuage his guilt. Yet, she had forgiven him so easily and he wasn't used to her calmness and composure. But, it was fine because he had plenty of time ahead to make up to her.

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When Su Ziyue woke up the next morning, Qin Muchen was still fast asleep, probably because he drank too heavily last night. She got out of bed quietly as she got dressed and then went to the kitchen. She had just finished making some tea for him to help him sober up when she turned around. At that moment, she caught sight of him watching her for only God-knew-how-long, by the door of the kitchen.

“You’re awake? Now, come over here and have some tea.” As she was talking, she turned the other direction and poured out the tea from the pot. Holding the cup in her hands and placing it on the dining table, Su Ziyue swung around, facing him. “Does your head still hurt?” Realizing he was still staring at her unflinchingly, she couldn’t help but touch her face and asked, “What’s wrong?”

Qin Muchen approached her and lowered his head to give her a kiss. “I feel as though I’m living in a dream,” he mumbled.

Su Ziyue, who was stunned, gave him a kiss back and asked, “How about now?”

“It’s not enough,” he gave her a short and sweet answer. Holding her waist with both hands, he lifted her up and placed her on the dining table.

Su Ziyue thought of herself as a very conservative woman deep down. However, sitting on the dining table, all she could think of was the flashback images of the time she had an intimate encounter with Qin Muchen there.

Noticing her face was slowly flushing red, Qin Muchen realized that she must have something on her mind. His eyes immediately turned crafty as he placed both hands on her back, leaning in closer to her. “What are you thinking about?”

Su Ziyue answered him hastily, “Nothing!”

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Although she denied it, she still couldn’t help but relive in her mind the sweet moments they once had...

“You’re lying.”

He suddenly pinched her cheeks and said bemusedly, “Your face is so red.”

Su Ziyue answered him with composure, “I got it from working in the kitchen.”

“Is the cooker hood in the kitchen so ineffective?” He took half a step forward while he was talking.

Su Ziyue felt glad that she was wearing a long-sleeved shirt paired with a pair of long pants instead of a

dress. Otherwise... Moving backward from him, she added, "Yes, it's time for us to buy a new one to replace it."

"Okay, I'll have it changed in the afternoon. Let's skip preparing breakfast because I've found something even tastier."

As Qin Muchen was just inches away from her, Su Ziyue could catch the smell of the shower cream wafted freshly from his body. While he was talking, he fixed his gaze intently on her with an unusual brilliance shining in his dark pupils. Even if Su Ziyue was an innocent teenage girl, she would be able to sense what he was about to do from just the way he looked at her. With a smile, she pushed him slightly away from her with both hands in an attempt to leap off the dining table from the side. But of course... her plan failed in the end.

Qin Muchen extended his long arms to scoop her back into her original position. Cupping her face with his palms to keep it still, he lowered his head and touched her lips with his. "Mmph..." Just as Su Ziyue was trying to say something, she had no choice but to swallow them back because of his kiss.

His kisses were so eager and passionate that it was irresistible to Su Ziyue, who willingly submitted to all of his advances. Despite being slightly spaced out, Su Ziyue reminded him, "Let's head back to the bedroom..."

She did not catch his answer because all she could hear was his heavy breathing. At last, he brought her back to the room. He carried her upstairs in his arms but in a manner which deterred Su Ziyue from taking the stairs with him again for a long time ever since then.

As Qin Muchen had abstained from sex for too long a time, he first satiated his hunger with a quick round before giving her a hard time by trying out several other positions with her. When everything ended, she slumped on the bed, feeling like all her energy had been sapped.

Meanwhile, Qin Muchen lay on the side of his body next to her with one hand supporting his head while he admired her face. Su Ziyue was so exhausted that she had lost her strength to entertain him any further. So, she lifted up her leg and gave him a kick as she warned, "Stay further away from me..."

"Are you trying to get rid of me after getting what you need?" Acting roguishly, he edged closer to her and started planting kisses from her forehead all the way to her chin. Judging from the way he was going downward, he seemed to be ready for another round.

Su Ziyue moved her hands to cover his lips and complained with her eyes blinking, "I'm hungry."

He bit the inside of her palm softly to express his reluctance before doing a flip to get out of the bed. Pulling the blanket over to cover half of her face, she watched him putting on a shirt over his body in a sloppy manner. Suddenly, he turned around to look at her, which left her speechless.

"Hold on." After saying that, he made his way to the bathroom and came back with a towel in his hand.

A towel? Her hands, which were clutching on the blanket, jerked and then she yelled at him, "Go and prepare some food now because I'm famished!"

"Okay. I'll just have to clean you up first. I'll get it done quickly." He strode over in her direction while he was talking. At last, under Su Ziyue's extremely embarrassed gaze, Qin Muchen left with a casual comment. "Okay, I'll let you handle the rest while I head to the kitchen first." Then, he let out a loud guffaw on his way out.

He shouldn't be laughing at all! As she turned and looked at the towel in her hands, she thrust it away immediately and even stomped on it a few times. The Qin Muchen who was vulnerable and affectionate last night must have only been her illusion!

...

She headed downstairs after enjoying a bath. As she reached the kitchen, she happened to see Qin Muchen pouring milk into the dog bowl for Beef.

Woof, woof! The moment Beef spotted Su Ziyue, it immediately let out two friendly barks before it scampered its way over to her. Yet, Qin Muchen hauled it back by its tail cruelly and snapped, "Drink your milk now or I won't even let you lick on a milk carton tomorrow."

