

Marry Me 71

CHAPTER 71

Su Ziyue quickly got an ice bag to put on his forehead. Just as she retrieved her hands, ready to make a call, her hands were grabbed by Qin Muchen. His voice sounded hoarse and weak. "Don't you dare send me to the hospital or I'll terminate the agreement with Su Group..."

Su Ziyue glared at him resentfully when she heard his warning. "That's silly!" If he had not fallen sick at her place, she would not have bothered with him at all. She could not believe he was trying to stop her from sending him to the hospital by threatening her.

"I meant what I said..." He laboriously tried to keep his eyes open, his voice so weak that it was barely audible. Despite being so ill, he used the last bit of his strength to threaten Su Ziyue, and it actually worked.

She walked out of the bedroom to call Nan Chuan. "Can you come take your boss home?"

"So sorry, Miss Su, but I have to take care of my sister..." Nan Chuan's voice sounded slightly distressed and apologetic.

Compared to his boss, it went without saying that his sister mattered more to him. Was there anything Su Ziyue could say to persuade him? "I wish your sister a speedy recovery." After leaving that comment, Su Ziyue hung up on him.

On the other hand, Nan Chuan drew a cross on his chest with his fingers. If anyone was at fault, it would be his boss who had instructed him to ignore Su Ziyue no matter what she said if he received her call.

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After ending the call with Nan Chuan, Su Ziyue returned to the bed to check on Qin Muchen. She patted his face. "Qin Muchen."

He grasped her hand. "Yes?"

"Can you manage staying home alone? I'll call for a doctor for you and then go out to buy you a set of clothing." Looking at how weak and pale he looked, a slight crease formed on her forehead. Her heart somehow ached to see a man, who was usually spirited and strong, falling sick all of a sudden.

She was unsure whether he had actually heard her clearly or not as he only responded to her by saying okay in a soft voice. Again, she placed her palm on his forehead to get a feel of his temperature, worried. His forehead felt cooler perhaps due to the ice bag, but she knew she still had to get a doctor here. She then tucked in the corners of the blanket for him. Just as she was ready to go, his feeble yet clear voice came, "Don't forget about my undies..."

Without responding to him, she came to a brief halt before she turned around and walked toward the door with her handbag.

It was only when he heard the sound of the door being closed did Qin Muchen, who was lying on the bed, open his eyes slightly, feeling very dizzy. After years of experience surviving in the commercial world, he was able to maintain some soberness even though he was sick or injured.

After making sure Su Ziyue had already gone out, he got out of bed and walked toward the bathroom by using the wall as support. He needed a shower to soothe the discomfort he was feeling all over his body.

...

Su Ziyue acted fast as she was worried about Qin Muchen staying at her place alone. Once she entered the shopping mall, she straightaway purchased two sets of pajamas and casual wear. The moment she grabbed the shopping bags and stepped out of the shopping mall, she thought of what Qin Muchen had instructed her before she left. Having no choice, she braced herself and walked back in.

“Miss, may I know what you are looking for?”

“U-Underwear.” Looking awkward, she said the word stutteringly.

Fortunately, the sales assistant was considerate and polite. “Are you getting one for your husband? What’s his size?”

What’s his size? Su Ziyue’s face blushed in an instant. How was she supposed to know what size he wore?

The sales assistant found how confused she looked slightly hilarious. “How tall is he? What’s the size of the trousers he usually wears?”

“I think he’s around 1.9 meters.” She was not sure about that either, but everytime she stood near him, she always thought she was short. After giving it some thought, she braced herself and said, “Please get me the largest size.”

In response to what she said, the sales assistant put on a meaningful smile before handing her two male underwears of the largest size.

After paying for it, Su Ziyue dashed out of the shopping mall as though she was running away from ghosts. Once she got back to her car, she knocked the steering wheel two times with her forehead. She had never done something so embarrassing before! It was all that b*stard, Qin Muchen’s fault! But, that b*stard was still resting at her place because he had fallen sick. She then went to a clinic to hire a doctor for a house call to give Qin Muchen a checkup.

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She remembered he was still naked when she reached home together with the doctor. So, she asked the doctor to take a seat in the living room first while she walked into the room with the shopping bags.

Qin Muchen was still in bed just like how he was before she went out. He opened his eyes slightly after she gave him a nudge. Then, she tossed the shopping bags to him. "Wear them. The doctor is here."

"Okay," he responded but did not move.

She looked at him and suddenly noticed that his hair was wet. "Did you take a shower?" she asked with a frown.

As he did not say a word, she took his silence as admittance. "Are you trying to worsen your condition?" While she went out to get him doctor, trying to make him feel better, he took a shower when he was having fever, potentially making his condition worse.

Because he was ill, his profound eyes were unusually watery, making them look gentle in a strange sort of way. "I'm okay."

Su Ziyue roared back, "You shut up!"

Surprisingly, Qin Muchen obediently kept his mouth shut. Then, she helped him change into the new shirt in a rather rough way before throwing the pants in his direction. "It's up to you whether you want to wear it or not." After that, she went out to invite the doctor in.

The doctor put him on an intravenous drip, prescribed him some medicine and advised Su Ziyue about what he should avoid in his meals. In fact, she already knew what to do even if the doctor did not inform her. When she was staying overseas alone, it was inevitable that she would catch a cold once in a while.

She called her office to apply for leave so that she could stay home to take care of Qin Muchen. She took his temperature every two hours. She then ordered takeout for lunch, and after eating, she took his temperature again. Seeing that his temperature was returning to normal, she fell asleep sprawled by the side of the bed as she finally felt more at ease.

...

By the time she woke up, she heard someone talking in a hushed tone in the room. She flipped over... Wait a moment, did she actually flip over? Sitting bolt upright, she found that she was in bed with no one else beside her.

Qin Muchen was standing before the windows as he took a call. As soon as he noticed the stir behind him, he gently gave the person on the other end some sort of advice before turning around and walking in Su Ziyue's direction.

What caught Su Ziyue's attention was how gentle he sounded when he was taking the call just now. She had heard him talking to Bai Jingshu and Nan Chuan over the phone before; he always sounded calm and cold, without much emotion. What sort of person could make him sound so gentle without him realizing over the phone? Her heart started racing.

"You're awake. Are you hungry?" Qin Muchen was wearing the black and white checkered pajamas she bought for him. Together with the contrast formed by his jet-black hair and pale face, he looked just like a man who had walked directly out of a portrait.

He moved his hand to tuck the strands of her hair which had fallen by her temples behind her ear and offered, "What would you like to have? I'll cook it for you."

Su Ziyue, who got distracted by his attractive voice for several seconds, replied, "You're still sick."

"I'm fine. I've recovered." With a smile, he glued his gentle eyes on her.

Thinking of the call he just had earlier, her face became somber and she got out of bed without giving him another glance. "You should go back home if you've recovered." While she was talking, she made her way to the bathroom.

When she opened the door after finishing washing herself up to find the room empty, a sense of disappointment suddenly seized her. But, when she walked two steps forward, she heard the sounds of pots and pans clanking coming from the kitchen.

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She made her way to the kitchen through the living room.

With an apron tied around his waist, Qin Muchen was holding a spatula in one hand and switching on the cooker hood with the other.

The man, whose back was facing Su Ziyue, was tall and fit; he was capable of giving one in his presence a great sense of security.

Sensing someone behind him, he turned around and glanced at Su Ziyue before turning back again to switch on the stove. "How about having something light for dinner?" he asked.

He sounded so natural as though they were a married couple who had been living together for a very long time.

With her lips pursed, Su Ziyue wanted to say something but thought the better of it in the end. She then turned around and walked back to the living room.

Shaking the slippers off her feet, she plopped down on the sofa and hugged her knees with her arms.

Randomly, she pressed the remote control to switch between channels before she finally stopped at a cartoon channel.

She did not pay any attention to the exaggerated facial expressions of the cartoon characters on the screen nor did she listen to its dubbing which sounded melodramatic.

After some time, the noise in the kitchen died down.

“Dinner’s ready.” Qin Muchen’s voice came from behind, followed by the soft and crisp noise of plates being placed on the table.

Su Ziyue rose to her feet and walked to the dining table where she sat down but did not move for a long time.

Qin Muchen followed suit.

He looked up and glued his eyes on her. “Are the dishes not to your liking?”

He knew the food was indeed too light for her as she usually preferred food with stronger taste.

She leaned back against the chair and said calmly, “You can have the food because I’m not hungry, and you should go back home after finishing the food.”

Qin Muchen’s face tensed and relaxed again several seconds after. “Nan Chuan called me that night. There was an emergency.”

Su Ziyue stared at him confusedly.

He clarified, “I’m talking about what happened that night at Cloud Bay Hilltop Villa.”

