

Marry Me 331

CHAPTER 331

“President Li, let’s play golf together next time...” Su Yuanming made the suggestion while he held President Li—who was from the company he had a partnership with—on their way out. Before he got a reply from President Li, his way was suddenly blocked by someone.

Nan Chuan, who was a tall man with a muscular build, stood in his way as he lowered his head in order to see Su Yuanming’s face clearly. With a frosty look, he said in a voice that came with a trace of iciness, “Mr. Su, our boss would like to meet you.” Then, he shot a look toward his subordinates standing behind him, who immediately stepped forward and seized Su Yuanming to lead him in the direction of Qin Muchen’s exclusive private room.

Before long, they reached the place. Nan Chuan then pushed the door open and stepped inside. “Mr. Qin, he’s here,” he said.

“Come in.” Qin Muchen was keeping his head low as he stared at the screen of his phone. No one knew what he was looking at, but he appeared like he was paying rapt attention to the content. Several seconds later, he put down his phone and raised his gaze up the door. “The rest of you may leave.”

Nan Chuan was slightly surprised by that and he wondered what the important matter was that his boss was going to discuss with Su Yuanming. Although his curiosity was piqued, he was not bold enough to voice out his mind. After asking his men to leave Su Yuanming on the sofa, he brought them out of the room.

Qin Muchen and Su Yuanming were then left alone in the room after Nan Chuan and the others left. Qin Muchen then walked over to Su Yuanming, who was as drunk as a skunk, and spoke slowly, “Su Yuanming.”

Despite being hammered, Su Yuanming could still recognize the man in front of him was Qin Muchen with the only remaining bits of sobriety.

“Qin... Burp!” He only managed to utter his name clearly after a hiccup, “Qin Muchen!”

In response to that, Qin Muchen looked somewhat scornful when he got to his feet and said, “Since you can still recognize me, I guess you’re somewhat sober right now. In this case, I suppose you can tell me all about the case which happened decades ago.”

“W-What... case?” Su Yuanming slumped on the sofa, squinting his eyes in confusion.

With a sneer, Qin Muchen turned around to fetch a bucket of cold water which he had prepared in advance, then poured it all out on Su Yuanming. Clank! As soon as he threw away the bucket, his face turned sinister in an instant. His voice turned as frigid as an ancient ice cellar as he snapped, “The case about Su Yizi’s attempted rape and negligent homicide on Qin Li!”

Thanks to the bucket of cold water which soaked his entire body through, Su Yuanming regained his full sobriety. Flabbergasted, he looked at Qin Muchen, his eyes flickering as he mumbled hastily, "There's nothing to say about the case that happened such a long time ago. That..."

Thud! Qin Muchen, who was not in the mood for his nonsense, moved one leg over to the sofa and stepped on his fingers. Then, he eyed him with his eyelids droopy and threatened him in an impatient voice, "I advise you to think it through before you say anything, but your time is limited. The good thing is, you have ten fingers for me to cripple them one by one."

A sheen of sweat had already formed on Su Yuanming's forehead while he stammered, "W-What are you trying to do?"

Without saying a word, Qin Muchen exerted force on his foot.

Crack! "Argh!" What followed shortly after was Su Yuanming's yelp in pain which reverberated in the entire private room.

As Su Yuanming was never a tough guy to begin with, he quickly caved in after being tortured by Qin Muchen. "I'll tell you about it. Please believe me!" Even though he had said so, he was still greatly intimidated by Qin Muchen because his fingers were still pinned under Qin Muchen's foot.

"It all happened during a charity ball which was attended by all the famous people from Yunzhou City. I really had no idea what happened between Su Yizi and Qin Li because when I went to the crime scene, other guests were already there and Qin Li was already dead..." Su Yuanming spoke rapidly probably because he was terror-stricken. He seemed to worry that if he had spoken a second slower, one of his fingers would be crippled by Qin Muchen.

He thought of having been told by Su Yucheng earlier that day about Su Ziyue's intention to re-investigate the case which happened years ago, but never had he thought that she would ask Qin Muchen to do it for her.

Qin Muchen, who was not impressed by what he said and lost his patience because of that, used his leg to lift up Su Yuanming's arm before stepping viciously on his other hand. "I want to hear the truth," he insisted.

What followed the sound of bones cracking was Su Yuanming's agonized scream in pain. "Argh!" Su Yuanming was in so much distress that his face was crumpled together and looked slightly twisted. "W-What... I said... is the truth!" he professed.

Qin Muchen frowned slightly, thinking that Su Yuanming did not look like he was lying. However, that shouldn't be the case. If even Su Yuanming had no idea about the ins and outs of the matter, who else would know about it? Keeping his eyes icy, Qin Muchen pressed on, "Where is Su Yizi now?"

“He... He...” Although Su Yuanming was on the verge of losing his consciousness due to the intense pain, he still remembered the fact that if Su Yizi was still alive, he would be Qin Muchen’s father-in-law.

Seeing that Qin Muchen’s eyes were turning even icier, Su Yuanming confessed through gritted teeth, “He died a long time ago. After he was sentenced, he died after spending a few days in jail!”

As soon as he said that, Su Yuanming could feel as though the surrounding air had turned stale. Since Qin Muchen was not speaking, he was careful even to take a deep breath. With his whole body trembling, Su Yuanming looked at Qin Muchen and spoke in a quivering voice, “Y-You... told me to tell you the truth...”

Back then, all the available evidence of the case led to Su Yizi as the murderer, who had killed the victim by accident after his attempt to rape the victim had failed. The trial was a short one, and the judgment together with the sentence were soon given after the end of the trial. At that time, Su Yuanming thought it was puzzling too as it did not seem likely that Su Yizi, who had always been an upright person, would do something like that. However, he was pleased to know about the judgment and sentence that Su Yizi received. After all, he would be the only successor to Su Group now that Su Yizi was gone.

Qin Muchen gazed at Su Yuanming coldly for several seconds before turning around and left. Nan Chuan together with his subordinates were standing by at the door. At the sight of Qin Muchen, they nodded their heads slightly at him in a reverent manner.

“It’s all handled.” Qin Muchen left Lumiere Jade House with that short sentence behind.

...

By the time he reached home, it was already in the wee hours of the morning. Before he went to the bedroom to check out on Su Ziyue, he went to the kitchen to fetch a glass of warm water first, because Su Ziyue had the habit of waking up in the middle of the night to have a sip.

When he reached the bedroom and switched on the lights, he saw the blanket on the bed moving slightly before Su Ziyue sat upright groggily. With a smile, Qin Muchen walked over with the glass of water and sat down at the edge of the bed as he placed the glass next to her lips.

Keeping his hand still, she finished the glass of water with his help. Then, she glanced at him sleepily before collapsing back onto the bed to continue her slumber. She pulled the blanket over herself and mumbled, “Were you out just now?” Seeing that he was wearing a suit, she assumed that he had gone out in the middle of the night to attend to some business. She had totally forgotten about the fact that she had actually locked him up in the bathroom several hours ago.

“Yes,” Qin Muchen voiced his acknowledgment as he placed the glass aside. Even with an impassive look, a slight trace of emotion could be detected from his face.

“Su Ziyue, I have something...” After a pause, he gave her a gentle nudge and urged, “Please get up

because I have something to tell you.”

At that, Su Ziyue, who was lying on the bed, did not move.

Had she fallen asleep already?

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Qin Muchen sat down on the bed for a long while before he went to the bathroom to wash himself up. After switching off the light, he went on to lie down on the bed. While he was drawing Su Ziyue’s soft body toward his chest, he felt slightly bitter deep down inside. Back then, he once investigated the case about Su Yizi before, but he gave up halfway because he dreaded the thought of getting an undesirable outcome.

Although he was willing to believe Su Ziyue’s intuition, he did not feel like trying his luck even if the possibility of that outcome was extremely slim. If Su Ziyue had not been so determined to get to the bottom of the case, he would never have had the intention to look into the matter again.

What Su Yuanming said, though it did not provide any useful clues, was enough to show that Su Yizi was innocent. Judging from how deeply Su Yizi loved his daughter, it was impossible for him to commit suicide after just spending a few days in jail, regardless of whether he was the murderer or not. Therefore, the only truth possible was that Su Yizi had been murdered by someone.

As dead men told no tales, his side of the story could never be heard even if someone tried to prove his innocence later on. And, whoever had him killed would be the actual murderer of Qin Li. The murderer had to be someone in Yunzhou City who had the means at that time to bribe someone in the prison to kill a convict, who came from the Su Family... It was not difficult to deduce the identity of the culprit. But...

Qin Muchen couldn’t help but tighten his arms around Su Ziyue. He was freezing although it was springtime when the weather was nice and warm.