Su Ziyue was speechless looking at the way he treated Beef. If it wasn't because of how strong and healthy Beef looked now, she would have assumed that Qin Muchen had been ill-treating the dog for the past two years. After Qin Muchen pulled Beef back, he stroked its head to smoothen its fur. Beef, who was just groaning in displeasure seconds ago, immediately cheered up and started licking the milk off its bowl. Su Ziyue's heart gave a lurch when she saw the scene. She was sure that Qin Muchen would be a competent father if they had kids of their own.

...

As they had spent too much time in bed in the morning, it was almost lunch hour by the time they had finished breakfast. Su Ziyue took a day off from work as she had applied for leave. Of course, Qin Muchen skipped going to the office too. Just as the two of them were getting ready to bring Beef out for a stroll, Qin Muchen received a call from Nan Chuan, asking him to make a trip to Lumiere Jade House to attend to something which required his attention.

Qin Muchen said without a second of hesitation, "I'm not going and I'll leave it to you." With that, he straight away hung up on him. Although Su Ziyue did not catch what Nan Chuan had spoken over the phone, she could tell that something urgent must have happened, otherwise Nan Chuan wouldn't have made the call.

"What happened? Aren't you going to check it out?" she asked.

"It's not important." Even if there was something important, he was not in the mood to attend to it. It

was with much effort that he could finally patch things up with Su Ziyue and clear up all misunderstandings that existed between them. As they had already wasted two years throughout the process, he was reluctant to leave her from his sight even for a second now.

Looking at how nonchalant he looked, Su Ziyue chuckled and suggested, "Why don't we head there together to see what the problem is and have our lunch there too?"

Qin Muchen asked her with a slight frown, "Do you feel like going there?"

"Yes, I am the one who wants to go. Come on." With one hand holding the leash tied to Beef, Su Ziyue held on to Qin Muchen with her other free hand as they made their way out together.

...

Nan Chuan was informed of their arrival at Lumiere Jade House as soon as they showed up. Soon, he made his way over to them and greeted them respectfully, "Mr. Qin, Mrs. Qin."

Su Ziyue, who was standing next to Qin Muchen, cast a secretive wink at Nan Chuan, who nodded back at her thoughtfully.

"Go ahead with your work first and I'll be waiting in your private room." With that, Su Ziyue left with Beef as they headed toward the direction of his private room.

Qin Muchen, who looked poker-faced, shot Nan Chuan a glare and warned, "You'll be doomed if the matter is not serious enough to worth my attention."

Nan Chuan was left speechless as he couldn't figure out what he had done wrong. Qin Muchen first made sure that Su Ziyue had gone upstairs before turning around and walking toward the office. "What's the matter?" he questioned Nan Chuan along the way. "Spill it."

Nan Chuan looked somewhat more solemn when he heard him. "Boss, let's head to the office first."

Qin Muchen paused in his tracks for a split second before eyeing him bewilderedly. Without making further comments, Nan Chuan walked briskly ahead of him, leading the way.

When they finally reached the room, Nan Chuan handed Qin Muchen a parcel.

Qin Muchen noticed that it had been opened. "Have you seen what was inside?" he asked.

Nan Chuan nodded his head and said, "As the sender didn't leave his or her name on the parcel and only left Lumiere Jade House as the receiver, they gave the parcel to me. After that, I opened it." However, he dared not say what was inside.

A shining brilliance flashed through Qin Muchen's eyes as soon as he heard him. He took out a piece of

paper from the parcel through its opening, and just one glance at its contents was enough to make his pupils constrict immediately.

CHAPTER 326

Standing behind Qin Muchen to his right, Nan Chuan looked up, trying to observe his expression cautiously but all he could see was his jaw which looked tense. After a while, Qin Muchen stuffed the paper back into the parcel and turned around to ask him, "When was this delivered here?"

"I received it last night." After that, he added, "But, I couldn't find out who the sender was." That was exactly what made Nan Chuan realize the significance of the parcel, which prompted him to call up Qin Muchen and ask him to make a trip over.

"In any case, you have to keep this a secret. On top of that, you have to find out about the sender." Then, Qin Muchen tossed the parcel onto the table casually and said, "Destroy it."

It seemed like something had just dawned upon him when he asked Nan Chuan, "Do you have any updates on Lee Yannan?"

Nan Chuan answered in a slightly puzzled tone, "He's in China but I have yet to locate him."

"Expand the scope of the search then." Upon giving out the instruction, Qin Muchen turned around and left at a hasty pace. Su Ziyue was waiting for him to have lunch.

Nan Chuan acknowledged behind him, "Yes."

...

Su Ziyue pulled a chair next to her where Beef immediately made a leap and sat on it obediently, looking ready for lunch. Stunned, she stroked its head and chuckled. "How did you know that the chair is for you?" she asked. Beef then brushed its head against her hands in an affectionate way.

At that juncture, Qin Muchen pushed the door open and stepped inside. "Hey," Su Ziyue greeted him as she looked up and saw him. He cast a glance at Beef with his brows raised. Noticing this, she asked, "You must have been indulging Beef all these while, haven't you?" Pointing at Beef, she continued, "It sat on the chair on its own accord even before I gave any commands."

Covering his mouth and clearing his throat uneasily, Qin Muchen said, "Nan Chuan was too busy to take care of it and there was no one else I could entrust Beef to. So, I have been taking care of it when I was in Yunzhou City." Although he too acknowledged the fact that he had been indulging the dog too much, he felt that it deserved such treatment in addition to how much Su Ziyue adored it.

Su Ziyue couldn't help but burst out laughing when she pictured scenes of Qin Muchen bringing Beef along with him to attend meetings, work discussions, and dinner with clients. While Beef looked silly in an adorable way, Qin Muchen appeared stern and steady; the duo made a rather weird combination.

...

When they were on their way back after lunch, they bumped into some people of the Su Family at the lobby. Although Yunzhou City was huge, there was only one Lumiere Jade House. Therefore, it was easy to run into acquaintances by hanging out there.