She felt uncomfortable once he mentioned that.

“I’m going out to buy some stuff. You can go after you finish the food.” She thought of the car she drove back that day when she finished saying that.

She rose to her feet and fetched him the car keys of his Rolls-Royce. “Your car keys.”

Qin Muchen, who only looked at the keys but did not take it, fixed his eyes on her instead. “Su Ziyue, please give me an answer.”

Su Ziyue was stunned, taken aback by his straightforward question.

He was staring at her with penetrating eyes as though she was a prey he was determined to capture.

“What makes you think I’m obliged to give you an answer just because you ask for it?”

Her face broke into a dazzling smile and she added, “In that case, Mr. Qin, if you tell me frankly what you actually want to achieve by being in a relationship with me, I might seriously consider you as my partner. After all, I don’t always have someone as rich as you interested in me.”

How confident and determined Qin Muchen looked annoyed Su Ziyue slightly.

Since he had asked her for an answer directly, she needed an answer from him too.

While he wanted everything to work in his favor, at the same time, he also wanted her to be in a relationship with him willingly and happily without asking him too many questions—such a perfect scenario was simply not going to happen.

Instead of getting irritated by what she said, Qin Muchen answered her solemnly, “There are things I’ll explain to you when the right time comes.”

The smile on Su Ziyue’s face vanished at once. “In that case, we’ll discuss our relationship when you can finally explain them to me then.”

“I think that’s another kettle of fish.” Frowning slightly, he continued, “Regardless of whatever motives I once had, my intention to marry you at that time was genuine, and I believe you felt it too.”

“If you want to raise a dog as a pet, your intention to buy it is genuine too. What’s more, it won’t ask you for any explanation and it won’t create much fuss for you. How nice is that?”

She stared at him scornfully and added, “How nice is raising a dog as a pet? As long as you treat it well, it’ll stay loyal to you and it won’t care about anything else.”

Qin Muchen, whose emotions had been stable all this while, finally became livid because of what she said. “Si Ziyue!” he yelled her name icily.

“You don’t have to shout because I can hear you.” Su Ziyue looked lackadaisical and unflustered.

Seeing how indifferent she looked, Qin Muchen’s face turned increasingly frigid, a trace of dubious brilliance flickering in his eyes. “Do you really think I won’t be interested in other women but you?”

“Of course not. Women are yours for the taking, and you’re only slightly interested in me because I happened to spend a night with you. I know myself well enough to say that.”

She held her head high proudly and cast him a glance before looking away.

“Fine.” Qin Muchen glued his eyes on her. “Fine! Su Ziyue.”

He said 'fine' twice in a row, which sent chills down her spine.

Before Su Ziyue could say anything, he grabbed the car keys for his Rolls-Royce and stomped out of her unit.

Su Ziyue sat on the chair, motionless. In fact, she had a strong urge to remind him that he was still wearing pajamas.

...

Qin Muchen stepped out of her unit with the car keys and went all the way down by taking the stairs instead of the elevator.

He was out of breath when he reached the lobby because his body was slightly weak in the first place, after having slept for one whole day previously and having a fever which had just subsided.

Driving, he sped his way back to Cloud Bay Hilltop Villa, and it was only when he alighted the car did he realize that he was still wearing pajamas.

His expression dark, he slammed the car door shut.

A glance at the car turned his eyes somewhat gloomier, as it suddenly struck him that the car was once driven by Su Ziyue.

As soon as he stepped into the mansion, he called Nan Chuan, who was flirting with an intern who had just joined the company when he received his call.

He was slightly surprised to get a call from his boss so soon. Did he manage to patch things up with Miss Su within such a short period of time?

If that was the case, he reckoned his boss should be in a buoyant mood right now.

Did that mean it was the right time for him to apply for several days of leave?

Little did he know, he was asked to 'get his ass over to Cloud Bay' by his boss as soon as he took the call. All the wonderful hopes and expectations he had were dashed at once.

Life in reality was indeed not a fairytale.

...

By the time Nan Chuan reached the mansion, Qin Muchen had already changed into an immaculate fitted black suit, giving him a distinguished and hard-to-approach aura.

“Mr. Qin?” Nan Chuan examined his face with caution.

Judging from how awful he looked, he supposed his plan had failed, and he did not manage to get Miss Su back.

While Qin Muchen was fiddling with his cufflinks, he tossed a set of car keys casually to Nan Chuan.

Nan Chuan caught it at once. What’s Mr. Qin trying to do?

Qin Muchen glimpsed at him icily and instructed, “Drive it away. I don’t want the car to appear in my sight ever again in the future.”

Nan Chuan blinked his eyes in confusion. Did that mean he could have the car?

In fact, he too was a fan of this limited edition Rolls-Royce, but at the time it was launched, he did not have enough money to buy it. To his surprise, his boss was giving him the car as a gift so generously.

He supposed his boss must have gotten back on good terms with Miss Su then?

“Mr. Qin, Miss Su and you...”

Feeling that the temperature in the entire mansion took a drastic drop when he was halfway through asking, the remaining part of his question was stuck at his throat.

Qin Muchen sneered and threatened in an extremely icy voice, “I’ll banish you to South Africa if I hear any mention of Su Ziyue from you in the future!”

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Su Ziyue still sat motionless at the dining table for a long while after Qin Muchen had left.

The dishes he prepared still rested on the dining table, and traces of his scent seemed to linger in the air.

She fished out her phone to call An Xia. “Let’s go out and have a drink.”

An Xia’s voice sounded weak. “I’m having my period so I can’t have anything cold.”

After Su Ziyue hung up on her, she packed all the food on the dining table and brought them to An Xia’s place.

She reheated the food in the microwave before placing them all on the dining table and offered a pair of chopsticks to An Xia. “You haven’t eaten, right?”

"I always know you're the best. As soon as I got back home from work, I just lay on my bed, feeling so awful that I wished I could just vanish into thin air. I had no appetite at all."

Joyously, An Xia took over the pair of chopsticks and started enjoying the food.

When she had tasted almost everything, Su Ziyue asked indifferently, "Is the food delicious?"

"Yes, it's not bad. Where did you get it? I'll order takeaway from them next time." Her speech was unclear because her mouth was stuffed with food.

Su Ziyue said with a smile, "Have more because you won't have the chance to have it in the future."

"Why?" An Xia eyed her suspiciously. Why did she sound so weird over some food?

Su Ziyue then clarified, "The food was prepared by Qin Muchen."

Pfft...

An Xia spit out the mouthful of water she had just drunk. "Mr. Qin actually knows how to cook? And he cooks so well? Don't you try to frighten me."

Su Ziyue rolled her eyes at her.

"Did you apply for leave today because of him?" An Xia narrowed her eyes, her mind spinning, trying to analyze the situation.

Su Ziyue nodded her head, looking somewhat lost. Without answering An Xia, she said instead, "He wanted an answer from me."

An Xia was puzzled. "What sort of answer?"

Su Ziyue gave her a meaningful look which was instantly understood by An Xia.

"What did you tell him then?" An Xia stared at her curiously, thinking that it was unlikely that Su Ziyue would accept Qin Muchen so easily.

"I asked him to tell me his motives when he first approached me in the beginning, but he refused to come clean..."

"Then?"

"Then, I suggested that he should keep a dog as a pet instead."

Looking shocked, An Xia was speechless.

After a silent moment, An Xia put down her chopsticks rigidly and pointed at the door with an agonized look.

“You should go now. I don’t want to befriend someone as b*tchy and unreasonable as you! I’m surprised that you actually told such an eligible man to keep a dog as a pet instead! If I were him, I would straightaway turn you into a dog.”

As soon as she heard her comment, Su Ziyue went wide-eyed with rage. “He wouldn’t dare!”

An Xia eyed her contemptuously. “Why wouldn’t he? If he really wanted to cause trouble, your entire family wouldn’t be his match, let alone yourself.”

Seeing Su Ziyue was keeping mum, she pressed on, “So, why’re you telling me all this?”

Su Ziyue then gave her an account of how Qin Muchen had specifically requested her to be the person in charge of handling the agreement with LK Group.

After listening to her, An Xia commented after a brief silence, “How shrewd is Mr. Qin! No wonder you rejected him despite being so smitten with him.”

Su Ziyue immediately countered, “I don’t...”

“You know very well whether or not you’re smitten with Mr. Qin.” While An Xia was talking, she prodded Su Ziyue’s chest.

...

Later that night, Su Ziyue could not sleep even after tossing and turning for a long time. That last sentence from An Xia kept on replaying in her mind.

She only managed to fall asleep in the wee hours of the morning. She dreamt of being turned into a dog by Qin Muchen, causing her to wake up with a start only to find that the sun had risen.