...

The first thing that Su Ziyue did right after she woke up the next morning was to make a dash toward the bathroom. “Qin Muchen!” She called out his name and pulled the door open to the bathroom but found it empty. It was only then did she remember that Qin Muchen had fetched her a glass of water last night.

She couldn’t help but pat her forehead, realizing that she had gone all fuzzy-minded from having too much sleep. Reaching randomly for a jacket with which she draped over her shoulder, she jogged downstairs.

While she was halfway down the flight of stairs, she spotted Qin Muchen, who was reading a newspaper

with a cup of coffee in the living room. Beef was sitting next to him, gaping at his cup of coffee curiously. Sniffing, it felt like edging closer to take a whiff of the beverage but it was deterred by Qin Muchen, so it decided to just stare at the cup.

Standing on tiptoe, Su Ziyue at first planned to run back to the bedroom but from the corners of her eyes, she noticed Qin Muchen jerk the newspaper in his hands. At that, she quickly stopped at her tracks and greeted him with all smiles toward his back, "Good morning!"

"Hmm." Qin Muchen did not turn around to face her.

After some hesitation, she asked him tentatively, "Where did you go last night that required your attention so urgently in the middle of the night?"

Smack! It was the sound from Qin Muchen placing the newspaper on the coffee table. In fact, he did not hit hard, but it was a sign of his anger to Su Ziyue who had a guilty conscience.

At that juncture, Qin Muchen rose to his feet and straightened his body before turning to face her. "Why didn't you ask me how I escaped from the bathroom last night?" he questioned in a level voice.

Su Ziyue looked away, not daring to meet his gaze as she tried hard to steer the conversation toward the positive side. "I knew you wouldn't be cornered by just a door because you're so marvelous and talented!"

"Thanks for your compliments." Qin Muchen snorted icily before walking out of the mansion.

Did he just... leave? Su Ziyue was stunned for a moment before she decided to run after him. By the time she reached the main door, all she could see was the elegant rear of the black Bentley which then vanished out of sight in the blink of an eye.

As Beef had followed her out as well, she couldn't help but rub against its head and asked the dog, "Is your Dad angry with me for locking him up in the bathroom? Is that also the reason why he didn't prepare breakfast for me today?"

Beef stared at her with its head tilted and barked. Why did she have a feeling that Beef was gloating at her misfortune from the way it barked? "What are you gloating about? Mind you, I don't have anything for breakfast, and neither do you. I have a husband, but do you have one?" Su Ziyue snorted with annoyance and headed back to the room to get dressed before she went to the office.

Just barely after she sat down on the chair in her room, Li Qingluo walked in, holding an exquisitely wrapped package in her hands. She recognized it at one glance as the food packaging used exclusively by Lumiere Jade House for takeaways. With a meaningful smile, Li Qingluo placed the package in front of Su Ziyue and told her, "Someone from Lumiere Jade House sent you your breakfast."

Watching the logo printed on the packaging, Su Ziyue said thanks to Li Qingluo after a moment of

stupor. Li Qingluo nodded at her before leaving her room.

Su Ziyue opened the packaging and couldn't help but grin at the food inside which looked lovely. She knew that Qin Muchen, though petty-minded, would not get angry with her for real.

...

She had been in a buoyant mood for the entire day probably due to some special magical effect from her breakfast. In the afternoon, she bumped into Su Yuanming when she was outside running some errands. It was only after staring at him for a long while, whose arm was in a cast, did she manage to recognize him. After some contemplation, she decided to approach him.

When Su Yuanming turned and saw her fast approaching, he widened his eyes in shock and sprinted away as though he had just come across a ghost before she could even get near to him.

Watching his back as he ran away, Su Ziyue felt puzzled and touched her face. Was there something terrifying about her looks or had she unknowingly done something wrong which caused him so much fear?

She kept that doubt in mind until she met Qin Muchen later that night. With her lips pursed, she told him, "I bumped into my uncle, Su Yuanming, earlier today. But, as soon as he saw me, he immediately ran away hurriedly. I've no idea what I did exactly to make him so scared of me..."

Appearing unshooked, Qin Muchen acknowledged her recount with an 'Oh'.

She then added, "I saw one of his arms was in a cast..."

This time, Qin Muchen explained before she could finish her sentence, "He got it at Lumiere Jade House. Last night, he had dinner there and he got so drunk at the end of it that he fell and broke his arm."

Seeing that Su Ziyue was eyeing him confusedly, he continued, "Nan Chuan told me about it."

Su Ziyue blinked her eyes in puzzlement and asked, "Why are you telling me so many details when I haven't even asked for it?"

He explained in a nonchalant voice, "I knew you would ask."

She let out a chuckle before turning to look out of the car window without commenting further.

...

At the restaurant, time and again, Su Ziyue looked up in the direction of the entrance while she was flipping through the pages of the menu. After some time, Lu Shichu appeared at the entrance of the restaurant.

“Shichu, I’m here.” Su Ziyue waved at him with a smile.

Lu Shichu beamed at her and soon made his way over. He took the seat opposite her and asked smilingly, “Have you made the order?”

“I planned to order it together with you,” she said with a wide grin.

Lu Shichu raised his brows and remarked with a sly smile, “I thought you would ignore me because you’re angry with me.”

“What nonsense are you talking about? If you say something like that again, I’ll ignore you for real!” Su Ziyue shot him a glare in feign anger.

Unflustered by her threat, Lu Shichu took over the menu and casually picked a few dishes which were all Su Ziyue’s favorites. After the waiter left with their order, he looked at her with a solemn look and asked, “Spill it, what is it that I can do for you this time?”

“You know I could ask you out for dinner without any ulterior motives, right?” Su Ziyue dazzled him with a bright smile as if she really wanted nothing more than just a meal with him.

However, the grin on Lu Shichu’s face did not get wider. In response to that, Su Ziyue put on a more serious look and asked with a chuckle, “Have I already blown my own cover?”

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After Lu Shichu heard what she said, he leaned back on the chair with a bleak expression on his face. Obviously, he was waiting for what Su Ziyue was going to say next. She held the glass in front of her and swirled the water inside of it before she asked him, “About the thing you told me the last time, what did it actually mean?” Sometimes, she wondered whether being too sensitive was a good thing or bad.

When she told Qin Muchen about what happened to Su Yuanming last night, he had been too eager to provide an answer, which was something unusual for him. That was to say, he was probably related to Su Yuanming’s injury but he did not want her to know what he had done. He had been trying very hard to steer their conversation to another direction, but her suspicion was aroused by his excessive proactiveness.

With a barely audible sigh, Lu Shichu commented, “I thought I would have to wait for an even longer time before you would come to ask me about this.”

“So, what exactly do you know?” When Su Ziyue posed him that question, her voice sounded shaky. She started regretting her decision to ask him out because she was worried she might get some sort of dreadful answer from him.

Many a time had Lu Shichu mentioned Qin Muchen’s mother to her before. In the very beginning, Qin

Muchen had harbored some ulterior motives when he first appeared in Su Ziyue's life for no apparent reason at all. Although her relationship with him appeared calm and harmonious now, underneath the appearance existed some underlying and deep-rooted problems which none of them dared to trigger. Despite this, both of them were aware that those problems had never ceased to exist.

Instead of revealing the truth to her right away, Lu Shichu first asked her, "Are you sure you want to know? If you are, I'll tell you now."

Suddenly, Su Ziyue's fingers tightened around the glass of water, making her knuckles turn white. She nodded and confirmed, "Please tell me about it because I want to know."

Lu Shichu could detect the contradiction and hesitation deep down inside her. He thought of that night at the dilapidated basketball court where Qin Muchen reassured him in an extremely firm tone despite looking restless, "I always see her as my priority in every decision I make."

Because of his reassurance, Lu Shichu had made up his mind secretly since then, that he would tell Su Ziyue the truth if she ever asked for it. As the time finally came, his emotions became slightly complicated too.

"Shichu, what is holding you back? Has it got anything to do with my father? Do you really think that I can't sense anything fishy up until now?" A sense of loss flashed in her eyes which disappeared in an instant.

With a slight frown, he first turned sideways to look out of the window at the busy traffic outside before he said in a solemn voice, "When Qin Muchen first returned to Yunzhou City, he once carried out a covert investigation on your father's case. Also, the victim of the case was a lady with the surname Qin. Her name was Qin Li."

Clank... Instinctively, Su Ziyue clasped the napkin beneath her hands tightly, causing the cutlery placed on top of it to fall onto the ground. Although the sound produced was not too loud, it kept resounding in Su Ziyue's mind.