“Ziyue!” Su Yuanming was the first who called out her name.

Su Ziyue looked up in the direction of the voice and saw Xu Lisha right away. She was Su Yuanming’s wife as well as Xu Youran’s elder sister. Sensing her stare on herself, Xu Lisha flashed Su Ziyue a subtle smile. Then, Su Ziyue cast her eyes downward and landed her gaze on a little boy whose hand Xu Lisha was holding. The little boy, whose age seemed to be around one year old, was fiddling with a toy gun in his hands and mumbling by himself at the same time. She stared at him for about two seconds before looking away.

Despite feeling irritated for being ignored by Su Ziyue, Su Yuanming still maintained a smile when he spoke, “You should come back home and have a meal with us when you’re free since you’ve already been back for quite some time.”

“Now that you’ve mentioned it, I’ll surely make time to go back.” There was no doubt she was going to make a trip back to Su Residence one day. However, she would do more than just to have a meal there; she would make sure the ugly side of everyone in the family was revealed.

Su Yuanming looked awkward in response to Su Ziyue’s offensive tone, but it was inappropriate of him to get angry with her because he was careful not to offend Qin Muchen.

Qin Muchen, who was standing behind Su Ziyue, looked glum and slightly impatient. He placed his arm on her shoulder then looked at Su Yuanming with an impassive face. “Mr. Su, is there anything else we can help you with?” he asked.

Su Yuanming quickly answered him, “There’s nothing else. Mr. Qin, if you happen to be free...”

“I’m very busy.” With that, Qin Muchen walked away with Su Ziyue. Those people from the Su family were indeed unbearable.

Inside the car, Qin Muchen was driving whereas Su Ziyue was playing with Beef. It was sitting at the back passenger seat, sticking out its head curiously through the space between the two front seats. Su Ziyue clasped its mouth together to stop it from barking, causing Beef to keep shaking its head vigorously.

While waiting at a junction for the traffic lights to turn green, Qin Muchen drummed his fingers on the steering wheel. After much contemplation, he asked, “Have you any idea about how Su Group has been faring over the past two years?”

Su Ziyue looked up at him and echoed, "Su Group?"

Trying to catch any changes in her expression, Qin Muchen spoke slowly, "Someone has been setting booby traps in Su Group."

"Who?" Su Ziyue put on a more solemn look as it was only then did she become keenly interested to know more about the matter.

With his lips pursed, Qin Muchen mulled it over and decided to be honest with her. "It's Feng Xingyan."

"That's my uncle!" Su Ziyue looked affronted and punished him with a knock on his head.

Frowning slightly, Qin Muchen challenged her in a tone brimming with displeasure, "Did you just hit me because of another man?"

"Well... that's my uncle we're talking about," she drawled after some hesitation.

Was it necessary? Feng Xingyan was her uncle and it was obvious that Qin Muchen was trying to stir up trouble for no apparent reason.

"Is he? Does he treat you well?" So much so that he deliberately kept her hidden from Qin Muchen to prevent him from locating her? In fact, he knew many things that Su Ziyue had no means to know. At the moment, he was speculating the purposes behind Feng Xingyan's plans. However, he had had no luck in finding any concrete proof so far which could shed more light on his motives. In his opinion, Feng Xingyan was not an ordinary guy. He even had a premonition that he would be involved in a face-to-face clash with him in the future. Therefore, before that time would come, he needed to do some basic understanding of how Feng Xingyan was under Su Ziyue's impression.

Without hesitation, she answered him, "He treats me well."

Qin Muchen snorted icily then turned his head back and ignored her. She then poked his face with a finger and cajoled, "Alright, no one could compare to how well you treat me."

She saw a smile curled upward at the corners of his lips as soon as she said that. Deep down inside, she wondered why she didn't realize how easy it was to pacify him back then. But, based on what he just said...

"Why is he tampering with the Su Group?" She believed what Qin Muchen said was true but she couldn't understand why Feng Xingyan would do something like that.

Qin Muchen answered her with his brows raised, "I've no idea."

As Su Ziyue shot him a baleful glance, her phone rang before she could speak any further. She took her phone out and saw that the call happened to be from Feng Xingyan. Qin Muchen turned sideways and

caught sight of the caller ID shown on the screen of her phone.

She picked it up and greeted, "Uncle Xingyan."

On the other side, Feng Xingyan was standing by the boarding gate in Jingcheng City Airport followed by his assistant and bodyguard. After taking a glance at the people standing in line ahead of him, he spoke casually, "I'm boarding the flight to Yunzhou City now. Yes, I'll arrive in the afternoon."

He ended the call after giving more information to Su Ziyue. Then, he handed his phone to his subordinates behind him before taking his own sweet time smoothing out the creases on his shirt. Suddenly, his friendly eyes turned sharp and menacing at once. Yunzhou City, Qin Muchen, Gong Shuzhe as well as the Su Family... Things are going to get interesting from now on.

CHAPTER 327

It was at Yunzhou International Airport. As soon as the car pulled up to a stop, Su Ziyue immediately opened the car door and made a dash out toward the entrance of the airport. Qin Muchen followed behind her with a deep crease on his forehead. Taking two steps forward, he grabbed her arm and urged in a tensed voice, "You should slow down your pace."

"My uncle has landed, so we have to hurry up!" Su Ziyue held his hands and started jogging her way toward the entrance. She grumbled along the way, "I told you that we had to set off earlier. Look, the traffic jam has caused us so much delay."

At that juncture, her phone started to ring and she stopped at her tracks to pick it up. Immediately, she heard Feng Xingyan's voice from the other end of the call. "Ziyue, I've spotted you already. Just stay where you are right now and I'll make my way over." With that, he ended the call.