Quickly, she got out of bed and washed up before making her way straight to the office without having breakfast.

She bumped into Su Yige at the entrance of the office tower.

Su Yige looked at her with a smile. “Ziyue, what tied you down at home yesterday? I don’t suppose you know Grandpa was admitted to the hospital?”

Su Youcheng was admitted to the hospital?

Su Ziyue turned to face her with an expressionless face. "Since Grandpa is in the hospital, why are you here instead of staying there to take care of him?"

Su Yige's face froze for a second before returning to normal. "Grandpa was hospitalized because of overworking and fatigue. Of course I have to be here and work hard to lessen his burden."

"I see."

Su Ziyue turned around and walked in the direction of the elevator after casting her a glance.

Su Yige then followed her into the elevator where the two did not speak to each other again.

...

As soon as Su Ziyue reached her office, she tossed her bag aside and mulled over what Su Yige had just said.

What did she mean?

As Su Youcheng was hospitalized, the company could not operate without a leader.

Did that mean that Su Yuanming, who had been manning the branch office all this while, was coming back?

If that was the case, things were looking bleak.

Su Yige might tone down her behavior when Su Youcheng was still around. But, if her father, Su Yuanming, was to take over the company, Su Yige would have nothing to hold her back anymore.

Su Ziyue became alert from then on.

As expected, An Xia knocked on the door of her office and came in minutes after she reached her office. "General Manager Su is back and he wants to see you now." An Xia looked somewhat worried after she said that.

Su Ziyue flashed her a reassuring smile. "I'll be okay."

With that, she rose to her feet and made her way to Su Yuanming's office.

She stood by the door and knocked twice before Su Yuanming's voice was heard, "Come in."

Su Ziyue pushed the door open and saw Su Yuanming who was reviewing some documents before the desk.

“Ziyue, please have a seat.” He put aside the documents and pointed at a chair on the opposite of him.

Su Ziyue walked over but she did not sit down. “General Manager, please cut to the chase. I have an ongoing project in my department and there’s still a lot of preparation work that needs to be done.”

“Don’t worry about work. My father was admitted to the hospital yesterday due to a relapse of his old illness. I suppose you know about that?”

Su Yuanming scrutinized her expression while he talked.

Su Ziyue, who had no idea of his plan yet, had no choice but to nod her head. “I heard it from Yige when I arrived at the office just now.”

Satisfied with how perceptive she was, Su Yuanming carried on, “For people like him at such an old age, it’s inevitable to have a weaker body. Yet, Yige and I aren’t free to take care of him as we have plenty of work to handle. Let’s see, why don’t you put aside that project of yours first or just pass it to Yige so that you’ll have time to take care of your grandfather and catch up with him?”

As it turned out, Su Yige was eyeing the collaboration she was handling with LK Group, so she had gotten her father, Su Yuanming, to convey her request on her behalf.

Did Su Yige really think that she would still be intimidated by a senior of the Su family after how she had been treated by them?

She stared at Su Yuanming unflinchingly, a trace of disdain flashing in her eyes.

“I think it’ll be better if Yige takes care of Grandpa because he has always doted on her a great deal. Also, you know very well how bad my relationship with Grandpa is. I’m afraid the sight of me might only worsen his condition.”

Staring at the subtle change slowly taking place on Su Yuanming’s face, she looked down and said obediently, “It was with much effort that I managed to clinch the deal with LK. If I can show some results sooner, I believe Grandpa will be even happier.”

CHAPTER 74

Su Yuanming still remembered Su Ziyue as how she was four years ago.

Until now, he could still vividly remember what had taken place on that fateful day—Su Ziyue was kneeling in the courtyard of the Su Residence, begging Su Youcheng to believe her that she did not fool around with guys and she did not have an abortion.

Yet, it had been hard for Su Youcheng to believe her because of the concrete evidence. Therefore, he tossed a credit card on the ground to her before having someone escort her to the airport.

In Su Yuanming's memory, Su Ziyue was still the silly little girl who could be manipulated easily and would bear all sufferings without complaint.

However, not only did she reject his request, she even managed to spin his words to make her rejection sound excusable.

Seeing that Su Yuanming was keeping mum, Su Ziyue pressed on, "What do you think, General Manager?"

It went without saying that Su Yuanming would not allow her to talk herself out of it so easily. "Ziyue, you don't have to address me so formally when no one else is here. Just call me Uncle Yuanming."

"I'm sorry but I can't concur with you on that point, General Manager. Since we're in the office, we should do everything formally. If you have no other instructions for me, I'm going to get back to work."

With that, Su Ziyue rose to her feet to leave.

They were really treating her like a fool.

In fact, she had long been estranged from Su Youcheng.

Seeing that she was about to walk out of his office, Su Yuanming quickly called out to stop her from going, "Ziyue!"

"General Manager, I'm afraid I really have to get back to work now. Everyone in the company knows about the agreement I signed with LK and all eyes are on me right now. If I don't achieve something, I'll bring disgrace to the Su family! So, I'll work hard for it."

Without giving Su Yuanming another chance to speak, she turned around and left.

After returning to her office, she downed a huge glass of water, but it did nothing much to alleviate her anger.

Finally, it was time to clock off.

And she saw the need to give Su Youcheng a visit.

Since she knew the location of the private hospital which was preferred by the Su family, all she needed to do was ask the receptionists there some questions to find out where to find Su Youcheng.

...

Nan Chuan received a call from Qin Muchen right after he left Lumiere Jade House.

Qin Muchen's emotionless voice came from the other end, "Have you got it done?"

Although he felt guilty, he decided to be honest with him. "I'm just about to attend to it."

"Come to the office first then. We'll go together." With that, Qin Muchen hung up on him.

Holding the phone in his hands, Nan Chuan was befuddled. What exactly had inspired his boss to get a pet dog?

After ending the call with Nan Chuan, Qin Muchen then spent some time reading documents and making calls to arrange tomorrow's meeting before grabbing his jacket and making his way to the lobby.

Having estimated his time perfectly, Nan Chuan had just pulled over by the entrance of the office tower when he reached the lobby.

After Qin Muchen had abandoned the Rolls-Royce to Nan Chuan last time, Nan Chuan had been keeping the car nicely in his garage because he was worried that the car would be mercilessly smashed by his boss if the sight of it annoyed him.

Therefore, he was driving a Bentley now.

"I've made an appointment with the owner of a pet shop to look at the dogs. If you're going there yourself, you can make your own decision."

Nan Chuan noticed that his boss's temperament had been changing every day ever since he returned to the country,

Now, he actually wanted to raise a dog as a pet!

He had no idea what Miss Su had done to his boss.

After getting into the car, Qin Muchen closed his eyes to take a break without bothering Nan Chuan.

Fortunately, Nan Chuan had long gotten used to it.

Once Qin Muchen stepped into the pet shop, it was obvious from the frown on his forehead that he was not accustomed to the sight of pets.

Nan Chuan was sensitive enough to notice his discomfort. "Mr. Qin, why don't you just let me pick one for you? I'm sure you'll find it adorable as you spend more time with it," he suggested.

"No, I can do it myself," Qin Muchen rejected him in a deep voice before making his way deeper into the shop.

The owner of the pet shop only knew Nan Chuan but not Qin Muchen. Therefore, he greeted Nan Chuan as soon as he saw him, "Mr. Nan."

"I brought my friend here to have a look at the dogs." Being vigilant, Nan Chuan did not address Qin Muchen in his usual way in the presence of the owner.

Nan Chuan was known by many citizens of Yunzhou City as he had always been seen as the person in charge of Lumiere Jade House, which was frequented by many.

"Okay, please come in." The owner invited them in before asking Qin Muchen, "Sir, what kind of pet dog do you want? What species are you interested in? The dogs I have here are all purebreds."

Qin Muchen looked up at the owner and answered, "I want one that looks beautiful."

The eyes of the owner brightened with enthusiasm at once as he exclaimed, "That will be an Afghan Hound! It's gorgeous and has an elegant and distinguished air! The one I have here is a purebred!"

Then, the owner took him to a cage and pointed at an Afghan Hound puppy inside. "This is the one."

Qin Muchen cringed as soon as he saw the puppy with watery eyes. "I want one which is bad-tempered and smart."

The owner was speechless.

He had no choice but to point at a Bull Terrier.

Still, Qin Muchen frowned and commented, "It's too ugly."

The description specified by his boss sounded more and more familiar to Nan Chuan, who had been following behind his boss throughout the process.

Pretty, bad-tempered and smart...

Was he mistaken? He had a feeling that his boss was actually referring to Miss Su.

The owner then introduced several dogs to Qin Muchen, but his suggestions were all rejected.

At last, Qin Muchen decided to step inside to look for the one he wanted himself. Then, he stopped in front of a black and white puppy.