Qin Muchen had looked into his father's case before when he first returned to the country. The victim was a lady with a surname Qin named Qin Li. She had a surname Qin... Qin Muchen. Qin Li. With much effort, she blinked her eyes to calm herself down before speaking again laboriously in a croaky voice, "So..." However, her sentence was stuck with just one word. So... did Qin Muchen first approach her at the very beginning because it was a part of his investigation on her father's case?

At the sight of how stunned Su Ziyue looked, Lu Shichu started blaming himself. At the same time, he knew that she would still find out about the truth one day, even if he chose not to tell her now. There were no wind-tight walls in this world and there were no secrets which could be kept forever, even though both parties involved in the case might have already passed away.

"I'm telling you all of these because you want to know the truth. I know this will surely affect your

relationship with Qin Muchen. But, you have to listen to your instincts and believe in your own principles..." Lu Shichu had no idea what he was talking about. If he was more selfish, he could have made use of this opportunity to sow discord between Su Ziyue and Qin Muchen.

In fact, he had harbored such a selfish thought before. There were many times in the past where he almost blurted it out to her, but he still managed to suppress the urge in the end. It was because he wanted to be a righteous person and a good brotherly figure to Su Ziyue forever.

By the time Su Ziyue had lifted her head again, calmness had already been restored in her face. "I've got it. Thanks for telling me that, Shichu. Let's dig in first." At that most opportune time, the waiter came over to serve them food.

Lu Shichu was very worried about her current state. However, he knew whatever followed next would be the private affairs between Su Ziyue and Qin Muchen, which he had no right to meddle with, because he had nothing to do with it.

...

After returning to the office from the restaurant, Su Ziyue was still in a distracted condition. As soon as Li Qingluo saw her, she scurried over and informed her, "Director Su, President Feng is waiting for you in your room."

Su Ziyue turned around and gazed at her for around six to seven seconds before she finally came to her senses and echoed, "President Feng?"

"Yes, he has been waiting for you for quite a while now. Perhaps he has something urgent for your attention." Li Qingluo thought there was something not right with Su Ziyue today. She wondered why she looked so dejected as though she had just been told a massive bad news, despite still looking well prior to the time she went out for lunch. She had never seen Su Ziyue like this before. Concernedly, she asked, "Director Su, are you alright?"

"I'm fine. I'm going back to my room first. You may go ahead and attend to your work." While Su Ziyue was talking, she waved dismissively at Li Qingluo in an extremely weak movement.

When she reached her room, she saw Feng Xingyan taking a puff on the sofa. As the tobacco smell in the room was not too strong, it seemed like he had just started smoking. She pursed her lips into a smile and poured a glass of water before approaching him. "Uncle Xingyan, what prompted you to pay me a visit here?"

Over the past few days, Feng Xingyan had been in the city, so he seldom spent his time at the office. As the person in charge of the Feng Family who was extremely rich, there was no shortage of people who were keen to ingratiate themselves with him no matter where he went. Therefore, his schedule had been hectic even though he seldom visited the company. Usually, Su Ziyue would not get to see him in person too without making an appointment in advance.

Feng Xingyan stubbed out the cigarette and took over the glass of water from Su Ziyue's hands. "Why are you looking so pale?" he asked.

"I didn't sleep well last night." Su Ziyue plucked a random excuse out of thin air before sitting down opposite to him.

Feng Xingyan took his own sweet time to take two sips of water from the glass while he sized her up. After a moment of silence, he spoke slowly, "Qin Muchen met Su Yuanming last night. Did you ask him to help you look into your father's case?"

Su Ziyue was left dumbfounded. Without waiting for her to respond, Feng Xingyan carried on. "I had dinner at Lumiere Jade House last night and I happened to catch Su Yuanming walking into Qin Muchen's private room. Weren't you there last night?"

"Nope..." Su Ziyue shook her head, looking slightly lost.

"Forget it. I have no special purpose to be here as I just wanted to check up on you. Lately, I've been spending too much time on meaningless matters." Looking exhausted, Feng Xingyan leaned back on the sofa and closed his eyes while he gave his temples a massage.

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Su Ziyue nodded her head distractedly and said, "Uncle Xingyan, you should take care of your health and have more rest."

Feng Xingyan looked up at Su Ziyue with a surge of hidden emotions flickering in his eyes.

He left not too long after that. Then, Su Ziyue went on to deal with her work in her room albeit feeling ill at ease.

Finally, it was time to clock off at work. Instead of heading straight back home, she asked An Xia out for dinner. She first drove to Bai Jingshu's company to pick An Xia up before they headed to the night market together.

"It has been a long time since we last visited the market. Surprisingly, it's still as crowded as before." Excitedly, An Xia dragged Su Ziyue with her as they walked around the market.

While Su Ziyue followed lackadaisically along with An Xia, her depressed mood lifted a little thanks to her. Suddenly, An Xia turned around and asked her, "What would you like to have?" Without waiting for Su Ziyue's response, she went on answering herself, "What should I do? I just feel like having a little bit of everything here."

"Just do it then," Su Ziyue suggested.

The two of them bought food from every stall along a food street and at last stopped by a small stall to have some porridge. As soon as they found a seat and settled down, An Xia began prattling on about Bai Jingshu's shortcomings. Su Ziyue would laugh with her when she reached the hilarious parts of the story.

At the same time, her phone had been vibrating in her bag all this while. As she couldn't stand the vibration any longer, she took out her phone and told An Xia, "This place is rather noisy. I'll go to the other side to get this."

An Xia waved at her, signaling her to go ahead and advised, "Make it quick. This area is quite dangerous, so you'd better hold on to your phone tightly when you're taking the call."

"Okay, I got it. I'll be back soon."

While she was on the way to the area beside the stall, the inside of her palm had gone numb from the vigorous vibration of her phone, which made her regret her decision of switching it to silent mode. Then, she reached a quieter area and picked up the call. "What's going on?" she asked.

Before her voice had completely trailed off, Qin Muchen's furious roar came from the other end. "You're actually asking me that question? Su Ziyue, what time is it now? It has been three hours since the time you got off work. Where have you been?"

Su Ziyue gave the middle of her brows a massage and said, "I went shopping with An Xia."

"Why didn't you call me to inform me of that?" Qin Muchen's tone still carried a trace of fury.

After taking a sharp intake of breath, she snapped impatiently, "So, I guess you already know where I am now. That's it for now then." With that, she straightaway hung up on him.

Just as she was about to keep her phone back in her bag, a person made a dash past her at the speed of lightning. After that, she found her phone had gone missing. She was stunned for a second before her mind started to register what just took place. "My phone! Catch that thief!" she yelled.

An Xia, who heard her voice from the stall, immediately sprinted over and asked, "What happened?"

"My phone was snatched by that guy!" Su Ziyue told her hastily before running after the thief. An Xia had no choice but to follow behind her. By the time they ran toward the direction where the snatch thief had fled, the person had long gone.

Feeling frustrated, Su Ziyue landed a punch on a lamp post beside her. Then, she crouched down as she placed both her hands on her knees while she caught her breath.

"It's not too big a deal. All you need to do now is get a new sim card as soon as possible," An Xia said in an attempt to cheer her up.

Shaking her head, Su Ziyue dragged An Xia toward a barbeque stall next to them. "Boss, get us two packs of beer!" she ordered.

"Ziyue, what are you doing? We have to work tomorrow..." Despite sitting down with some hesitation, An Xia soon took up the menu and started ordering some food. The barbeque stall only served beer for alcohol.

What she usually drank along with the meals she had together with Qin Muchen was exquisite wines and liquors. Although she only drank a little, she was used to consuming alcohol of the best quality after she started having them more frequently. Therefore, she found the common beer she was having now tasted slightly awful. She was not in the mood to continue after taking just a few sips. After some more eating and drinking with An Xia, she drove back home.

It was already eleven at night by the time she reached home. The inside of the mansion was brightly lit. As soon as she stepped into the living room, she spotted Qin Muchen sitting on the sofa, watching television.

She glanced at him and found he was wearing a pajamas gray in color with his hair slightly moist. One of his elbows was resting on the armrest of the sofa to support his head, while his other hand was holding the remote control as he kept on changing the channels. Just staring at the television for several seconds was enough to make her dizzy.

"I'm heading upstairs first," she left that sentence in a nonchalant voice before making her way to the stairs.

Just as she turned around, Qin Muchen's indifferent voice came from behind. "Not only have you kept your phone switched off, you came back so late after having drinks."

Su Ziyue stopped in her tracks and turned back around to look at him. At the same time, Qin Muchen happened to thrust away the remote control in his hand before he swung around to glare at her with anger and frustration lurking beneath his dark pupils. "Su Ziyue!"