Su Ziyue stood still and gave her surroundings a scan but caught no sight of Feng Xingyan. Several minutes later, he was seen coming toward her with his subordinates following closely behind him. "Uncle Xingyan!" Su Ziyue let go of Qin Muchen's hands and approached Feng Xingyan.

Feng Xingyan nodded slightly at her with an affable look before landing his eyes on Qin Muchen, who was standing behind her. However, his attitude toward Qin Muchen was not particularly friendly, considering that he only gave him an indifferent glance before looking away again.

Qin Muchen only greeted him slowly after some hesitation, "Mr. Feng." Did he have to address someone who was only several years his senior as his uncle? In fact, the idea was not totally unacceptable to him but judging from Feng Xingyan's expression, it was obvious that he was not going to be too happy if Qin Muchen addressed him that way.

In response to his greeting, Feng Xingyan curled the corners of his lips slightly upward to form a hardly noticeable smile when he said, "Mr. Qin, I've heard a lot about you."

Qin Muchen's eyes flickered slightly as he answered, "I'm flattered, Mr. Feng."

Su Ziyue could sense that there was an air of unpleasantness between the two guys. "Uncle Xingyan, you must be exhausted after the flight. Why don't you go back and have some rest?" While she was talking, she held Feng Xingyan by the arm and walked ahead of Qin Muchen.

Qin Muchen stood rooted on the spot, watching both their backs with a sullen expression. It was as though Su Ziyue could detect his anger as she turned around and flashed him a simpering smile. Qin Muchen's tensed face twitched slightly. Despite feeling reluctant, he still went along with them from behind.

...

Once they reached the city center, Feng Xingyan and his subordinates made their way to his house in the city. Su Ziyue at first intended to follow them there but was rejected by Feng Xingyan, who first glanced at Qin Muchen before turning back to face her. "I'm feeling a little tired and I'd like to take a break now. Why don't you go home first? We'll have dinner together later tonight."

Feng Xingyan was a person who wouldn't allow anyone else to change his opinion. Although he looked mild-tempered, he had always been unyielding in what he said and did. Therefore, Su Ziyue had no choice but to nod her head in agreement. "Okay, see you later tonight."

After watching Feng Xingyan left in his car, Su Ziyue dragged Qin Muchen back to theirs. Qin Muchen did not take the initiative to say a word throughout their way back home and he was not too responsive either when she tried to talk to him. Because of that, she shot him a supercilious glance, thinking that he was petty-minded.

...

They met at Lumiere Jade House later at night for dinner. As a very punctual guy, Feng Xingyan had already arrived when Su Ziyue and Qin Muchen turned up. Seeing that Feng Xingyan had reached there earlier than they did, Su Ziyue was slightly anguished when she greeted him, "Uncle Xingyan!"

Feng Xingyan showed up in a gray suit with his eyes curled upward coupled with a subtle smile. Having gone through a tremendous lot of experiences in life, he was exuding a charm exclusive to a matured man. His eyes, which looked amiable with the passage of time, made him seem even more approachable.

However, that was not how Qin Muchen viewed Feng Xingyan. After settling down at the dining table, Qin Muchen pushed the menu toward Feng Xingyan and said invitingly, "Mr. Feng, please order the dishes you'd like to have." With a slight smile, Feng Xingyan took the menu over and started to place some orders.

The atmosphere throughout the entire dining experience was intriguing. While they were halfway at it,

Qin Muchen suddenly asked, "Mr. Feng, did you make this trip over to Yunzhou City to attend to work at Yanyue Media?"

As a man with unusually elegant table manners, Feng Xingyan took his time to first finish chewing the food in his mouth before answering Qin Muchen in a steady voice, "What do you think, Mr. Qin? You abducted my niece without telling me beforehand. Of course, I have to come over here to see for myself, what sort of man you are." With that, he put his cutlery down as his amiable eyes took on a sharper edge.

Su Ziyue, who had just taken a sip of fruit juice, nearly choked when she heard him. To her, Feng Xingyan had always been a perfect and excellent man who never interfered with her private affairs. Therefore, at no time did it occur to her that he would make such a straightforward statement. "Uncle Xingyan, actually..."

Feng Xingyan glanced at her and snapped in a stern voice, which was uncommon, "Don't interrupt our conversation."

In fact, she would like to tell him that she was at fault too if he wanted to pin the blame on someone. It was also because she had never taken the initiative to inform him about her marriage.

Annoyed by the tone that Feng Xingyan spoke to Su Ziyue, Qin Muchen turned to face her while he held her hands. "Are you full? You may go and check on Beef in Nan Chuan's room," he suggested. They had brought Beef along with them too. However, they had decided to place Beef in Nan Chuan's room because they were having dinner with Feng Xingyan, who was a fastidious man.

Su Ziyue turned around to glance at Feng Xingyan. Seeing he had no other opinions about that, she rose to her feet and left the room in order to give them some space. I don't think they will... start a fight with each other, will they? Feeling restless, she walked out of the room.

The inside of the private room then plunged into a state of silence. Feng Xingyan spoke first to take control of the situation, "Mr. Qin, I can see that you're rather casual when it comes to your marriage."

Looking uptight as he was trying to suppress his emotions, Qin Muchen said in his usual indifferent tone, "I'm very serious about my relationship with Su Ziyue."

"Oh? You're so serious that you didn't even know that she was pregnant? Additionally, while she was grieving over the loss of her child, you were busy with other affairs of your engagement with another woman. Please forgive me for saying this, but I can't really agree with what you mean by being serious in your relationship." Feng Xingyan's tone was brimming with contempt.