Other than its limbs, neck and mouth, the rest of its body was black.

The puppy stared at him with its black sparkling eyes for one second before looking away indifferently.

Qin Muchen raised an eyebrow and announced, "I'd like this one."

The owner quickly walked over and chuckled when he saw Qin Muchen pointing at a Border Collie. "The Border Collie is the smartest species of all dogs."

"Okay," Qin Muchen acknowledged what he said. Then, something struck him suddenly which made him turn around to face the owner. "Does it eat beef?"

"Dogs are carnivores, so they do eat beef."

"That's great."

Then, Qin Muchen turned around and walked out of the pet shop, followed by Nan Chuan who paid for the dog before bringing it back.

...

Su Ziyue was stuck in a traffic jam along her journey to the hospital.

It was hard to avoid the congestion because it was peak hour.

Su Ziyue could feel herself slowly losing patience, seeing the cars in front of her moving at a snail's pace.

Absent-mindedly, she turned to look at the view outside the window and caught sight of a familiar face through the window of a black car driving along the other lane.

It was Qin Muchen.

Thinking about what An Xia had said yesterday, she hastily looked away, feeling somewhat restless.

In fact, Qin Muchen had already noticed her car from somewhere even further than where he was now. He decided to close the window so that through the laminated glass, he could still see Su Ziyue but she could not see him from the outside.

As their cars were not very far apart from each other, he could vaguely see the impatience on her face.

She was bad-tempered, just like the dog he had just purchased.

Su Ziyue only noticed Qin Muchen when she randomly turned to look at the view outside, and she realized that he had actually closed the window right after he saw her!

Was he trying to show that she was not the only girl in the world he was interested in?

Women were merely lying to themselves because there were few men who were loyal and faithful in love.

With her lips pursed, the impatience on her face was replaced by disappointment.

As the cars finally started moving, she stepped on the accelerator and drove forward.

Slowly, Qin Muchen opened the car window and glanced in the direction in which Su Ziyue drove. The road she took seemed to be the way to the hospital.

Was she sick?

CHAPTER 75

After parking her car properly, Su Ziyue made her way toward the inpatient department of the hospital.

She was familiar with the place because she had stayed there before.

Then, she went to the nurses' station and inquired, "Excuse me, is there a patient here by the name of Su Youcheng?"

"Yes, are you his family?" A young nurse glanced at her, looking impressed for a fleeting second.

"Yes." Su Ziyue nodded her head.

The nurse pointed her in a direction and said, "He's staying in the second room from the end of the corridor."

"Thanks."

Su Ziyue then walked in the direction the nurse had pointed.

Just as she reached the door and was about to knock, the door was opened from the inside, and a man and a woman walked out.

Liu Zipei's eyes turned icy the moment she caught sight of Su Ziyue. "What are you doing here?"

On the other hand, the man beside her flashed Su Ziyue a gentle smile. "Ziyue, it's been years since we last saw each other, and you're already such a big girl now."

Su Ziyue felt a lump in her throat because of his comment, but still, she put on a smile. "It's been years since we last met, but you haven't aged at all, Uncle Gong."

"You're such a sweet talker." Gong Shuzhe laughed before he added, "Go on and visit your grandfather now. I have some errands to run so I've got to go."

Su Ziyue nodded at him before pushing the door open.

Standing by the door, she took a deep breath before going further inside.

Ever since her father had been sentenced to prison, Gong Shuzhe was the only person who genuinely cared about her other than An Xia.

Gong Shuzhe was Gong Zeyang's father.

That fact sounded slightly bizarre and incredulous for some reason.

Gong Shuzhe enjoyed a very good reputation in Yunzhou City, and his son, Gong Zeyang, was highly respected in the city too.

That was the reason why she had preferred to mingle with the Gongs when she was little. The fact that she had a father who was in jail did not bother Gong Shuzhe perhaps because he was kind-hearted.

Yet, he was not lenient enough to allow her to become her daughter-in-law. Of course, those were things which had taken place a long time ago.

...

After calming herself down, Su Ziyue walked inside the ward.

Su Youcheng was seen leaning against the head of the bed with his spectacles perched on the bridge of his nose, his hands holding a book. The cover of the book did not reveal much about its content.

"Grandpa," Su Ziyue addressed him before walking over and putting down the fruit basket she brought on the table.

Su Youcheng looked up at her and said in a detached tone, "Ziyue."

Su Ziyue gave the surroundings a scan before fixing her gaze back on Su Youcheng. "Are you feeling alright?"

"I'm alright." Su Youcheng put down the book and removed his spectacles before he added, "What would happen to Su Group if anything were to happen to me?"

"Don't you have Uncle Yuanming and Yige? Both of them are very talented." Su Ziyue picked up a fruit knife to peel an apple.

She had to find something to distract herself because otherwise, she would not be able to tolerate herself telling such blatant lies through her teeth.

Su Youcheng looked at her without replying to her.

Su Ziyue could vaguely sense that in fact, Su Youcheng did not think that Su Yuanming was a suitable candidate to take over Su Group.

Each and every member of the Su family had their own axe to grind.

As Su Ziyue was not close with her grandfather in the first place, she left after she finished peeling an apple for him.

When she reached the parking lot, she saw Gong Shuzhe and Liu Zipei.

Judging from how bitter and resentful they looked, they seemed to be having an argument.

For some reason, a voice in Su Ziyue's head prompted her to secretly get closer to them to eavesdrop on their conversation.

As she was still too far away from them, she could only catch them mentioning a name.

"Qin Li..."

Qin Li?

It was someone she did not know.

The two then went their separate ways after quarreling for some time.

When Su Ziyue returned to her car, her mind was still occupied by how Gong Shuzhe and Liu Zipei looked while they were having their argument just now.

As Su Yige and Gong Zeyang were engaged, the Gong family and Su family had a close relationship with each other. However, judging from how Gong Shuzhe and Liu Zipei looked just now, it was obvious they were having a dispute.

Gong Shuzhe and Liu Zipei...

Su Ziyue thought there was something weird about them, but she could not pinpoint the exact reason.

It was only when she drove away did a black Bentley drive over from the other direction.

Nan Chuan examined Qin Muchen's face through the rearview mirror.

Seeing an extremely dark expression on his boss's face, he was careful not to speak at the wrong timing.

After a long while, Qin Muchen ordered in an icy voice, "Investigate it."

...

A company gathering was held on Friday night, and Su Ziyue was not interested in it at all at first.

An Xia scurried over excitedly and persuaded her, "Please come along. It's being held at Lumiere Jade House and the company is going to foot the bill."

Lumiere Jade House...

"I'm not interested," Su Ziyue rejected without hesitation,

"Oh come on, you have to be there. Although you've ended your thing with Mr. Qin, I'm still trying to get close with Nan Chuan." An Xia, who was cupping her face with both hands, had an enchanted look on her face.

Shuddering with disgust, Su Ziyue shoved her further away from her before nodding her head. "Fine, I'm going."

"That's more like it!"

An Xia made a peace sign at her with her hand before dashing out of her room.

Su Ziyue shook her head and chuckled, seeing how crazy An Xia looked.

Would she bump into... him at Lumiere Jade House?

It was likely...

...

Later at night, Su Ziyue went back home to get changed before going to pick up An Xia.

By the time they reached Lumiere Jade House, most of the people from the company were already there.

When Su Ziyue and Anxie stepped in, they were greeted by some of them. Su Ziyue managed to become a slightly more popular figure in the company thanks to An Xia, who was more of a people person.

Su Ziyue gave the place a cursory glance to find that Su Yige was nowhere in sight.

"Where's Su Yige?" she asked An Xia.

“She’s not coming.” An Xia turned around and whispered into her ears, “I’m not dumb enough to invite you to a gathering with her around.”

Su Ziyue was speechless as she found what An Xia said hilarious.

The gathering was nothing much other than feasting and drinking.

Halfway through, An Xia sneaked away to look for Nan Chuan, and it went without saying that Su Ziyue did not follow her.

After having a few drinks, she walked out of the private room and made her way to the restroom.

The moment she stepped out of the private room, the door of the one next to hers happened to be opened at the same time, and a man who looked familiar to her came out—Mu Ninghui.

Enemies were indeed bound to meet each other no matter how much they avoided each other.

She retreated back into her private room and opened the door a crack.

Then, she saw Mu Ninghui limping his way past her.

She recalled that Qin Muchen had once told her that he had broken one of Mu Ninghui’s legs. Judging from the way he walked, his leg was indeed quite severely injured.

She supposed the blow had struck his knee.

Casually, she took an empty beer bottle and followed him.