"I've lost my phone. Also, I didn't come home late as it's now only eleven at night. Besides, I just had two glasses of beer just now," Su Ziyue clarified in a level voice with a poker-faced expression.

Qin Muchen's face went frozen when he asked, "You've lost your phone? How did that happen?"

Looking composed, she answered him, "It was snatched by a thief after I took your call. Have I made myself clear enough? I've got to go and take a shower first." With that, she turned around and was ready to head upstairs.

To her surprise, she was stopped by Qin Muchen who acted fast enough with his astute observation. Then, he examined her face closely.

Su Ziyue had been in a foul mood in the first place as she had no idea how to voice out the things and questions on her mind. Therefore, she did not have a particularly good temper at the moment which made her challenge him in a slightly provocative tone, "What are you looking at?"

"So long as you're fine." All of a sudden, the tension in Qin Muchen's face eased up as he loosened his hold on her and said, "Go ahead and take a shower."

Su Ziyue, who was stunned slightly by his reaction, ignored him and headed straight upstairs.

Inside the bathroom, she stood motionless below the shower head for a long time. Qin Li and Qin Muchen. Su Yizi and Su Ziyue. Were things fated to be in this way? What exactly did Qin Muchen want to achieve? How should she confront him about the matter?

She spent a long time contemplating the issue in the bathroom until she heard Qin Muchen's slightly anxious voice. "Su Ziyue, get it done faster and come out."

"I still need more time!" She had yet to come up with a way to broach the subject with him.

Suddenly, he had an angry outburst and roared, "I need to use the toilet!"

After hearing what he said, she had no choice but to get dressed and walk out of the bathroom. The moment she opened the door, she saw him standing nearby. She turned sideways and walked toward the other side to let him in. "You may use the toilet now."

Gazing at her intently, Qin Muchen heaved out a sigh which was hardly noticeable after some time and prompted, "What's going on? Please tell me if you're having any trouble. Don't bottle it up and keep the problem to yourself." While he was talking, he moved his hands to caress her hair as the expression on his face became milder.

Su Ziyue, who was stupefied for a moment, took a step back to dodge his hand and rounded him to walk toward the bed. When she was lying on the bed, she noticed him still staring at her. She pulled the blanket over herself and said with her eyes shut, "If there's nothing else, I'm going to sleep now, so please don't disturb me."

Qin Muchen stood still by the door to the bathroom with his eyes losing some of their brilliance.

CHAPTER 335

It was weird. Su Ziyue's behavior today was completely out of her character. It was abnormal not only from the fact that she did not head straight back home after work, but also that she did not give him a call to inform him of that. In the beginning, he did not overthink, merely assuming that she was just in a foul mood because of some trouble in the company. But judging from how things turned out at the moment, it did not seem like that was the reason.

...

Su Ziyue didn't enjoy a good slumber for the entire night as she only managed to sleep fitfully and she woke up very early in the morning. But to her surprise, Qin Muchen got up even earlier than her. While she was on her way downstairs after washing herself up, she could hear the sound of food being deep fried in the pan coming from the kitchen. She glanced in the direction of the kitchen and removed the slippers she was wearing. Then, she walked barefoot to the foyer where she put on a pair of high heels and left.

Just as Qin Muchen was placing a strip of bacon which he had just fried onto a plate, he heard the sound of a moving car from outside the mansion. The movement of his hands went frozen as his eyes were tinged with a layer of frost in an instant. Has she left?

What was the point of avoiding him? After all, she still had to come back home at the end of the day.

...

Su Ziyue first went to register for another sim card while buying herself a new phone before heading to work. Not long after she arrived at the office, Lu Shichu came to meet her. "Good morning."

When Lu Shichu, who was wearing an immaculate suit, appeared at the door to her room, Su Ziyue was stunned for three seconds before she finally came to her senses. "What brings you here?" While she was talking, she quickly rose to her feet and walked to the door to invite him in before the two of them sat down on the sofa.

After settling down, Lu Shichu placed the carrier bag he was holding onto the coffee table and pushed it toward her. "I brought you breakfast on my way here. I bet you haven't had your breakfast yet, considering you came here so early."

Su Ziyue glanced at the carrier bag and said with a smile, "Thanks." At the moment, she had no appetite for food. Even being in the same place with Qin Muchen was torturous for her. There were times where she almost couldn't resist the urge to ask Qin Muchen who Qin Li was, and what his relationship was with her. However, she dared not do so in the end. It was because she knew once she posed him those questions, the state of tranquility their relationship was currently in would be shattered. If they were going to dredge up details of what had happened in the past, she had no idea what sort of torrid truth she might face. Therefore, the only thing she could do for the time being was avoid facing it.

"You..." Seeing how dejected she looked, Lu Shichu wanted to say something but decided against it just in time.

Maintaining the smile on her face, Su Ziyue said, "I've got work to do and I believe you have to go to work too. Why don't we have a chat next time when the both of us are free? I can't slack off anymore because as you know, Uncle Xingyan is around in the city recently. He'll come in here anytime."

Lu Shichu frowned slightly when he saw how hard Su Ziyue was trying to put on a happy face, but he decided not to probe any further. After giving her an intent gaze, he told her, "Feel free to look for me anytime if you have any problems that you can't solve yourself."

...

Su Ziyue could not concentrate well on her work after he left. She looked down at the cityscape from twenty floors above, standing before the french window. The road was filled up with busy traffic and pedestrians who hustled off in all directions. What should she do?

She fished out her phone and found that she had no missed calls; Qin Muchen did not call her. He had always had a bad temper to begin with, and her behavior last night was indeed unreasonable. Hence, it was completely normal that he just couldn't be bothered to give her a call. However, things shouldn't go on like this forever.

After mulling it over, she sent a message to him, saying, 'Let's have lunch together later. I have something to tell you.' She felt relieved after sending out the text.

At that juncture, there came Li Qingluo's voice from the outside. "Director Su, we're having an emergency meeting ten minutes later."

"I've got it," she acknowledged. Immediately, she kept away her phone and turned around as she made her way to the conference room.

...

Everyone at the company had noticed that the president was in a bad mood right from the very beginning of the day. Qin Muchen thrust the proposal in his hands at the table and sneered, "I'm surprised that you actually have the guts to submit such nonsense to me."

The manager who was standing in front of him was careful not to breathe too loudly, let alone speak. Qin Muchen was aware that he was throwing a tantrum unreasonably, but he just couldn't help it. It was all the fault of Su Ziyue, that little scoundrel! Frustratedly, he loosened the tie around his collar and tossed the proposal at the manager. "Redo it!" he yelled.

The manager reacted as though he had just been granted an amnesty. Holding the proposal with him, he quickly scurried out of Qin Muchen's room in a flash. It had been a long time since the president last threw a tantrum like this.

Qin Muchen shut his eyes and leaned back against his chair to take a break. At that moment, his phone rang. He quickly opened his eyes and grabbed his phone hurriedly. When he saw 'Nan Chuan' appeared on the screen of his phone, a trace of disappointment flickered in his eyes. He then took his own sweet time to pick up the call and asked Nan Chuan, "Have you found him?"

“Yes...”

“Get him here.” With that, he ended the call. Without him realizing, his fingers scrolled on the screen of his phone and reached Su Ziyue’s contact details.

Looking at her number, he hesitated and thought whether he should ring her up. Although she was the one who first behaved unreasonably due to a foul temper, he should try to cheer her up instead of letting her be that way. Should he just give her a call since his fingers had already brought him to her number on the contact list?

Just as he was about to dial, a notification of a new message suddenly sprung up on the screen. It was from Su Ziyue. ‘Let’s have lunch together later. I have something to tell you.’

Looking at the content of her message, his brows couldn’t help but curl upward with joy. Was she finally going to share her problems with him? But... Her tone sounded so grim... What exactly was the thing she wanted to say? Although he couldn’t figure that out for the time being, he still looked happier than before now that he received her message.

Placing his phone down on the table, he immediately made a call to his assistant through the internal line and instructed her, “I’m holding a meeting ten minutes later. Please make sure that everyone will attend.” He thought it better to get everything done in the morning to ensure that he had time to meet Su Ziyue at noon.

After finishing all the work at noon, Qin Muchen still had not received Su Ziyue’s call despite having waited for a long time. Finally, he couldn’t resist but take the initiative to call her, while having a frosty look on his face. His call was soon picked up. Looking slightly sullen, he asked, “You said you want to have lunch with me at noon, but where are you now?”

“I’m taking a train now on my way to an impromptu business trip. We’ll talk after I make it back. Bye.” Su Ziyue straightaway hung up on him after telling him everything at one go.

Watching furiously at his phone after he was being hung up by her, Qin Muchen lost it and smashed his phone onto the floor. Then, he rose to his feet and left the room.

