

Rebirth Of The Villainess: Young Master Lu's Wicked Wife -
Chapter 271 : Startling Change (1)

At the age of twenty-three, Su Xiaofei's temper had improved over time. Unlike before, she was resilient and couldn't easily be provoked by anyone's words. Even when she met Mo Yuchen on several occasions, she had treated him like a stranger, as if she had never been his fiancée in the past.

When she heard that Mo Yuchen gained a new fiancée, Su Xiaofei snorted inwardly and tried not to roll her eyes. Of course she knew who the unlucky woman was. Huang Jingjing was a daughter of a family friend of the Mo family and was close in age with Mo Yuchen. It was only expected that the Mo family would replace Su Xiaofei with a better candidate to become their daughter-in-law.

Although Su Xiaofei only met Huang Jingjing in numerous occasions, she knew that the woman wasn't stupid and not a push over. She doubted that Huang Jingjing would allow herself to become a trophy wife. Su Xiaofei also looked forward to how Huang Jingjing would deal with Ye Mingyu, once the latter came back from abroad and pursued Mo Yuchen.

When Xi Qian asked her about it, Su Xiaofei only laughed.

'Qian, I don't care who he is with.' She assured her best friend. 'Although we aren't betrothed anymore, the enmity between us cannot be extinguished easily.' She added with a smile.

Xi Qian seemed pleased with her answer and didn't question her about Mo Yuchen anymore. It was enough for her to see that Su Xiaofei finally got rid of her infatuation towards that horrible man.

'Miss, we received a report that Ye Mingyu's flight landed an hour ago.' Zhang Lan reported to Su Xiaofei. 'As expected, she has already signed a contract with Top Tier Entertainment and will be debuting very soon.'

Su Xiaofei hummed and tapped her fingers lightly on top of her desk, but her eyes shone with amusement. She was playing an online chess game with Lu Qingfeng that night, and the white pieces on the board had no way to retreat.

Over the years of playing chess with Lu Qingfeng,

it was only natural for her to improve with time. This wasn't the first time that she had managed to corner him in a game. However, Su Xiaofei didn't dare to lower her guard, because if there's one thing she learned from Lu Qingfeng, the victor wouldn't be announced until one of the parties fell.

With Ye Mingyu's return, it only meant that the board was set, as the vital chess pieces were already in their rightful places, waiting for the other queen to take her place on the other side. Su Xiaofei wondered if Ye Mingyu had grown some brain cells during her absence. It would be a pity if the latter would still pull the same tricks and schemes she did in their previous life.

Three days later, as Su Xiaofei had expected, Top Tier Entertainment chose to introduce Ye Mingyu through social media first. She was painted as the next otherworldly fairy that was to succeed and follow Bai Qingyue's steps.

Of course these claims garnered mixed reactions from the netizens. Those who were loyal fans of Bai Qingyue criticized Ye Mingyu for being shameless to compare herself to their goddess, while others couldn't help but agree that Ye Mingyu was pleasing to their eyes.

When Yun Qingrong became aware of Ye Mingyu's debut, she sought her daughter. She found her daughter still working inside her office, despite the fact that it was already past six in the evening and most of their employees had left for home.

'Feifei, what do you think? With Ye Mingyu joining the showbiz, I fear that she would use this opportunity to drag our family to the limelight.' Yun Qingrong asked her daughter.

Su Xiaofei yawned in boredom and cupped her chin, seemingly not worried at all about Ye Mingyu's arrival.

'Mama, if she's a sane person, she wouldn't drag us in the mud, knowing that she would be painted as the other woman's daughter.' Su Xiaofei replied, giving her mother an assuring look.

Knowing Ye Mingyu, Su Xiaofei was aware of how prideful she was and how much she hated being labeled as the mistress's daughter. Ye Mingyu would surely hide the truth and wouldn't admit her relationship with Su Haoran and how she was related to Su Xiaofei.

If Ye Mingu revealed her relationship with her and Yun Qingrong, wouldn't that mean she had voluntarily opened a can of worms that she couldn't deal with? That would be like shooting her own foot in the process. Not only would everyone discover that she was a mistress's daughter, but her relationship with Su Haoran, who was serving his sentence behind the bars, would be revealed.