There had been bad blood between Su Ziyue and him, consisting of both old and recent grudges. So, it was only logical for her to do something to him to avenge herself as the chance to catch him alone did not always come by everyday.

Mu Ninghui, who had stepped into the restroom, was followed by Su Ziyue behind his back. She aimed the empty beer bottle at his head and gave it a strike. Because she did not exert too much strength, the beer bottle did not break.

Swiftly, she then landed a kick on his ass, causing him to stumble forward onto the floor.

“Damn it, who’s attacking me... Argh...”

Stepping on his back, Su Ziyue gave his arms, shoulders and back a round of random punches instead of continuing to hit his head.

“Who are you...”

Su Ziyue kept mum. Of course she would not reveal her identity to him.

Suddenly, the door of one of the toilet cubicles opened.

Su Ziyue, who was terror-stricken, quickly tossed the beer bottle aside and was ready to take to her heels. Yet, she stood rooted to the spot when she saw the face of the man inside the cubicle clearly.

When Qin Muchen walked out of the toilet cubicle, he happened to meet Mu Ninghui’s eyes as he struggled to get back on his feet.

Mu Ninghui’s face became distorted with rage and hatred all at once when he saw Qin Muchen. “It’s you again! Great, I was worried that I wouldn’t be able to settle the score with you!”

CHAPTER 76

Mu Ninghui’s leg, which was injured by Qin Muchen, was no different to being crippled because it could not offer any support to his body.

Therefore, he could not get to his feet after collapsing to the floor and getting punched by Su Ziyue.

Of course he was incensed to bump into the culprit who had crippled his leg.

Qin Muchen only gave him a nonchalant glance; obviously, he did not take him seriously at all.

Instead, he looked up at Su Ziyue and sized her up before asking her, “Have you had enough?”

Su Ziyue sprung away from him as though she had just gotten an electric shock before nodding at him, looking slightly dazed.

As she was quiet, Qin Muchen walked to the wash basin to wash his hands. “Carry on,” he said.

Then, he turned around and was ready to go.

Su Ziyue too hastily dashed out. She did not want to give Mu Ninghui any excuse to trouble her again.

The two left the male restroom one after another.

Being a tall man with long legs, Qin Muchen’s strides were large which enabled him to walk fast.

After checking behind her back cautiously, Su Ziyue scurried to catch up with him.

Qin Muchen could not help but slow down when he heard rapid and light footsteps behind him.

...

Su Ziyue had no idea why he suddenly slowed his pace. When she reached the door of her private room, she thought of how he had closed his car window during their chance encounter on the motorway last time.

At first, she thought of turning around to greet him but decided against it in the end. Instead, she trotted forward and pushed open the door of the private room and directly walked inside.

Her sudden movement caused Qin Muchen to stop in his tracks. He looked displeased with a frown on his forehead.

It had been a week since they last saw each other. Although they did not have an intimate relationship with each other, they were at least work partners. Shouldn't she at least say something to him?

Qin Muchen pulled a long face at that thought. Still, he turned around and checked his back to make sure Mu Ninghui did not catch up with them before continuing on his way.

When he reached the level where his office was situated, he caught Nan Chuan and An Xia absorbed in a conversation.

Qin Muchen walked over and asked him, "Where's the beef?"

"It's here."

Nan Chuan lifted a cage, and the Border Collie puppy staggered and stumbled because of the movement.

"Wow, I didn't notice that the dog was here at all!" An Xia exclaimed, and her eyes lit up with excitement. Girls indeed tended to adore small and furry animals.

After glancing at the puppy, Qin Muchen asked An Xia, "Do you think the puppy looks similar to her?"

"Huh?" An Xia was confused for several seconds because she was too thrilled that the great Mr. Qin had initiated a conversation with her about something other than work.

Therefore, she questioned, "May I know who you're referring to?"

Qin Muchen frowned in response to her question before walking away.

It was only after he walked into his office did Nan Chuan tell her in a hushed tone, "He was referring to Miss Su."

"Huh?" An Xia did not understand him, but Nan Chuan did not explain further.

Qin Muchen returned to his office, but all he could think about was how Su Ziyue had returned to the private room directly without talking to him at all earlier.

The thought put him in a bad mood. After shuffling some documents on the desk in front of him, he gave Nan Chuan a call. "Get your ass inside here," he demanded.

Nan Chuan had no choice but to enter his room after receiving his call.

An Xia, who was observing him when he took his boss's call, looked bewildered. "Why does he have to call you into his office instead of just giving his instructions to you just now?"

Chuckling, Nan Chuan thought his boss was just jealous of him because he got to chat with a pretty young girl who had taken the initiative to flirt with him.

If he was not mistaken, it had been a week since his boss last met Miss Su and last talked about her.

They seemed to be having some sort of row again.

After Nan Chuan went into Qin Muchen's office, An Xia returned to the private room.

...

Inside the private room, Su Ziyue sat on the sofa, sipping a glass of wine. Judging from how listless she looked, it was obvious that she was not in high spirits.

Several men, who were eyeing her keenly, seemed to be interested in hitting on her.

Although Su Ziyue did not really have a good reputation in the city, her successful performance in the company was obvious to everyone, and she did not seem like how the rumors had portrayed her to be at all.

Moreover, not only was she good-looking, she was also the president's granddaughter. One would not suffer a loss by dating her.

At that juncture, An Xia came back.

"How was your chat with Nan Chuan? I noticed that you've been very close to him recently. Are you interested in him?"

Su Ziyue changed her posture to turn her head sideways to face An Xia, and she was greeted by An Xia's face which was radiant with joy as she had expected.

An Xia, who was covering her face, said shyly, "I think Nan Chuan is interested in me too."

Su Ziyue responded with a disdainful snort. "Are you sure he's interested in you? Bai Jingshu is the one who's more likely to be interested in you."

"Oh please, I couldn't care less whether that chicken is interested in me or not!" An Xia glared at Su Ziyue, looking as though she was ready to fight her.

At the moment, the door of the private room was opened before a man was seen walking inside.

Su Ziyue fixed her gaze on the man and found his face familiar—he was the assistant of the department manager.

The assistant made his way directly to Su Ziyue and told her, "Miss Su, the people from LK just gave our manager a call, saying that there's some problem with the joint venture program with us. Our manager has welcomed LK's representees in Room 7027 and they're waiting for you now."

Astonishment flashed across Su Ziyue's face as soon as she heard him. "Shouldn't they call me directly first to discuss the problem with me?"

That was to say, she did not receive their call just now. Still, she wondered why they had decided to call the department manager first.

"The problem came out of the blue. They'll explain when you're there." There was nothing unusual about the assistant's tone which was imbued with some urgency.

The department manager was a middle-aged lady who usually did things strictly according to rules.

If she was really involved, it was likely that LK's representees were really here.

As she had been working on the joint venture with LK Group around the clock for the past fortnight, she really could not see what kind of problem could arise.

An Xia got to her feet from the sofa and offered, "I'll come along with you."

Su Ziyue, who was still feeling doubtful, sized the assistant up to find that his eyes were clear with nothing to hide.

After being stitched up by Su Yige several times, she had learned to be cautious.

An Xia, who was standing beside her, tugged at her sleeves. "Let's go and have a look first."

"Miss Su, let's head over there now." With that, the assistant walked in front of them to lead the way.

When they reached Room 7027, Su Ziyue and An Xia looked inside and happened to catch sight of the

department manager as soon as the assistant pushed the door open.

She was sitting with her face facing the door while the other two people present had their backs facing the door.

Therefore, the department manager waved at Su Ziyue as she could see her as soon as she looked up.

Su Ziyue felt relieved to see that the department manager was inside.

Without thinking too much, she and An Xia walked into the private room, but the door was then immediately slammed shut behind them.

Both Su Ziyue and Anxia were frightened by the sound of it.

The department manager, who kept smiling at Su Ziyue, did not move from her original spot while the other two people turned around to face her.

Her heart sank when she realized they were not LK's representees at all.

When she turned around and tried to open the door, it would not budge as though it had just been welded to the door frame.

"Miss Su, please have a seat. Why're you standing by the door?" The department manager slowly got to her feet and made her way toward them.

CHAPTER 77

"Excuse me, I just remembered that I left my bag behind in the private room I was in earlier. I'd like to go back and take it."

Su Ziyue leaned against the door and kept close to An Xia.

Although nothing had actually taken place, for some reason, the air inside the room felt suffocating and tense, as if peril lay ahead.

Nervously, An Xia muttered next to Su Ziyue's ears, "Damn it, what's the department manager trying to do? Could she be into women and she just happens to be interested in you?"

"Impossible." Su Ziyue rolled her eyes at her, unable to believe that she could still think of such ridiculous stuff at this time.

"Then, what's she trying to do? I already find her pasty face and scrawny body rather scary during normal times, but now, she just looks even scarier."