On the other side, Su Ziyue couldn’t help letting out a lengthy sigh of relief as she looked at her phone after ending the call with Qin Muchen. In fact, she did not have to set off on the trip today. However, she just did not feel like staying in Yunzhou City, as she needed some time to calm herself down.

Since there was no rush, she chose to take a train, which could slowly bring her to her destination while giving her time to chill out. However, she had neglected to take into account Qin Muchen’s personality. After all, he was unlikely to allow her to hang around outside by herself, especially when he assumed that she was in a fit of rage.

She spent most of that day on the train before she finally arrived at L City. Just as she settled down at

the hotel and came out from the bathroom after taking a shower, she spotted Qin Muchen, who was sitting on the sofa carefreely making calls to arrange his work.

Much frightened by the sight of him, she accidentally dropped the towel on the floor and questioned, "Why are you here?"

Qin Muchen happened to end a call at that juncture just in time to look up with his brows raised. "What's wrong? Am I not supposed to be here?"

CHAPTER 336

Without speaking a word, Su Ziyue squatted down to pick the towel up before making her way back to the bathroom. She just did not feel like seeing him for the time being because she was worried that she might lose it, and that she would not be able to talk it out properly with him.

Qin Muchen followed her and took several large strides forward to snatch the towel from her hands. He tossed it aside and grabbed the hair dryer to blow dry her hair. Dumbfounded by the series of his movements, Su Ziyue said with a trace of reluctance, "I don't..."

Qin Muchen pressed one large palm on the top of her head and ordered in a grim voice, "Don't move."

Although she wanted to, she couldn't move because he was pulling her hair with his hands. Despite looking and sounding affronted, he didn't hurt her as he still handled her hair with extreme care. Su Ziyue looked up and saw him giving his full attention from the reflection on the mirror. His handsome face looked impassive but his movement was adept and gentle.

Lowering her head, her heart was somewhat melted by the sight of him. At the same time, the intention to shy away from the pressing issue just grew even more intense deep down inside.

"It's done." As soon as he said that, he placed the hair dryer aside and started combing her hair with a wooden comb.

Noticing his actions, Su Ziyue snatched the comb from him and snapped, "I can do it myself."

Instead of walking out, Qin Muchen leaned against the door frame to watch her. As the hotel Su Ziyue was staying was a three-star hotel, the room came with only basic facilities which was a far cry from what she usually enjoyed at home or at Lumiere Jade House. Suddenly, she had a feeling that Qin Muchen's presence had lit up the entire room.

Qin Muchen, who landed his gaze on her long hair, wrapped both arms around himself and asked in an airy tone, "What is it that you need to tell me? Spill it out now."

Smack! Su Ziyue placed the comb back and turned around to face him. "I have to go to bed now as tomorrow will be a busy day," she said.

Of course, Qin Muchen was unconvinced. Just as she walked past him, he moved his hand up and gripped her wrist. "In that case, just make the long story short then. After that, you can go and have your rest."

"I'll tell you tomorrow." Su Ziyue turned to eye him with frustration written all over her face.

Having lost his patience, Qin Muchen exerted force on her wrist to pull her toward his chest. "Do you think that you can always get your way when you're with me?" he confronted.

"I don't think so." Su Ziyue tried hard to wiggle her arm away from him but failed. As her anger hit the ceiling, she howled at him, "Don't make me sound like I'm making trouble out of nothing. I know you have plenty of ways to deal with me, and you're the one who can always get your way with me!" For some reason, she went livid with rage thinking that she had not gathered enough courage until now to ask him about his relationship with Qin Li, and whether the reason he investigated her father's case was really how she imagined it to be.

Qin Muchen looked extremely grim at the moment. With a bleak face, he fixed his gaze on her unflinchingly. Just as she thought he would ditch her directly, he suddenly flung his arms around her shoulder and pulled her toward him. Then, he patted her back and placated her in a deep voice, "Please don't be angry. I'm not going to force you into telling me anymore."

Su Ziyue, who was too stunned by his reaction, even forgot to move away when he lowered his head to claim her lips. After that, he moved his hands to pinch her cheeks intimately when he said, "Go ahead and rest."

Panting slightly, Su Ziyue pushed him away before heading to bed. Qin Muchen stroked his lips bemusedly and let out a chuckle. Su Ziyue indeed looked like the real deal when she switched on the savage mood, as even he was slightly intimidated by her when she was yelling at him. However, she was totally at a loss once he gave in and showed her his soft side. Just like what she had said earlier, he could always get his way when he was with her, because she was in fact soft-hearted.

...

Su Ziyue lay on the bed with her eyes closed. She was really exhausted after spending most of her day on the train. But, she was not sleepy at all when she lay on the bed, probably because she was unaccustomed to sleeping on beds other than her own.

Before long, Qin Muchen walked over. As soon as he clambered onto the bed, he immediately pressed his body which was still emitting warmth, against hers. Her body went rigid at once. Before she could do anything in response, Qin Muchen flipped around and pressed his body down against hers before he started entering her body deftly.

Su Ziyue, who did not feel sleepy at first, dozed off after being worn out by him, so much so that she could only vaguely remember how Qin Muchen later carried her to the bathroom to help her take a

shower.

...

On the next day, she was dragged along by Qin Muchen to stroll around the streets of L City as she did not have work to do. While Su Ziyue appeared lackadaisical, Qin Muchen seemed to be fascinated by everything in the city as they spent most of their day walking about.

When they walked past a stall which was encircled by a throng of people, Su Ziyue cast a glance at the stall out of curiosity. Qin Muchen stopped in his tracks noticing that she was looking at it.

The stall owner, who spotted them, quickly raised his voice to promote his deal, "Anyone who can write down the numbers 1 to 500 free of error will get a soft toy here for free. Just pay thirty for one round..." The stall owner's eyes lingered on both Su Ziyue and Qin Muchen.

Then, he edged closer to Qin Muchen and persuaded, "Sir, you can write it down here! Why don't you get a soft toy for your girlfriend? Look at them, you have to pay at least three hundred for toys of such a large size in the market. While at my place, you just need to pay thirty bucks and get the numbers right to get one of them! How good is that bargain?"

Qin Muchen cast him an imperious glance and rectified, "She's my wife."

The stall owner was stunned for a moment before correcting himself, "Hmm... in that case, you should win a soft toy for your wife then..."

Su Ziyue eyed Qin Muchen curiously. Would he be interested in things like these?

Assuming that Su Ziyue wanted the soft toy, Qin Muchen paid the stall owner without hesitation and started writing down the numbers. Astonishment flickered in Su Ziyue's eyes but she still stood beside him and watched him do it. After taking the cash from him with a wide grin, the stall owner gave him a piece of paper and a pen. "Sir, please write it down here and just tell me when you're done!"

Meanwhile, someone sitting at another corner announced, "Boss, I'm done. Come on and take a look now."

Su Ziyue walked over to join the fun as she watched the boss verifying the numbers. In the end, the boss found that the customer had missed out two numbers before he even reached 100.

Su Ziyue realized secretly that it was a game which seemed easy, but it was actually quite challenging to get it right. She then got closer to Qin Muchen and asked him in an undertone, "Can you do it? Many people have got errors in theirs."

Qin Muchen, who was sitting steadily in front of the stall, reassured her without even looking up, "All you need to do is pick the soft toy you want."

Su Ziyue was left speechless. Seeing how confident he looked, she would really love to see him prove himself wrong. However, the outcome just showed that she should not judge a legendary figure by the standard of common folks. After checking his answer sheet twice, the stall owner looked agonized and went on, "Sir, which one would your wife like to have? I'll get it for her."

"I would like that white one." Su Ziyue pointed at the soft toy she had long chosen. In fact, it had been a long time since she last bought soft toys, but girls generally just couldn't resist the charm of them.

The stall owner handed the white-colored soft toy to her. She took it over and found it reaching her knees when she carried it obliquely.

Just as she was about to walk away, Qin Muchen asked, "Do you have anything else you fancy?"

Su Ziyue glanced at the stall owner and saw his anguished face. She couldn't help but chuckle as she dragged Qin Muchen away and said while they were walking away, "One is enough."

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When Su Ziyue turned around after dragging Qin Muchen away from the stall for some distance, she still noticed the stall owner glancing in their direction with alarm. Immediately, she doubled up with laughter. She was of the opinion that Qin Muchen had played the game deliberately to punish the stall owner.

Although the soft toy might not really be worth three hundred as the stall owner had claimed, it surely cost way more than thirty. It was obvious that the stall owner targeted the fact that most of the people would not get the game right. So, he was pushing his luck to earn from as many failed attempts as possible. However, he was fated to lose his money if he was to come across a customer like Qin Muchen.