Both Qin Muchen's hands, which he placed below the table, were clenched tightly into fists without him realizing about it. Feng Xingyan's words stung but what he said was all true. "I can't change the past and the mistakes which I have made but I'll treat her well in the future," Qin Muchen declared in a tone which carried a faint trace of solemnness. Although he was still unsure whether Feng Xingyan really

cared about Su Ziyue or not, he was after all her senior in her family whom she respected a great deal.

An unusual brilliance flashed in Feng Xingyan's eyes which vanished so fast that it was indiscernible. Slowly, he said, "Let's wait and see whether you really meant what you said."

...

Su Ziyue brought Beef along and reached the private room. Just as she was about to push the door inward, it was flung open from the inside. She first glanced at Qin Muchen before tilting her head to glimpse at the room. "Where's my uncle?" she asked.

"He left," Qin Muchen answered while he kicked Beef away, who had attempted to pounce on him.

Su Ziyue complained with a slight trace of resentment, "Why didn't you tell me?"

Qin Muchen snorted icily and snapped back, "Why did I have to tell you that? Are you worried that he might lose his way?"

Su Ziyue was speechless. What an unreasonable and willful man Qin Muchen was!

CHAPTER 328

"Please wait for me at the entrance with Beef. I've got to meet up with Nan Chuan." He had some instructions for him. He went to Nan Chuan's office and told him as soon as he stepped into the room, "Keep an eye on Feng Xingyan."

In the short conversation he had had with Feng Xingyan, everything they talked about was related to Su Ziyue. Although all Feng Xingyan had said seemed to be opinions to protect Su Ziyue's welfare, Qin Muchen still had a feeling that something was fishy about him.

He did not have many interactions with Lu Shichu too before, but he could feel that his care and concerns to protect Su Ziyue was genuine. In any case, Lu Shichu was unlikely to harbor malicious intentions toward her. The same went to Feng Xingyan, but whose emotions Qin Muchen could not gauge at all. It was as though all the things he said and did were all pre-arranged beforehand.

Nan Chuan, who was also aware that Feng Xingyan was Su Ziyue's uncle, looked slightly surprised. "Is there anything wrong with him?" he asked.

After some contemplation, Qin Muchen warned him, "Don't let Su Ziyue know about this." He had tested the waters of how Su Ziyue thought about Feng Xingyan before, and he knew that she trusted him a great deal. Therefore, he could not let her know that he was having an investigation done covertly on him. After all, Feng Xingyan appeared when she was at the lowest point of her life and even offered her help; her trust in him would not waver so easily. He had no choice but to proceed step by step. It would be the best if Feng Xingyan turned out to be innocent. Otherwise...

...

The news about Feng Xingyan's arrival in Yunzhou City soon became widespread in the entire city. Su Ziyue thought that he would first head to Yanyue Media but to her surprise, he was invited to be a guest in a television program the next day.

Feng Xingyan finally arrived at Yanyue Media when it was nearly time to clock off at work. After sorting out the documents she needed, Su Ziyue went to give him a briefing about her work. When she had finished, Feng Xingyan nodded in approval and complimented her, "Not bad, you've done a great job."

Su Ziyue was delighted to receive praises from him. "It's all because you've taught me well."

Feng Xingyan raised his brows slightly and remarked, "You're such a sweet talker now."

With a smile, she started pouring another cup of tea when he asked her something that took her by surprise, "Have you got any breakthrough on the investigation of your father's matter?"

Su Ziyue's expression went frozen for a second when she answered, "Nothing much." Suddenly, she thought of Lu Shichu's advice. However, after a moment's hesitation, she decided not to reveal it to Feng Xingyan.

"You should start from people of the Su Family. It's hard trying to get to the bottom of something that happened ten years ago, and even I have no idea how to go about it. Perhaps you just need some more patience and I believe that your hard work will pay off one day." Feng Xingyan's affable tone had a soothing effect.

Su Ziyue responded to what he said with a hardly noticeable smile on her face.

...

When she returned to the mansion, Qin Muchen was preparing dinner. Catching the stir which came from the kitchen, she secretly made her way there to take a look at him. What a petty-minded guy he was! He had not spoken to her much ever since they returned from Lumiere Jade House last night.

Just as she was about to walk away, Qin Muchen, who was facing her with his back, said, "Just come in if you want; don't be lurking in the shadows."

Su Ziyue's body went rigid for a second before stepping into the kitchen in a poised manner. She snorted and picked up a piece of carrot he just cut out. "I'm not lurking in the shadows," she muttered.

Qin Muchen smacked her hand and ordered her to wash her hands. Dumbfounded, not only did she not wash her hands, she randomly picked up another piece of carrot and stuffed it into his mouth. "You'll be doomed if you dare to spit it out!" she threatened. She felt like a sassy and badass girl when she intimidated him but it was only after she made that threat did she feel the fear for its repercussions.

Qin Muchen chewed on the piece of carrot and swallowed it with a sullen face. Sensing that the tide might turn against her, Su Ziyue told him that she needed to attend to some unfinished work and made a run for it.

As a result, two plates of carrots were served on the dining table for dinner that night, which reminded her that this bossy Mr. Qin would always have his way to punish her. To atone for her misdeed, Su Ziyue obediently played the role as a rabbit, even more so the submissive type who would not reject him or fight him back.

The next early morning, she slumped on the bed, feeling so weak that she couldn't even make a flip. Qin Muchen walked out of the bathroom after getting dressed and stood beside the bed. Looking like an elegant man but with mannerisms that suggest otherwise, his eyes were brimming with glee when he said, "You shouldn't head to the office today." Perhaps due to his buoyant mood, a trace of joy could be detected from his voice.

Su Ziyue thrust a pillow at him and tightly tucked herself in under her covers. After having caught the pillow in the air, he bent down to pull the blanket away from her. Although she was clutching the blanket very tightly toward herself, she was not strong enough to fight against him.