While she was talking, she leaned closer to Su Ziyue.

The department manager approached Su Ziyue and grabbed her arm with her hand. "Why do you look so terrified? You were just invited here to discuss work with us. It's not like I'm going to eat you."

Her hands felt so icy and chilly that Su Ziyue felt as though a snake had just slithered over her arms, which was a disgusting and revolting sensation to her.

Su Ziyue retrieved her arm in a sudden movement and said, "I can walk myself there."

The doors of all the private rooms in nightclubs were usually left unlocked. Since the door could not be opened, it had obviously been locked from the outside.

She was sure they were not here purely for business since they locked her and An Xia in here.

Seeing her reaction, the department manager did not take her to the sofa by force. Her face eerily pale, she glanced at Su Ziyue before walking back to the sofa. "Come on then."

"Are you really going over there?" Noticing that Su Ziyue was moving forward, An Xia quickly asked, "Ziyue, it's so obvious that that lady is up to no good. Hurry up and call Mr. Qin or we'll be doomed."

Su Ziyue froze at her suggestion. Qin Muchen was indeed at Lumiere Jade House right now, and she also had her phone in her handbag.

She should be able to make the call successfully as long as she was careful enough.

Also, for some reason, she felt confident that Qin Muchen would not leave her behind without doing anything as long as she called him to ask for help.

"Do it now!" An Xia urged behind her.

Su Ziyue kept her lips tightly pursed as she was in a quandary. The discussion she had had with him that day ended in a very ugly way. Wasn't she going to embarrass herself by calling him now?

How he had decided to roll up the car window as soon as he saw her during their previous encounter and how aloof he had behaved when they met in the male restroom just now were sufficient evidence to show that she was indeed not the only woman he was going to be interested in.

As she was not moving, the department manager's face fell. "What an indecisive and wishy-washy girl you are."

As soon as her voice trailed off, the two men rose to their feet and walked over to Su Ziyue.

An idea struck Su Ziyue all of a sudden. "Manager, did Su Yige ask you to do this?"

“What’re you guys waiting for? Do it now!” the department manager roared at the two men.

The men immediately advanced on Su Ziyue and captured her right away.

Prior to this, Su Ziyue was able to successfully beat Mu Ninghui up so badly that he could not fight back only because one of his legs was crippled and the fact that she had ambushed him.

Now that she was detained by two tall and strong men, she was not capable of fighting back at all.

In response to this, An Xia immediately grabbed her handbag and flung it at one of the men forcefully.

“What’re you guys doing?! Let her go!”

“Shut up!” The department manager swiftly walked over and slapped An Xia’s cheek. “I might decide to let you go tonight if you keep quiet and say nothing because our target is Su Ziyue. Otherwise...”

She shot An Xia a menacing look.

Covering her face, An Xia’s eyes widened to the size of saucers. “You old witch, how dare you slap me?!”

With that, An Xia tossed her handbag aside before pulling the department manager’s hair with one hand and scratching her face viciously with the other.

“Argh!! Let go of me, you b*tch! Let go of me now!”

Perhaps it was because the department manager was too skinny, she soon proved to be no match to An Xia although she was taller than An Xia by half a head.

Straddling her body, An Xia gave her face several vicious slaps. “How dare you slap me! Even my mother has never slapped me before!”

“What’re you guys doing?!”

Su Ziyue’s shrill shriek came from the other side of the room.

An Xia quickly turned around to find that one of the guys was keeping Su Ziyue still while the other was about to inject something into her arm with a syringe in his hand.

That was...

Horrorstruck, An Xia shouted, “Stop whatever you guys are doing right now!”

Just as she was about to get to her feet to help Su Ziyue, she was once again held back by the department manager.

Her face distorted with desperation and resentment, the department manager mustered all the strength she had to stop her. "You can't help her! No one can stop me from getting my 5 million!"

The department manager, who obviously appeared to be weaker than An Xia earlier, was keeping An Xia in such a tight grasp that it was as though she had just consumed a magic pill.

Su Ziyue kept kicking both her legs with all her might, trying to wiggle away from the two men, but her efforts were futile.

Her torso was held tightly still by one of the men while the other was slowly inserting the needle into a vein in her arm.

Fear flickered in Su Ziyue's eyes, who had never really been afraid of anything her whole life. Despite having a hunch about what was being injected into her body, she could not do anything because she was immobile.

The next second, the door was suddenly kicked open. "Police!"

Everyone inside the room turned toward the door at the same time.

...

With an expressionless face, Qin Muchen was listening to Nan Chuan who was giving him a monthly summary of everything about the business of Jade Lumiere House, his back leaning against his office chair.

At the end of his report, Nan Chuan asked him, "Mr. Qin, which supplier do you think we should order our red wine from? I think we should wait for a while since the prices offered by the suppliers are similar."

Without answering his question right away, Qin Muchen slowly said after a moment of silence, "Why is that friend of yours here today?"

Which friend of mine?

It took Nan Chuan some time to realize he was alluding to An Xia.

"Their department is having a gathering tonight," Nan Chuan said to him with a look of enlightenment on his face.

Qin Muchen then instructed, "Choose a crate of red wine and send it to their private room."

After that, he added, "Send it there yourself."

Nan Chuan was speechless.

Did that mean Mr. Qin had been thinking about Miss Su the whole time he was giving him such a detailed report about the business?

Such a thing did not happen only once or twice because his boss had been distracted the entire week.

Accepting his misfortune, Nan Chuan turned around to execute his task.

Qin Muchen's face darkened as soon as he thought of how Su Ziyue had avoided him.

She had been living a carefree and comfortable life throughout the week he had been giving her the cold shoulder, working like she was supposed to and coming out to have fun when she felt like it. She did not seem like she was affected by him the slightest bit.

He just wanted to go against her by messing with her life.

Letting out an icy snort, the frown on his forehead relaxed when he thought of the possibility of causing trouble to her life.

Nan Chuan came back after a short while.

He looked somber when he pushed the door and walked inside. "Mr. Qin."

Qin Muchen looked up at him and asked, "What's wrong?"

Nan Chuan spoke after some hesitation, "Miss Su was abducted!"

Looking serious, Qin Muchen leapt to his feet at once, his eyes turning dark as he asked in an unusually calm voice, "What's going on?"

Nan Chuan was unable to gauge Qin Muchen's emotions at the moment even after carefully examining his face. "She was taken away because she had something bad injected into her body."

CHAPTER 78

"Drugs?" Qin Muchen squinted at Nan Chuan, looking gloomy as if a storm was brewing on his face, and a chill emitted from him.

Nan Chuan couldn't help but shudder and look down, afraid to meet Qin Muchen's eyes.

After years of working with Qin Muchen, he knew he had a terrible temper. Yet, this was one of the rare times that he was scarily angry.

"She has been taken to the local police station." After pondering, Nan Chuan added, "Many people saw

it.”

Qin Muchen’s eyes were frighteningly gloomy.

Nan Chuan waited for Qin Muchen’s instructions, but Qin Muchen just grabbed his coat and rushed out instead.

Nan Chuan quickly followed him.

Su Ziyue sat on the floor, looking numb and expressionless.

She knew that Su Yige would be pulling more tricks, but she didn’t expect that Su Yige would take it to the point of destroying her life.

No family, regardless if they were common or powerful, would ever accept someone who did drugs before.

None.

Su Ziyue hugged herself tightly.

Didn’t they say that injecting drugs into yourself would offer a fantastic feeling?

But she didn’t feel that now. Only coldness engulfed her and invaded her bones.

Things had finally been picking up, but after this time, it would be all gone.

“Ziyue, Ziyue...” beside her, An Xia called Su Ziyue’s name.

After several calls, Su Ziyue finally came back to her senses. Her tongue and head felt stiff, and she could barely make a sound after repeatedly opening her mouth. “An Xia, I’m sorry I dragged you into this.”

“What nonsense are you talking about in this kind of situation? How do you feel now?” An Xia was also panic-stricken because she had watched as that needle pierced Su Ziyue’s skin.

She had known Su Ziyue for years, so she understood how much hardship she had endured.

Thinking that Su Yige was behind all this, she was dying to rip that b*tch apart.

“I-I don’t feel anything...” Su Ziyue shook her head.

Other than feeling cold, she didn’t feel anything else now.

“An Xia, I’ll be held in administrative detention before being put into mandatory isolation, right?” Su

Ziyue softly asked An Xia, her voice as light as a feather.

“Ziyue, don’t fret. Are you sure they really injected it in?”

At that moment, An Xia was focused on fighting that department manager, so she didn’t clearly see what had happened before the police arrived.

“It was injected. I saw it...”

Su Ziyue tightened her arms around herself.