'I'm only worried that she would use you to further her career.'
Yun Qingrong sighed. She didn't trust Ye Mingu, but she was relieved to hear her daughter's words.

'That's possible, Mama. But I doubt that she has the capability to do so. Unless she has a strong backing or a golden thigh to hug, Ye Mingu won't dare to do anything reckless that could ruin her name this early.'

Ye Mingu had just had her debut and her reputation in public was still fragile. However, even if she had somewhat gained a backing, that would never be the Ouyang family. If Ye Mingu dared to go head-to-head against Su Xiaofei, there was no doubt that the Ouyang family, who owned Top Tier Entertainment, wouldn't have her back.

Since Su Xiaofei had stolen her thunder five years ago by saving Master Ouyang's life, the Ouyang family wouldn't dare do anything to oppose the person who saved their elder's life. In her past life, Ye Mingu had relied on the support of the Ouyang family and they had been her strong backing to further her career, but not this time.

Ye Mingu might not have realized it yet, but Su Xiaofei was already a couple of steps ahead of her.

Ye Mingyu's name and popularity soared too fast in the following weeks compared to other talents that debuted around the same time as her. It didn't surprise Su Xiaofei, but she didn't do anything to stop Ye Mingyu from becoming popular. The more Ye Mingyu rose to the top, the better for Su Xiaofei, because the higher she could reach, the harder she would fall later.

Su Xiaofei had to admit that Ye Mingyu's skills and talent in acting were better than her peers, it was also better than Su Xiaofei herself. If it was in the past, seeing Ye Mingyu garnering such praises for her beauty and talent was enough to make Su Xiaofei green with envy, now, she couldn't be bothered with Ye Mingyu's facade.

Because she knew that behind that beautiful face and those gentle smiles hid a rotten and cruel heart deep inside Ye Mingyu. Truth be told, the two of them were almost the same when it came to being vicious. It was just that Ye Mingyu knew how to play her cards well and knew how to evoke the feeling of protectiveness from other people and use it to her advantage, unlike Su Xiaofei.

After Su Xiaofei finished her work for the week, she clocked off from work on time. At the moment, she was managing three actors and a girl group called 'Full Moon'. It consisted of four young ladies that could sing and dance, and their group had recently debuted, releasing their first album.

'Full Moon' was the very first girl group that Bluemedia had produced. In the past, their company catered to actors and

models, and although some of them could sing and dance, it was only a requirement to add on to their skills as talents.

Because Su Xiaofei had witnessed how idols and girl groups became a hit in her previous life, she started paying attention to the new recruits of Bluemedia.

Although girl groups weren't actually new in showbiz, Su Xiaofei knew that it would all depend on what the group could offer to the audience. She specifically picked the ones she saw potential in and she had actually encountered one of them in her past life as an actress.

As Su Xiaofei left Bluemedia with the Zhang siblings, someone called her attention as soon as she reached the main lobby of the company building. The weariness on her face suddenly dissipated when she saw Xi Qian waiting for her.

'Qian, what are you doing here? You should have told me you are coming to see me. I would have clocked out earlier.' Su Xiaofei said once she gave her best friend a tight hug.

Xi Qian laughed and tucked some of her locks behind her ear and grinned.

'I want to surprise you. It wouldn't be a surprise anymore if you know I'll be here, right?'

Like Su Xiaofei, she had shed the childish features she used to have and looked prettier. She was a bit taller than Su Xiaofei now, which made the latter grieve over how short she was compared to Xi Qian and Lu Qingfeng.

Xi Qian had

already finished her four-year undergraduate program, which was the precursor to medical school, and was now busy reviewing for her medical college admission test. Currently, she has a major in Nursing, which also gave her an advantage to practice it while pursuing her studies to become a doctor.

She needed to take her admission exam one full calendar year before she began medical school, so Su Xiaofei rarely saw her these days.

‘En, but I’m glad you came here to see me, Qian. I thought I would need to drag you out of the apartment again to remind you that there is life outside your textbooks.’ Su Xiaofei hooked her arm with her best friend and led her to her car.