Effortlessly, he pulled away the quilt as he cupped her face and gave her a passionate kiss. "I'll be back at noon to make you lunch."

Su Ziyue gave him an annoyed grunt and ignored him. Qin Muchen chuckled before leaving the room.

Shortly after, when she heard the sound of the car engine being ignited coming from downstairs, she got out of bed and made her way to the window, just in time to catch Qin Muchen's black Bentley slowly moving away from the mansion. It was only when the car had gone out of sight did she make her way to the bathroom to wash herself up. She had no plans to head to the office today because she was going to Su Group.

When she headed downstairs, she saw a spread of nutritious breakfast served on the dining table as per her expectation. At the sight of the food, she couldn't help but purse her lips into a smile. After enjoying the meal, she drove herself up to Su Group.

As the receptionist of Su Group was a newcomer, she did not know a lot about Su Ziyue other than the fact that she was the wife of LK Group's president. Therefore, she addressed Su Ziyue as Mrs. Qin instead of Young Lady Su. Looking astonished, she greeted, "Mrs. Qin!" She wondered what brought the wife of LK Group's president here.

Su Ziyue cut to the chase and asked, "Is the president here?" Her voice was slightly raspy and her gorgeous face was covered with a layer of frostiness which made her look aloof and less approachable.

"The president has just arrived. Mrs. Qin..." The receptionist was unsure whether she should let Su Ziyue

in.

At that moment, Su Yige stepped into the building from outside. Although she had married Gong Zeyang, she opted to continue working at Su Group instead of being a full-time housewife. When she caught sight of that familiar figure, she thought she might have mistaken her for someone else. “Su Ziyue?” she asked in an uncertain voice.

Su Ziyue turned around and saw Su Yige who looked scrawny with a slightly bulging belly. With a fairly arrogant demeanor, she greeted her, “It’s been a long time.”

It was only then did the receptionist remember that she had once been told that Mrs. Qin was the second eldest daughter of the Su Family.

At the sight of Su Ziyue, Su Yige put herself on guard out of her habit. “What brings you here?”

“I’m here to meet Grandpa, of course.” With that, Su Ziyue turned around and strode off toward the elevator.

Su Yige followed her closely behind and eyed her with a penetrating stare. “Why do you need to meet up with him?”

“Has it got anything to do with you?” After saying that, Su Ziyue moved her gaze onto her slightly bulging belly with a slight smirk. “Have you found out who the father of your baby is?” she asked.

Su Yige looked affronted at once because of her question and snapped, “What nonsense are you spouting? Su Ziyue, you’d better watch your mouth, otherwise...”

Wrapping both arms around her chest as she leaned against the wall of the elevator, Su Ziyue cut her off with an airy voice, “Otherwise, are you going to get a bunch of men to violate me again?”

Su Yige’s face turned even more ominous. “You...”

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Looking calm and collected, Su Ziyue stared at Su Yige with aloofness in her eyes. “Just spill out whatever you want to say.”

Su Yige, who loathed how nonchalant she seemed, hissed through gritted teeth, “Don’t you spout nonsense because there’s no doubt that I’m pregnant with Zeyang’s baby!”

Su Ziyue raised her brows and concluded, “Oh, so it seems like the doctor at the hospital has framed you then.”

Su Yige interlocked both her hands tightly as she bit her lips and glowered at Su Ziyue but she couldn’t utter a word. She was indeed too intimidated by Qin Muchen to harm Su Ziyue again. As for her baby...

She had confronted Gong Zeyang before about her pregnancy and to her surprise, he had admitted to the fact of offering her to another man before. However, he did not propose to file for divorce because even after that, his family would force him to marry another woman. To him, getting another wife would not change anything and he would rather be spared from the trouble of doing it all over again.

He basically paid no attention to her and seldom went back home after that. Despite knowing that he had been fooling around with other women, she had no means or the right to stop him from doing so. At the moment, her title as the Young Madam of the Gong Family was just a charade...

People envied her because she was the much loved Young Lady of the Su Family back then and now the Young Madam of the Gong Family, which was very reputable in Yunzhou City. However, she was the only one who knew what sort of life she was actually living.

As Su Yige was not responding for a long time, Su Ziyue couldn't help but turn around to glance at her. At that juncture, the elevator came to a stop. Ding! The door of the elevator slid open.

Su Ziyue glimpsed at Su Yige before commenting in a cheerful tone, "I wish you and Gong Zeyang a happy and long-lasting marriage." With that, she walked away in large strides toward Su Youcheng's office with her head held high.

Su Yige watched her back from behind with both her eyes reddened with fury. Happy? She could never be happy again for the rest of her life. Meanwhile, Su Ziyue, who had been much sabotaged by her back then, was leading a glorious life now being the wife of LK Group's president. It was safe to say that she did not like the way things turned out!

...

When Su Ziyue reached Su Youcheng's office, she knocked softly on the door. Soon after, Su Youcheng's voice was heard from the inside. "Please come in."

"Grandpa." Su Ziyue pushed the door open and stepped into the room, looking collected with a trace of iciness in her eyes.

Surprise flashed through Su Youcheng's face when he saw that it was her. "I'm surprised you came."

Ignoring his amazement, Su Ziyue took a seat down on a chair opposite of him without being asked to. It was only then did Su Youcheng put away the astonishment on his face and asked, "What brings you here today?" With that, he took the phone and made a call using the intercom before he looked up and offered, "Ziyue, what would you like to drink?" Indeed, he was now a changed man. After all, he would not have bothered to order drinks for her before.

Maintaining the smile on her face, Su Ziyue said, "It's not necessary. I'm only here to tell you something and I'll leave immediately after that."