Seeing Su Ziyue laughing, Qin Muchen too curled his lips up into a smile. Then, he lifted his hand to check the time on his wrist watch to find it was 5 p.m. "It's getting late. Wait for me here while I go get the car."

"Okay." Su Ziyue nodded at him and took several steps back toward the roadside with the soft toy in her arms. Watching Qin Muchen's tall figure disappear among the crowds, she was suddenly seized by a sense of sorrow. Didn't she promise him before that she would always believe in him? Perhaps, she should just ask him directly because there was no point in procrastinating. After all, Qin Muchen was really nice to her...

Resting her chin on the head of the soft toy, she was lost in thought. Suddenly, a woman's scream came from the crowd, "Get out of the way! That van has gone out of control!"

Su Ziyue lifted her head at once to find a van charging toward her at high speed. Behind her was a wall and to her right side was a stall; she could only go to her left side in order to avoid the van. Just as the

van was going to reach her, her mind went blank for a second before she took to her heels and made a dash to her left side. In a fit of panic, she ran off to the road to her left side and found a motorbike speeding in her direction.

“Su Ziyue!” She could tell that it was Qin Muchen’s voice but she had no idea where he was.

Beep! Bang! Thud! Just as Su Ziyue wanted to turn around to check where Qin Muchen was, she suddenly felt a floating sensation and her body was then sent flying to the other side of the road. In the meantime, she stretched her hands in an attempt to reach out for the soft toy but it was too late...

“Su Ziyue!” Qin Muchen’s voice was getting closer to her and she could tell that he was slightly out of breath.

Her vision was spinning in all directions... Was she going to die just like that? If she had known about that earlier, she would not have wasted so much time thinking. Instead, she should just cut to the chase and ask Qin Muchen about the issue. Life was too precious for her to waste her time.

...

Beep—

She heard a familiar sound coming from the monitor next to her. “Why hasn’t she woken up yet?”

“It’s normal for her to lose her consciousness after suffering a blow to her head. According to the results of various body checks we have done on her...”

She could only hear the voices clearly for a while before they slowly became blurry again. Her entire body felt extremely sore as soon as she tried to move. At that juncture, she heard someone exclaiming, “She’s awake!”

Su Ziyue turned to look in the direction of the voice and saw the face of a young girl which looked unfamiliar to her. Before she could speak, the young girl vanished out of sight in an instant, and her place was taken by a familiar face.

“Are you awake? Do you feel pain in any parts of your body? Are you feeling unwell?” Qin Muchen bombarded her with a barrage of questions in an anxious tone.

Still feeling groggy, Su Ziyue did not answer him right away because she was still trying to recall what had taken place prior to this.

Seeing her unresponsiveness, Qin Muchen looked concerned at once as he turned around and seized the doctor standing behind him. “Do a check-up on her thoroughly! I want it to be so thorough that every single strand of her hair has to be looked at!” he yelled.

The doctor had no idea how to respond to him. Su Ziyue, whose mind was pulled back to reality by his voice, was also left speechless by what he said. When she turned around and saw the needle from the intravenous drip which was jabbed into her hand, she plucked it out, made a flip and sat upright on the bed. Looking at Qin Muchen, she questioned, "Why are you holding the doctor's arm?"

Qin Muchen immediately loosened his hold on the doctor and went on to sit on the edge of the bed. "Why are you sitting up?" he asked in a voice which sounded a lot more pleasant than before.

"I felt dizzy while lying down." Su Ziyue leaned back against the head of the bed.

The doctor, who was standing behind Qin Muchen, spotted the opportune time to offer her opinion, "Sir, you don't have to be too worried because your wife has just suffered a minor concussion. She just needs to stay at the hospital to have her condition monitored for a week..."

Qin Muchen looked sullen as soon as he heard the doctor's comment. "She has just suffered a concussion? Is that not serious enough?"

Su Ziyue couldn't stand him and thundered, "Qin Muchen!"

He quickly responded, "I'm here."

Exasperated, Su Ziyue stared at him and challenged, "Are you a doctor? If you aren't one, you'd better keep your mouth shut."

Qin Muchen raised his brows. The crease on his forehead finally smoothed out after he was sure that Su Ziyue was not feeling unwell.

...

Other than suffering from a minor concussion, Su Ziyue only had some abrasions. In other words, she was generally fine. However, it had been a treacherous situation when the accident happened. When the van was charging in her direction, she made a dash toward another side, where a motorbike which happened to be speeding toward her knocked into her and sent her flying away. Because of that, she was lucky enough to avoid the van...

After a moment of silence, she looked up at Qin Muchen with a solemn face. "In fact, I have to be grateful to the owner of that motorbike."

Looking icy, Qin Muchen doubted in an indifferent tone, "You have to be grateful?" He considered himself kind enough to not bring any trouble upon the owner of the motorbike. Therefore, the idea of being grateful to the owner of the motorbike was outlandish in his views.

Just one glance at his expression was enough to let Su Ziyue know what was in his mind.

“If that motorbike didn’t knock into me and send me flying in another direction, I couldn’t even be sure whether I could still sit here and chat with you.” Taking a deep breath, she was still quite traumatized when she thought of how the accident happened.

Suddenly, Qin Muchen’s eyes turned colder as he extended his arms to pull her close to his chest without saying another word. At that time, Su Ziyue lost her consciousness right after she was knocked by the motorbike. However, he noticed that the driver of the van still intended to bring the van in her direction. If he had not sprinted toward her just in time, the consequences would have been unthinkable. With that thought in mind, he couldn’t help but tighten his arms around her.

In fact, Su Ziyue was still slightly frightened as she really thought that she was going to die at that moment. She felt an even more intense fear than how she had felt two years ago. At that time, she had been very disappointed in Qin Muchen. But now...

Gripping both hands tightly, she then slowly unclenched them as though she had made up her mind on something as she pushed him away. He moved his hands to caress her head. “What’s wrong?”

Biting her lips, she felt her decision buttressed when she saw the concern in his eyes. With some hesitation, she asked him in a very soft voice, “Do you... know who is Qin Li?” As soon as she posed that question, she almost hoped that Qin Muchen did not catch it. However, judging from the drastic change to his expression, she knew he had heard her.

After several looks of different facial expressions, Qin Muchen’s face restored to calmness when he questioned with a slightly croaky voice, “How did you know about her?”

Her heart gave a lurch when she heard his question. Slightly quivering, she said, “Don’t ask me that because I just... know it...”

“Did Lu Shichu tell you about it?” Surprisingly, his voice turned gentler and he did not look restless like how one would usually respond when one’s lie was being exposed.

Infected by his calmness, Su Ziyue nodded her head in agreement. Although her voice became stabler, it still sounded slightly uneasy when she told him, “Shichu told me that the victim of my father’s case was Qin Li.”

Slowly, Qin Muchen confessed, “She was my mother.”

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“She is my mother.”

Qin Muchen said out loud the answer that Su Ziyue had thought about in her mind. At that moment, she panicked as her hand that was on the quilt unconsciously clenched tighter. Her voice was a little erratic as she asked, “She’s your mother?” Qin Li is Qin Muchen’s mother? She was the victim in my father’s case?

She suddenly remembered how she even asked Qin Muchen to help with the investigation about her father. Now that she thought about it, she felt ridiculous. Seeing that Su Ziyue was in shock, Qin Muchen reached out to grab her hand. However, Su Ziyue instantly pulled her hand back. In a shrill voice, she asked, "So, the reason you approached me was because of your mother's case? What were you planning to do?"

A gloomy expression appeared on Qin Muchen's face after he failed to get hold of her hand. With that, Su Ziyue glared at him intently and yelled, "Answer me!"

Qin Muchen looked at her seriously and he calmly replied, "Yes, I am not denying the reason for my approaching you in the beginning was because of my mother. It was very suspicious back then and I couldn't find out what really happened at that time. My grandfather even sent someone to deal with her funeral affairs so I didn't know much about the case."

Hearing this, Su Ziyue took a deep breath and turned to look out the window, not wanting to meet Qin Muchen's gaze. She didn't know what to say about his confession. After a while, she turned to look at him and questioned, "So, approaching me was one of your means of investigation?"

Her words made Qin Muchen frown slightly. "Even if I didn't re-investigate the case, I would still be looking for you."

Su Ziyue didn't speak with a doubtful expression on her face. From the very beginning, Qin Muchen appeared mysteriously in my life. He seemed like the perfect man, staying by my side and wouldn't leave no matter what I did. I don't believe that he insists on being with me because he fell in love with my looks or because we had slept together. Even if Qin Muchen is sticking with me just so that he can investigate the case further, he doesn't need to come this far. Su Ziyue pressed on, "Why?"