An Xia was at a loss because words were useless now. As an adult, she could instantly foresee the terrible consequences of this incident.

Speaking was useless now.

Clang. The steel door opened.

A police officer walked in. “The result for the urine test is out. You, come along with us to complete a written statement. Then, you can go home.”

The police pointed at An Xia, but An Xia remained still.

Su Ziyue gave her a nudge. “Go now. I’ll be fine. Didn’t I overcome that incident that year too?”

“It’s not the same this time.” An Xia almost burst out crying out of anxiety.

Although the police officer said that she could leave after completing a written statement, that also meant that Su Ziyue had indeed been injected with the drug.

When Su Ziyue, who had been holding it in all this time, saw An Xia crying, her tears that were brimming in her eyes overflowed as well.

She then stood up and wiped away the tears that were trickling down her face before pushing An Xia out in a casual manner. “Be good.”

Shaking her head, An Xia cried even louder.

The police shouted impatiently, “Quiet!”

In the end, An Xia went out, leaving Su Ziyue feeling even colder.

An Xia cried all the way out and bumped into Bai Jingshu and Qin Muchen, who were rushing in her direction.

Qin Muchen wore a cold black suit, and he looked stern and indifferent. But after bumping into An Xia, emotion flashed across his eyes. "Where is she?"

"The result for the urine test is out, and Ziyue..."

An Xia couldn't even breathe while sobbing, so she just wept for the rest of the time.

But from her brief reply, the two men completely understood what she meant.

Qin Muchen looked fiendish while gloominess overtook his face. He then turned to look at Bai Jingshu. "Escort Miss An out."

After that, he went inside with big strides.

Bai Jingshu didn't look too happy either. Although he couldn't remain friendly with An Xia for more than three seconds whenever they met, he still stayed gentlemanly in this situation.

He brought An Xia to his car. "You can sit here first. I have to go in."

"Ziyue will be okay, won't she?"

An Xia raised her head to look at him with her red eyes, looking extremely pitiful.

Looking at her face, Bai Jingshu unexpectedly placed his hand on her head and stroked her hair. "Yes. She'll be fine."

Noticing that An Xia looked unconvinced, he added, "I have connections with the higher-ups."

Finally, An Xia stopped crying and solemnly thanked him. "Thank you."

He was used to teasing her, so he felt awkward when she suddenly thanked him in such a formal manner.

An Xia's tear-washed eyes were still glimmering while she stared at Bai Jingshu, causing his ears to feel hot for some reason. Without saying anything else, he turned to walk into the police station.

Su Ziyue leaned against the wall. She could foresee the consequences that awaited her.

However, she refused to yield.

If her life was truly destroyed this time, she swore that Su Yige would not have a sweet life too.

How could she dream of living happily after destroying someone's life?

Impossible.

Myriads of thoughts swept through her heart. In the end, a handsome face with a faint smile crossed her mind.

Qin Muchen.

“Su Ziyue, come out. Someone is here for you.”

The steel door was opened again, and a police officer walked in.

“What?” Astonished, Su Ziyue stood up.

The police didn’t care what she felt and just left after opening the door.

Then, a tall figure dressed in a black shirt and trousers appeared at the door, looking mysterious yet cold.

Noticing that she stood in place without moving for a long time, Qin Muchen raised his eyebrows and asked coldly, “Are you staying here for the new year?”

Su Ziyue blinked twice with all her might because she couldn’t believe that Qin Muchen was in front of her.

After she said those words to him that day, she thought he wouldn’t care about her anymore.

“Su Ziyue!” Qin Muchen’s voice obviously sounded unhappy.

He then strode over and looked around the space before averting his eyes back to her, his face expressionless. “You’re becoming more impressive. This is my first time coming to this place. Yet, you managed to find your way in.”

Su Ziyue bit her lips and remained silent while listening to his taunts.

Since she didn’t reply to him, Qin Muchen felt bored, so he pulled her hand and headed outside.

He walked hurriedly, as if he couldn’t wait to leave this place.

Looking down at their hands that were clasped together, Su Ziyue’s heart suddenly raced.

CHAPTER 79

Outside the police station, An Xia, who was sitting in the car, had calmed down.

When she saw Qin Muchen bringing Su Ziyue out while holding her hand, she wanted to get down from the car and pounce on Su Ziyue.

However, she was frozen in place by Qin Muchen's intimidating glare.

What a dignified and frightening boss!

Looking at An Xia, Su Ziyue said, "An Xia, I'm fine."

Then, she couldn't help but look at Qin Muchen.

Because of him, everything was fine now.

Every time, he would always arrive in time and appear in front of her at lightning's speed.

This man made her feel like he could do anything.

"You must have suffered. Those that hurt you deserve to be tortured." Bai Jingshu came out of nowhere and winked at her.

Because of how he addressed and looked at her, Su Ziyue tried to pull her hand out from Qin Muchen's grip.

But before she attempted to do so, Qin Muchen had let go of her hand and wrapped his arm around her shoulder instead.

At that moment, a car drove toward them and stopped in front of them.

The person who got down from the car was none other than Su Yige.

When Su Ziyue saw Su Yige's face, she couldn't help but tremble all over out of anger.

After Su Yige alighted the car and saw Su Ziyue standing there unharmed, a sinister look flashed across her eyes.

But on her face, she put on a smile while walking toward Su Ziyue. "Ziyue, thank God you're fine. I was truly worried when I heard that you were taken away by the police."

After that, she knitted her eyebrows and extended her arm to pull Su Ziyue.

But as soon as Su Yige's hand reached Su Ziyue's shirt, Qin Muchen quickly held Su Ziyue and pulled her back, leaving Su Yige's hand hanging in the air.

Awkwardness flashed across her face, her forced smile frozen.

Then, she naturally retracted her hand while setting her eyes on Qin Muchen's hand that rested on Su Ziyue's shoulders.

This time, she thought her scheme was perfect, and she even arranged everything and made sure things were all set. But why could Su Ziyue still escape?

This confirmed her previous supposition that Qin Muchen was indeed not that simple. In fact, he must be extremely powerful.

"Ziyue, aren't you going to visit grandpa at the hospital? He got worse after knowing about this incident."

"I can't help it if you're going to tell him about sheer fiction and worsen his health."

With that, Su Ziyue turned to look at Qin Muchen while saying sweetly, "Dear, I want to go home now."

Hearing how she called him, Qin Muchen's eyebrow twitched while a tingling sensation danced across his scalp. He then pulled down his unbuttoned coat, trying to cover his reaction in that area.

Qin Muchen resented himself for having poor self-control. Why was he so excited when she addressed him as 'dear'?

Staring at Su Ziyue sternly, Qin Muchen's eyes were deep and cold. Su Ziyue had no idea what he was thinking and regretted recklessly calling him 'dear' just now.

They weren't the same as before, so she should be overwhelmed with gratitude when he came to bring her out. Yet, she deliberately called him 'dear' just to enrage Yige.

She felt that she was mean and shameless.

At a side, Su Yige simmered with rage when she saw the two of them exchanging loving glances. Although she was engaged to Gong Zeyang, he never looked at her in the same way.

"But grandpa's health has indeed worsened. Ziyue, you..." Su Yige hesitated with her words.

Qin Muchen snorted coldly and looked at Su Yige with contempt. "Since Mr. Su's health condition has gotten serious, you should rush there and fulfill your filial duty, Miss Su."

With that, he held Su Ziyue and got back into the car.

Standing in place, Su Yige's expression changed repeatedly. Su Ziyue and Qin Muchen sang the same tune, and they obviously did not take her seriously.

Su Ziyue received Gong Zeyang and Uncle Gong's love since young and even got to marry a man who loved her sincerely when she grew up. Why did she get all that even though her reputation was completely tarnished?

Not only that, Su Ziyue even owned the shares.

Since young, she was always better than Su Ziyue in all aspects, but why did Su Ziyue attain more than her?

She could not accept that. Su Ziyue did not deserve all that!

An Xia had been standing behind Su Ziyue. When she saw Su Yige, she really wished that looks could kill.

But she was still working at Su Group, so she knew she couldn't tear into her on the spot. Therefore, she could only shoot daggers at her before running back to the car.

Qin Muchen and Bai Jingshu's cars drove past Su Yige one after another, leaving her standing alone in place.

Su Yige noticed An Xia too, and she felt that she looked familiar when she saw her previously.

Su Ziyue's friend...

Was her name An Xia?

She looked familiar, and her name rang a bell too.

Then, she finally recalled that An Xia was Su Ziyue's best friend during school.

Thinking of that, Su Yige's eyes suddenly became cold. She thought that after what had happened to Su Yiyue that year, she would be deserted by her friends and family. Unexpectedly, An Xia still remained her friend.