“Please go ahead,” urged Su Youcheng as he put down the phone.

Keeping away her smile, Su Ziyue announced in a slightly solemn tone which sounded firm and steadfast, “I want to carry out an investigation on my father’s case again. I want to know the ins and outs of how the matter actually started, and how it ended. Also, I need all the information regarding the matter and all persons who were related to it.”

Su Youcheng’s hand, which was holding the teacup, jerked, causing the teacup to tip over as tea spilled all over the documents placed in front of him. With a deep crease on his forehead, he picked up the documents and shook them off to get rid of the liquid before placing them aside. With an impassive look, Su Ziyue watched how panicked and shocked he was while he was doing all that.

After he was done with the documents, Su Youcheng turned around and faced Su Ziyue. “I don’t see the need to investigate the case any further! Those were things in the past and it was settled many years ago. The truth was exactly how it was presented!”

Su Ziyue sneered and raised her voice as she insisted, “Of course I have to investigate! It’s okay if you don’t believe in your son but I believe that my father wasn’t a jerk! Unlike you, my conscience is not blinded by the desire for money and power.”

In response to what she said, Su Youcheng roared at her, “Enough!”

“Excuse me, I’m no longer under your control now and I will no longer listen to the things you said. In all aspects, I don’t think you’re a competent father or a grandfather. Mind you, I’m not here to beg for your permission but only to inform you of my intention. When the time comes for the truth to be revealed, I hope that you will still be able to speak as confidently and righteously like now.” With that, she rose to her feet and made her way out of the room in large strides.

The sound of Su Youcheng smashing things inside was muffled as soon as the door was closed. “A traitor she is! A traitor!” Prior to this, he had expected that Su Ziyue could bring some benefits to the Su Family by being the wife of LK Group’s president and as a relative to the Feng Family. However, what Su Ziyue said made him deeply worried. It was because he knew she wouldn’t care the least bit about how the Su Family fared. Besides, the reason why she had yet to have a fall-out with the Su Family was because she wanted to get to the bottom of her father’s case.

With that thought in mind, Su Youcheng collapsed back onto his chair feebly. Shortly after, he called up Su Yuanming and asked him to come over to his office. After so many years, it was about time to ask him about what had happened to his eldest son.

Su Yuanming, who had also heard about Su Ziyue’s visit, immediately made his way over to his father’s office right after he got the call. When he walked into the room, he appeared unperturbed when he looked at Su Youcheng, as though the mess which was strewn all over the floor was non-existent to him. “Dad, how may I help you?”

Solemnly, Su Youcheng lifted his head and gazed at Su Yuanming for several minutes. It was only when Su Yuanming felt chills creeping all over his back under his stare did Su Youcheng start to speak, "You were the one who handled your elder brother's case back then. How is he all these years? Is he going to be released soon?"

"Y-Yes... He is going to be released soon..." Su Yuanming looked uneasy as he spoke.

Su Youcheng only nodded at him and said, "Please visit him when you are free."

Something shone in Su Yuanming's eyes which disappeared in a split second when he asked, "What made you think of my brother all of a sudden today?"

"Ziyue told me that she wanted to reinvestigate her father's case..." Su Youcheng heaved a sigh when he made that statement. Back then, he had had high hopes for his eldest son, Su Yizi but never had he thought that something like that would happen later on.

He was not in his advanced age at that time and his temper was bad. Being enraged after he learned about what happened, he straightaway assigned Su Yuanming to handle everything because he was too disappointed to get involved in it, or to take another glance at Su Yizi. In the blink of an eye, so many years had gone by. Time and again he would think of Su Yizi but he could no longer remember his face clearly after such a long time.

Su Yuanming's heart gave a lurch when he heard what his father had just said.

...

Su Ziyue felt depressed deep down inside after she left Su Group. Two years ago, it had been challenging in her attempts to investigate her father's case. However, things were still the same now even after two years. She did not expect to gain any clues from Su Youcheng, judging from how stubborn and opinionated he was. Therefore, her main target was still Su Yuanming.

How should she go about it? Should she hire some men to beat him up and threaten him? She could not come up with any other brilliant ideas. Or rather, should she ask Qin Muchen to sabotage Su Group and compel Su Youcheng into forcing Su Yuanming to give a thorough account of what had happened back then?

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Su Ziyue let her imagination run wild but ended up rejecting all the ideas she came up with one at a time. Then, she drove herself to Qin Muchen's company instead of heading home. The receptionist greeted her in an unusually sweet voice, "Mrs. Qin!"

"Is Qin Muchen here?"

The receptionist replied immediately, "The President is in. Shall I bring you upstairs?"

"It's fine. I can handle it."

When she reached upstairs, Qin Muchen was in the middle of a meeting. She headed straight to his office instead and browsed randomly on the internet using his computer. Soon, she spotted a news article which talked about Gu Hanyan. 'International movie star, Gu Hanyan, has disappeared for one whole week so far. Is she planning a withdrawal from the showbiz, or...'

She lost interest in continuing to read the remaining bunk of the article. In fact, she had no idea how Qin Muchen had dealt with Gu Hanyan, who seemed to have vanished without a trace. After waiting for several minutes more with no sight of him coming back, she decided to head to the lounge inside his office to take a nap.

Before long, Qin Muchen returned. As soon as he stepped into the room, his eyebrows furrowed in annoyance as he could tell that someone had entered his room earlier.

He made his way to the desk and took a seat, thereupon the corners of his lips curled upward slightly when he caught sight of the news website on his computer screen. As it turned out, it was his wife who had been here. He closed the webpage and rose to his feet as he headed to the lounge.