With a trace of nostalgia, Qin Muchen replied softly, "I met you a long time ago."

At that moment, Qin Muchen remembered that one day that happened ten years ago. After he came home from school, his mother happily asked, "How about I find you a little sister?"

Then, he met Su Ziyue. It was his mother who secretly brought him to see her. At that time, Su Ziyue was around eight years old. She had pink, tender skin, her hair was combed into a princess bun, and she wore a pink dress, like a little lady. Her eyes were big and bright when she smiled, which shone brilliantly like the blossoms in springtime.

His mother asked, "Isn't she pretty? She's adorable, don't you think?" She was full of joy and seemed to like Su Ziyue a lot, just like how she liked Su Ziyue's father, Su Yizi.

Su Ziyue couldn't understand what his words meant so she inquired further, "What?"

"My mother grew up in the Mogwin family but she was the most unruly of all. After she became an

adult, she returned to China. She gave birth to me at a young age but I've never met my father before. When I was thirteen years old, she came to Yunzhou City where she met your father. Not long after, she told me that she wanted to start a new family." When Qin Muchen said this, he stopped and looked at Su Ziyue.

Su Ziyue was in a daze for a moment. When she came back to her senses, she asked him uncertainly, "Are you saying that your mother and my father were lovers back then?" After she finished speaking, she shook her head in self denial and concluded, "It can't be. If it was true, I would remember something about this. Moreover, my father would have never kept this from me."

"Yes, your father didn't keep it from you because he never accepted my mother's love pursuits. He loved you deeply so he was afraid that you'd find it difficult to adapt to a new family. However, in the end, he was moved by my mother's love. They planned to take you out to meet us officially after that charity dinner."

Qin Muchen suddenly stopped speaking. After the charity dinner, they lost the chance to meet up with each other. Qin Li had died and Su Yizi had become a suspect. Su Ziyue knew nothing about this and Qin Muchen was picked up by someone his grandfather sent. They never became a family. Su Ziyue, who should have been treasured by Su Yizi and raised like a princess, entered the Su family.

Qin Yuchuan was so heartbroken from Qin Li's death that he brought Qin Muchen away with him and didn't allow him to return to China. Even though Qin Muchen didn't return, he was not living in the Mogwin mansion either. The hands of fate changed both their lives. Su Ziyue pursed her lips slightly and thought about the most important point...

"You... You don't believe that my father killed your mother?" stammered Su Ziyue. Qin Muchen shook his head and patted her head coaxingly. Then he said calmly, "I don't believe it. I believe in my mother's judgement, just like how you believe in your father."

Indeed, he used to suspect that Su Yizi was a hypocrite and that it was possible that he was the real murderer. However, because of Su Ziyue, he changed his mind. Furthermore, the series of events that occurred coupled with the information that he learned, proved that Su Yizi was undoubtedly not the culprit. The real murderer was someone else who had not only killed Qin Li, but also Su Yizi.

"Why are you in a daze?" Seeing that Su Ziyue was silent, Qin Muchen reached out and pulled her into his arms. Then, he gently patted her back. He was actually afraid that she would blame him.

If it weren't for Qin Muchen and Qin Li, or the death of the latter, Su Yizi perhaps would still be alive and well. And as for Su Ziyue, she would be able to grow up happily without enduring such unnecessary suffering in the Su family. This was why from the beginning, he had decided that he would take care of her and would never give a moment's consideration of divorcing her.

Su Ziyue looked up at him. "Then why were you unwilling to tell me when I first asked you about it?"

After a moment of hesitation, Qin Muchen responded, "If I had told you all of these back then, are you sure that you wouldn't hate me?"

Hearing this, Su Ziyue lowered her eyes slightly and didn't say anything further. Her silence meant that she had admitted it. If Qin Muchen had told her all of these in the beginning, she would have never accepted him. Before he told her these things, he was just a mysterious man that was almost perfect. If he were to divulge everything to her at that time, he would be a person that was connected to her father's case, and it would be hard to guarantee that she wouldn't be mad about it. I never thought that he had considered so much from the start.

With that, the two of them cuddled together in silence. After a while, Su Ziyue suddenly remembered something else as she prompted, "Did you look for Su Yuanming the other day?" Qin Muchen's body stiffened slightly but he didn't deny. Instead, he truthfully replied, "Yes." Su Ziyue bit her lip and asked, "Then... where is my father right now?"

CHAPTER 339

Gong Zeyang told her that her father was dead and when she mentioned her father to Lu Shichu, she could tell from Lu Shichu's gaze that her father wasn't alive anymore. However, she still couldn't believe it. For so many years, she firmly believed that her father was still around. As Su Ziyue was looking at Qin Muchen with anticipation, she was hoping that he could give her a different answer. All she needed was for someone to tell her that her father was still alive. However...

"Don't look at me like that." Qin Muchen suddenly reached out his hand and covered Su Ziyue's eyes. The careful look and anticipation he caught from her gaze made him feel distressed, but he couldn't give her the answer she wanted, for Su Yizi was already dead.

Her vision suddenly became dark but she still could see a ray of light through the gap between Qin Muchen's fingers. She stubbornly asked, "Where's my father?"

He's dead. Even though it was a few simple words, Qin Muchen couldn't say it aloud no matter what. Seeing that she wasn't getting any answer from him, Su Ziyue's heart gradually turned cold. She no longer cared whether she could prove her father's innocence. All she wanted to hear was that he was still alive.

Qin Muchen felt a warm dampness in his palms. Even though it was warmish, he quickly drew away his hand as if he was scalded. Then, he saw that Su Ziyue's face was covered in tears.

With tears rolling down her face, Su Ziyue wailed and screamed, "That's impossible! How could my father be dead?" Qin Muchen held her tightly without saying a word, feeling helpless. A few years ago, in order to escape from Qin Yuchuan's control, he worked hard to climb up the ladder. He thought that power could help him settle with everything. It was only until he met Su Ziyue did he realize that that was useless. There was no turning back time, and whatever that had happened was irreversible. No money and power could help them retrieve their lost children and loved ones.

Heartbroken, Su Ziyue tugged onto Qin Muchen's clothes and cried, "I... I don't believe you..." Her hopes of more than ten years shattered in an instant, and she felt as if there was a huge black hole in her heart pulling her into desperation like a whirlpool. It hurt so much that she felt as if she was suffocating. My father would never return again no matter how long. Never.

"My... father... will never come back..." Su Ziyue kept sobbing and she stuttered as she spoke in a helpless and desperate tone, like a vulnerable child. Qin Muchen continued to hug her and didn't even dare to move an inch. "Don't cry."

He didn't know how to comfort her. When Qin Li suddenly passed away, he was sad too and he also cried secretly. However, he soon persuaded himself to accept the reality. But, Su Ziyue was different. She had kept a small hope within her for more than ten years, only to have that tiny string of hope disappear in an instant. After a while, Su Ziyue finally calmed down a little. She sounded breathless as she said, "I don't want to stay in the hospital."

Hearing this, Qin Muchen gave her a gentle kiss on the forehead and assured, "Okay. Let's leave the hospital now."

Against the doctor's advice, both of them packed up and returned to the hotel. They didn't bring much, so Qin Muchen packed everything up himself while Su Ziyue watched him by the side. Then, her tears started to well up again so she got up and went to the washroom. By the time she came out, Qin Muchen was already done and was waiting for her.

Qin Muchen held her by the hand and said, "Let's go." However, Su Ziyue glanced back inadvertently and asked, "Where's the doll?"

He was taken aback by her question. "I lost it." At that time, he didn't have the energy to bother for that old doll. Hearing this, Su Ziyue nodded in reply, but she felt a little upset as the doll was given to her by Qin Muchen.

Back at the hotel, Su Ziyue had a bite before she went to bed. Her sleep was anything but restful because she dreamed about the day that Su Yizi went to the charity dinner. She had a fever that day, so Su Yizi forbade her from having ice cream. When Su Yizi left the house, she was still mad at him. Before leaving, he patted her head and looked at her lovingly as he said, "Yue, take a good rest at home. Don't eat any ice cream. I'll be back soon." After that, he never returned. She dreamed that she was waiting for him under the jujube tree in the front yard...

Dad... Su Ziyue woke up from her dream. The room was a little dark and the bedside lamp was still on, but the other side of the bed was empty. Su Ziyue got out of bed and drew the curtains. The sunlight instantly poured its way in, and the room turned bright. She called out, "Qin Muchen?" However, there was no response. She searched the bathroom but she couldn't see Qin Muchen in sight either.

Just then, she heard a knock on the door. "Room service." Su Ziyue walked over, opened the door, and saw that it was the hotel waiter.