Clenching her fists, Su Yige was extremely dissatisfied.

Bai Jingshu directly sent An Xia home while Su Ziyue sat in Qin Muchen's car, heading back to his Cloud Bay Hilltop Villa.

The car stopped at the entrance of the villa.

Once Su Ziyue got down from the car, she saw Nanchuan.

He looked like he had been waiting for quite some time because his hair had been messed up by the blowing wind on the hill.

Nan Chuan didn't address Qin Muchen first and excitedly greeted Su Yiyue instead, "Miss Su, you've arrived."

"Mr. Nan." Su Ziyue couldn't understand why Nan Chuan was so cordial to her.

His enthusiasm made her feel like she was actually his boss.

"Is the doctor here?" Qin Muchen raised his head and asked Nan Chuan after he got out of the car after her.

"He'll be here soon. Let's go in first." Nan Chuan nodded. Then, he recalled something and added, "Oh, and I brought Beef back."

Beef?

Su Ziyue looked at Nan Chuan in confusion. Did he buy beef for Qin Muchen too?

When Su Ziyue saw the 'beef' mentioned by Nan Chuan after he brought it out, her feelings were indescribably complicated.

It was a puppy named 'Beef'.

At once, she recalled that she had told Qin Muchen to get a dog that day.

Could it be that Qin Muchen had truly gotten himself a dog?

When Qin Muchen glanced at Su Ziyue and spotted the astonishment on her face before it vanished, he smiled contently.

Then, he took a step forward and took the cage from Nan Chuan before carrying it into the villa, leaving Nan Chuan and Su Ziyue looking at each other.

"W-Why did your boss suddenly get a dog?" Perhaps it was just out of a spur of interest. It was just unbelievable that he would really get a dog because she said so.

Thinking of that possibility, she felt a tingling sensation creeping on her scalp.

Nan Chuan gave her an odd smile before letting out a dry cough while replying in a serious manner, "He personally went to pick it. He wanted a pretty, intelligent and bad-tempered dog that likes beef."

Su Ziyue was speechless. Why did that description sound familiar?

CHAPTER 80

When Su Ziyue went in, Qin Muchen was teasing Beef with a few pieces of dog food.

He crouched in front of the dog cage in his suit, looking down at the puppy while it gobbled up the dog food. This scene somehow made Su Ziyue feel warm.

Nan Chuan came in behind them. "Mr. Qin, Doctor Lu is on his way and should be here in a few minutes. I still have to settle some things at Lumiere Jade House, so I'll make a move first."

"Alright," Qin Muchen replied. After the last piece of dog food was fed to Beef, Qin Muchen stood up and went to wash his hands.

Looking at Qin Muchen's back, Su Ziyue felt uneasy.

Since they left the police station, he hadn't once talked to her.

Su Ziyue bowed her head to look at Beef.

They said that puppies were the liveliest, but Beef wasn't really lively.

After finishing the dog food that Qin Muchen fed it, it lay down again.

It rested its snout on its paws which were stretched out in front it, both its hind legs curled up together. It looked extremely cute.

"Beef." Su Ziyue crouched and softly called its name.

Perhaps Qin Muchen only got it for a few days and it wasn't familiar with its name, so it only lazily glanced at Su Ziyue without even wagging its tail.

When Qin Muchen came back, he saw that Su Ziyue was playing with Beef. Yet, Beef wasn't responsive to her.

Qin Muchen walked over, expressionless, and crouched down to pet Beef. His nice clear voice hit Su Ziyue's eardrums. "Beef."

Different from its unresponsiveness when Su Ziyue called it, once it heard Qin Muchen call it, Beef immediately got up and approached him. It even wagged its tail happily and nudged Qin Muchen's hand with its head, asking for affection.

Qin Muchen raised his eyebrows, feeling surprised. Why did Beef suddenly become so warm to him when it had been ignoring him for the past few days?

Could it be that it was because he fed him just now?

Thinking of that, Qin Muchen smiled while turning to look at Su Ziyue. His smile obviously looked mocking. "You're right. Getting a dog is great."

Su Ziyue was speechless. If getting a dog was great, why did he save her then?

However, she could only swallow her words because she wasn't an ungrateful woman.

"Thank you for what you did today."

Su Ziyue turned a blind eye to the contempt in his eyes and lowered her eyes, looking sincerely grateful.

Qin Muchen retracted his hand from teasing Beef and stood up. "If you really want to thank me, just stay here."

"What?" Stay here?

An uneasy look flashed across Su Ziyue's face. Did he mean...

But what Qin Muchen said later made her sweet thoughts vanish into thin air.

"I'm usually busy working, and Nan Chuan has many things to handle in Lumiere Jade House too, so we often can't take care of Beef. I need someone to take care of my dog."

Qin Muchen looked down at her from above. That look was exactly the same as when they discussed the contract earlier, as if he was just discussing a business deal.

Somehow, Su Ziyue suddenly felt sad when she saw his expression, and she felt suffocated as if a huge ball of cotton had been stuffed in her heart.

Previously when she visited his villa, he said he needed a female mistress.

This time, he had saved her again, but he said he needed someone to look after his dog.

Su Ziyue slowly raised her hand and clutched her chest. Wasn't this what she wanted?

No more excessive contact; just the simplest relationship.

After failing to receive her reply after a long time, Qin Muchen slightly furrowed his eyebrows. "Is this such a difficult task for you?"

"N-No..." Su Ziyue quickly shook her head and smiled. "I can do it."

Looking at the smile on her face, he felt that it was rather an eyesore.

He actually wanted to hear her rejection just now.

But in the end, this woman happily agreed. Great.

At that moment, a string of footsteps came from outside the door. Qin Muchen looked in that direction, thinking that it must be Lu Shichu.

“Mr. Qin.”

A magnetic male voice rang at the door, followed by approaching footsteps.

Then, Qin Muchen walked over. Su Ziyue stood up too, following behind him.

She heard someone calling Qin Muchen, and that voice sounded familiar.

“It’s been a long time since we last met.” That magnetic male voice rang out again.

Su Ziyue confirmed that she had heard it clearly, and it was indeed familiar, so she strode forward and stopped in front of Qin Muchen. Then, she saw a man carrying a medical box.

The man was slightly shorter than Qin Muchen but his features were gentle, completely different from Qin Muchen’s cold and mysterious face. He obviously looked like a man with a great temper.

Su Ziyue beamed with surprise. “Shichu!”

Lu Shichu set his eyes on Su Ziyue, and his expression changed from surprise to delight before finally settling on joy. “Ziyue.”

“It’s me.” Su Ziyue trotted toward him with a smile and held his hand. “When did you return from overseas? Why didn’t I receive any news?”

As soon as she finished her questions, she felt a strong gaze on her. Turning back to look at Qin Muchen, she noticed that his face was dark and gloomy.

Qin Muchen lifted his thin lips and coldly spat out two words, “Come here.”

Lu Shichu looked at them both in curiosity while Su Ziyue wrinkled her nose at him. “He has a bad temper. Let’s chat later.”

When Qin Muchen, who had all his attention on Su Ziyue, heard what she said to Lu Shichu, his face darkened frighteningly.

He had a bad temper?

Who was the one who always rejected him and told him to get a dog?

She even smiled so happily at Lu Shichu. How did she know Lu Shichu?

His heart simmering with rage, Qin Muchen looked angry on the outside too.

However, he still suppressed the rage in his heart and raised his eyes to glance at Su Ziyue. "Give her a full body checkup. She was injected with drugs."

Upon hearing that, Lu Shichu became serious too while Su Ziyue smiled bitterly.

Without hesitating, Lu Shichu put down his medical box and began to examine her.

During the entire process, Qin Muchen sat beside them, staring closely at the both of them without blinking an eye as if he was monitoring two criminals to prevent them from committing crimes.

Lu Shichu felt uncomfortable under his gaze, as if he was sitting on pins and needles. Therefore, he knitted his eyebrows and lifted his head to look at Qin Muchen. "Mr. Qin, maintaining the same posture for a long time will cause body stiffness."

Qin Muchen raised an eyebrow and replied soullessly, "I like it this way."

Upon hearing his reply, Lu Shichu could only look away and continued to examine Su Ziyue.

Su Ziyue thought that he seemed strange too.

Since Qin Muchen called Lu Shichu to examine her, he must have known Lu Shichu too. But judging from his attitude toward Lu Shichu, he didn't seem friendly...

After the examination, Lu Shichu looked slightly relaxed. "The dose is small, so it won't cause an addiction. She might experience side effects this week but she'll be fine once she gets over that."

Then, he set his eyes on Su Ziyue's wrist, looking gentle while smiling faintly. "You're still wearing this watch? It's too old now. I'll buy you a new one later."