In light movements, he opened the door to the lounge and saw something bulging on the bed as well as Su Ziyue's long and curly hair spread on the pillow. She was lying on one side of her body while most of her face was buried under. When he approached her, all he could see was half of her fair-skinned face. However, her beautiful brows were furrowed together even though she was asleep. After watching her for a while, he fondled her hair with his hands before walking out.

...

Su Ziyue did not rest quite well in the lounge as she dreamed of the scene where she last met her father. "Dad..." All of a sudden, she sat bolt upright from the bed, looking at a loss when she moved her hands to sweep her hair back.

Outside the lounge, Qin Muchen was giving ear to a manager who was reporting to him a summary of the manager's work. Looking calm and steady while he was listening to him, he kept drumming his long fingers on the desk, producing a crisp sound which was barely audible.

The manager, who could sense that Qin Muchen was distracted, had the gumption to offer, "Mr. Qin, why don't I leave this here first for you to go through? You may ask me to come back if you need any further information from me."

"Okay," Qin Muchen acknowledged in a faint voice before averting his gaze in the direction of the lounge again.

Out of curiosity, the manager too looked in the same direction, thinking that someone had told him that Mrs. Qin was here...

Qin Muchen, who noticed the manager's glance, raised his brows with annoyance and asked crossly, "What are you still doing here?"

Looking awkward, the manager said, "I'll go now."

Without commenting further, Qin Muchen got to his feet and strode toward the lounge. The moment he opened the door, he saw Su Ziyue had already woken up but looked despondent while she was sitting on the bed. He walked over and sat down at the edge of the bed where he caressed her face. "You're awake."

"I dreamed of my father." Su Ziyue looked up at him with her eyes flickering as though stars were blinking inside. She pulled his hands down from her face and held them tightly as she said slowly and softly, "I dreamed of the last time I met him, when he asked me to wait for him to be back. But then, he never returned ever since."

Qin Muchen listened on with not much change in his expression. With his eyes narrowed, he extended his long arms to draw her close toward his chest without a word.

Su Ziyue sighed and told him, "I went to Su Group to talk to the people of the Su Family earlier today. I told them that I'm going to investigate my father's case. I'm sure anyone who did something bad will have a guilty conscience." With those feelings of regret, one would tend to blow one's cover. She believed that she would get to the truth one day no matter how slim the chance was. Before this, she had actually been thinking about asking Qin Muchen to just have Su Yuanming abducted, but she quickly dismissed the idea as impractical.

It was because she did not want to stoop down to their level and become a jerk too. On the contrary, she wanted to get to the bottom of it carefully and meticulously in a fair and square manner. Qin Muchen's narrowed eyes looked thoughtful after he heard what she said.

Su Ziyue then whiled away the entire day at Qin Muchen's office. Later that night, the two of them returned home together. Lying on the sofa after dinner, Su Ziyue drawled, "It's not bad at all to be a rich young mistress. During the day, I just supervise my husband's work, and when I return home at night, I don't even have to prepare dinner myself."

Qin Muchen held a plate of cut fruits over and cast her an icy glance when he remarked in a level voice, "Beef doesn't need to prepare for his own meals too."

Su Ziyue gave him a kick in response. "How dare you liken me to a dog?"

Suddenly, he laughed out loud as he picked up a piece of apple and stuffed it into her mouth. "Your life is so much better than a dog's life. Not only can you be spared from making your own meals, you can

also enjoy special services which bring you joy and pleasure, both mentally and physically..."

Perhaps it was because she had spent too much time in bed with him lately, she could understand what he meant within seconds. Feeling embarrassed deep down inside, she chewed on the apple in a ferocious way and asked in a slurred speech, "Be honest now, who is enjoying it more?"

He moved one hand and rested it on the left side of her chest. Under Su Ziyue's bewildered stare, he deduced, "Your heart tells me that you're very satisfied and happy."

"You're shameless!" Su Ziyue took a pillow with her and ran after Qin Muchen all over the mansion. At last, she caught him in the bathroom of their room.

Qin Muchen immediately hauled her into the bathtub. While he was unbuttoning his shirt, he commented, "This place that you've chosen is not bad and I'm quite satisfied with it."

She was left speechless. Satisfied? Oh, please.

...

To Su Ziyue's surprise, she still had enough energy to run out of the bathroom after they finished their business. After making a dash out, she quickly locked the door to the bathroom and yelled triumphantly at Qin Muchen, "I wish you a pleasant night at this place where you're so satisfied with!" With that, she collapsed onto the bed and soon dozed off.

Inside the bathroom, Qin Muchen felt so frustrated that he burst out laughing. Then, he found a bobby pin in Su Ziyue's cosmetic bag which he straightened it and used it to pick the lock of the door. When he walked out of the bathroom, he was amused by the sight of Su Ziyue who was fast asleep on the bed. If it had not been for his excellent lockpicking skill, he might really have to spend the night in the bathroom.

After tucking in the corners of the blanket and making sure that she was in her deep sleep, he then made his way to the cloakroom and got dressed. Cautiously, he closed the door to the bedroom, headed downstairs and left the mansion.

...

When he arrived at Lumiere Jade House, the place was still crowded with customers as it was not yet eleven at night. As most of the dinner were nearing the end, the lobby was filled up with diners who looked tipsy, for the waiters were busy calling up taxis for them.

Qin Muchen headed straight inside and spotted Nan Chuan. "Is Su Yuanming still here?"

Nan Chuan looked puzzled for a second before he answered, "I'm not too sure about that. It's okay, I'll have it checked now."

Soon, Nan Chuan got the information from a document which he referred to and said, "He's here. He is having dinner here which is ending soon."

Qin Muchen nodded and instructed, "When the dinner ends later, have him brought to my private room and I'll be waiting for him there."