He then wheeled in the dining cart and as he placed the dishes down, he said, "Good day to you! Your husband has ordered some food for you."

Hearing this, Su Ziyue asked, "Where is he?" When the waiter was done placing down the food items, he smiled and replied, "He went out after ordering the food. We don't know where he went either. Perhaps you could give him a call?"

"Thank you."

After the waiter left, as Su Ziyue was about to get ready and wash up, the door was pushed open again. Qin Muchen was back. "Where did..." Before she could finish her sentence, Su Ziyue stopped talking.

Qin Muchen opened the door with his body facing sideways. It was after he entered the room when Su Ziyue saw that he was holding a doll in the other hand. It was the same doll as the one she had yesterday. He glanced toward Su Ziyue's direction and asked, "Have they already sent breakfast over?"

"Yes. Is that..." Su Ziyue pointed at the doll in his arms and inquired, "Where did you find it?"

"I went to the vendor and rewrote the numbers. I won." Qin Muchen handed over the doll from his hands.

Surprised, Su Ziyue reached out for the doll and touched its furry ears. A smile appeared on her face. "Thank you."

Qin Muchen pointed at his own cheek and said, "I think you should show your appreciation."

Su Ziyue put the doll aside, placed her hand on his arm, tiptoed and gave him a kiss on the cheek. "Thank you." Thank you for going through so much trouble for me. She naturally knew that Qin Muchen was trying to cheer her up, but she couldn't help but feel sad. At the same time, she didn't want him to be so worried either.

Qin Muchen didn't expect that Su Ziyue would really give him a kiss, and the corners of his lips uncontrollably curled to a smile.

Over the next few days, Su Ziyue appeared calm. However, the more calm she looked, the more Qin Muchen was worried about her. At first, he thought that she would directly return to Yunzhou City. He even bought air tickets in advance. However, she chose to stay back and continue working. Feeling concerned, Qin Muchen followed her to work during the day, and kept her company in the hotel during the night.

CHAPTER 340

When the two set off to return to Yunzhou City, they saw the headlines of newspapers everywhere saying, 'The President of LK Group accompanies his wife, Su Ziyue to a business trip. The loving couple...'

In the car, after having read the newspaper, Su Ziyue put it aside. Qin Muchen glanced at it and a smile appeared on his face. "The media nowadays are getting more and more reliable." Hearing this, Su Ziyue pouted and turned to look out the window. Then, she noticed that Yanyue Media was only a distance away. As she turned to look at Qin Muchen, she said, "I have to drop by the company. Why don't you go back first? There's no need to pick me up later, because my car is still in the company garage."

"Okay," Qin Muchen replied, though the smile on his face slowly disappeared. After they arrived at the entrance of Yanyue Media, Su Ziyue opened the car door and got out. Qin Muchen sat in the car and watched her leave. After smoking a cigarette, he turned around and left. He then headed off to investigate the incident where Su Ziyue was almost hit by a car in L City.

After Su Ziyue arrived at the company, she handled some business affairs. When it was time to get off work, she drove to the Su Family's residence. At the entrance of Su Residence, before her car even came to a complete stop, Su Ziyue opened the car door and got out eagerly. A servant saw Su Ziyue and greeted her, "Miss Su."

With a cold expression on her face, Su Ziyue looked at the servant and asked, "Is Su Youcheng home?"

The servant was momentarily stunned after she heard what Su Ziyue had said. Then, she replied, "Old Master Su had just returned." I didn't hear her wrong, did I? Did Miss Su just call out Old Master Su by his full name?

Su Ziyue no longer cared to bother with the shocked servant. Instead, she pushed her aside and walked straight in.

.....

Su Ziyue pushed open the door of the study room aggressively and saw Su Yuanming and Su Youcheng sitting together as they were halfway through a discussion. She strode up to them and coldly glared at Su Youcheng as she said, "Su Youcheng." A frown appeared on Su Youcheng's face almost immediately.

Before Su Youcheng could say anything, Su Yuanming stood up and asked, "Ziyue, what's wrong with you? How could you call my father by his full name?"

Hearing this, Su Ziyue glared at him coldly and said, "You're next."

"Why are you here?" Su Youcheng didn't look pleased but when he thought of Su Ziyue's identity, he didn't dare to get angry at her plainly.

"I asked you to help me with the investigation of my father's case and find out what happened. So many days have passed, but I have heard nothing from you. You didn't even bother to help me investigate, did you?" Su Ziyue stood in front of Su Youcheng and her gaze was extremely cold. "I told you, it was..." Su Ziyue didn't know what kind of excuses Su Youcheng was going to come up with, but she directly

interrupted him, "I know now." She didn't expect that Su Youcheng would help her anyway. Now that she knew that her father was already dead, the Su Family meant nothing to her. She no longer cared about her so-called relatives or even the Su Group.

Su Ziyue raised her head slightly and roared, "Su Youcheng, I used to respect you as my father's father and as my elder. But from now on, I no longer respect you." My father is dead now. Combined with what Lu Shichu told me, I know that my father went to jail for someone else, and everyone in the Su Family are accomplices. The moment she learned that her father was really dead, she was completely disappointed in the Su Family. As such, she would not let the Su Family go so easily. Every single member of the Su Family will pay for what they've done. Every single one of them!

Su Youcheng looked confused because he didn't understand what Su Ziyue was implying. As for Su Yuanming, he took a few steps back, as if he understood what was going on. After Su Ziyue finished speaking, she turned around and left. However, she happened to meet Liu Zipei, who was coming in from the outside. With a stern expression, Liu Zipei raised her voice and yelled, "Why are you here?"

Su Ziyue glared at her coldly and replied, "To claim a debt."

Liu Zipei was stunned by Su Ziyue's sharp gaze for a moment before she abruptly came back to her senses. I can't believe that I was intimidated by a little girl's glare.

"The Su Family raised you, so what debt are you trying to collect? You should be grateful and repay the favor instead of being so rude and ignorant!" Liu Zipei pointed at her nose and began to curse.

Su Ziyue didn't even blink as she raised her hand and pushed Liu Zipei's hand away. "Don't point at my nose when you're speaking to me. I don't like it." Liu Zipei was my father's stepmother. Among those in the Su Family who contributed to the flames, she must be the one to bear the brunt of the fury.

"You! You're really..."

Su Ziyue was reluctant to speak to her any further, so she pushed her aside to make way for herself. Then, she took two steps forward before she looked back at the room full of startled faces. "I've already given all of you one last chance. From now on, it's time for you to pay off your debts."

Seeing Su Ziyue's figure slowly disappear out of the doorway, Su Youcheng was the first to react. He looked up at Liu Zipei and asked, "What does she mean by paying off the debts?" He realized that Su Ziyue's words were obviously aimed at Liu Zipei, so he asked her directly.

Liu Zipei looked guilty for a second and there was a flicker in her eyes as she chided, "How would I know the reason for her going crazy and asking for debts? The Su Family raised her up. Not only is she not grateful, she even came over to collect debts. She's simply..."

Su Youcheng didn't want to hear Liu Zipei nagging. He remembered that Su Ziyue had asked him directly whether he investigated Su Yizi's case, so he turned to look at Su Yuanming. "Did you go and visit your

brother?" Su Yuanming wiped away the cold sweat on his forehead and looked up to glance at Liu Zipei, who kept sending him signals, before he stammered, "Yizi... actually committed suicide within a few days after being in prison. I was afraid that you might get upset, so I didn't tell you..."

The expression on Su Youcheng's face instantly changed. "What did you say? He's dead?"

"Y-Yes..." Seeing that Su Youcheng was about to get angry, Su Yuanming didn't even dare to breathe.

Even though Su Youcheng had thought that Su Yizi didn't really meet his standards, he was still his son, and his eldest son at that. He had always thought that Su Yizi was still alive. He never thought that he... "Youcheng, don't be too upset. You have to take care of your health. It was me who asked Yuanming to hide this from you. Yizi probably realized how ridiculously wrong he was, and didn't have the courage to see you, so he chose to commit suicide..." Liu Zipei comforted Su Youcheng in a gentle voice as she signaled at Su Yuanming. "Yes, father. Yizi probably realized he was wrong..." Su Yuanming hurriedly joined in. Su Youcheng sighed, waved at them and said, "Get out."

After Su Ziyue walked out of Su Youcheng's study room, she went downstairs and met Xu Lisha at the entrance. Xu Lisha greeted her, "Mrs. Qin." Su Ziyue carefully glanced at her and said, "Miss Xu, you look good."

Hearing this, Xu Lisha leaned close to Su Ziyue and whispered in a low voice that only the two of them could hear, "After Youran passed away, my life has no meaning."