Zhang Ling opened the door of the backseat to allow Su Xiaofei and Xi Qian to settle inside, while her elder sister took her place behind the steering wheel as usual. After making sure that her miss and her best friend were comfortably seated, Zhang Ling’s eyes swept around the parking area to make sure that no one was spying on them, before joining her sister at the front seat.

Once the car left Bluemedia’s premises, Zhang Ling turned on the radio, and was surprised to hear one of the songs from the latest album released by ‘Full Moon’.

‘Ah, Feifei! I love this song! I know that this is too much to ask, but do you mind asking Full Moon to sign an autograph for me?’ Xi Qian asked excitedly. This wasn’t the first time she asked for such a favor from Su Xiaofei anyway, as she had also requested an

autograph by Tang Liyan, after the success of ‘The Poisonous Concubine’ .

Su Xiaofei didn’t have many talents to handle, but those talents were big time and popular to begin with. Full Moon was the first girl group and talent that Su Xiaofei conceptualized from scratch, so it could be said that of all her talents, she paid more attention to her girl group.

Su Xiaofei smiled at her best friend’s eagerness. Despite knowing that she could meet the girls if she asked Su Xiaofei to, Xi Qian wasn’t shameful enough to request a meeting with them, even when she asked for Tang Liyan’s autograph.

‘I’m afraid I won’t be able to meet them anytime soon, Qian. Their current schedule is jam-packed. I kinda pity them for not having any break aside from sleep.’ Su Xiaofei answered with amusement.

She had suggested cutting down their public appearance and interviews, but those girls wouldn’t let her decline those invitations. The four of them were so driven with their excitement and glee that they didn’t mind being busy for days at a time because they claimed that it only meant that their hard work for the past two years was paying off.

It took Su Xiaofei and the girls a long time before the group was able to have their much anticipated debut, as the training had been hard, and the board didn’t think the girls were ready.

‘Ah, then I could only hope I would be lucky to get a ticket to their very first concert.’ Xi Qian smiled at Su Xiaofei. ‘By the way, did Lu Qingfeng say anything to you?’

Su Xiaofei frowned at that as the smile on her lips dissipated once she heard Lu Qingfeng’s name. Actually, it had been two weeks since she received a call from him before he left for a long business trip. She wasn’t sure why Xi Qian was suddenly asking her this, and wondered if she was still in touch with Lu Qingfeng.

‘Nothing. He was on his way to the airport when he called me. Is there something I need to know?’ Su Xiaofei asked in return, her eyes narrowing slightly in suspicion.

Xi Qian laughed at her best friend’s expression and shook her head. If Lu Qingfeng hadn’t said anything, then she had no right to spoil his surprise. Lu Qingfeng had recently turned twenty-one, and in a few weeks, it would be Su Xiaofei’s turn to celebrate her twenty-fourth birthday.

As Xi Qian thought about it, she realized that so many things had changed over the years. Some of it she already expected, but there were changes that she never anticipated at all.

Although her father’s new family was still a pain in her butt, and her mother was annoying her for financial support, her relationship with Su Xiaofei and Lu Qingfeng turned for the better.

Anyway, she had also met a lot of people and made friends during her time at college, and Xi Qian couldn’t be happier with her decision to pursue her dream.

‘By the way, have you heard about Xiao Rufeng lately? I heard the Xiao family is in trouble these days. Do you think they asked her to return?’ She asked Su Xiaofei.

She and Xiao Rufeng had become good friends courtesy of Su Xiaofei. Whenever Xiao Rufeng was agitated by her younger sister, she would come to Xi Qian for a spar at the gym they frequently visited with Su Xiaofei.

‘I don’t know, Qian.’ Su Xiaofei could only sigh and pinch the bridge of her nose when she thought about Xiao Rufeng. Xiao Rufeng debuted in showbiz three years ago and became one of Su Xiaofei’s talents. However, it was hard for Xiao Rufeng to catch a break as every project that was being offered to her was snatched away by her younger sister, Xiao Yunyao.

Because of this, Xiao Rufeng’s temper and mood hadn’t been good these days, and Su Xiaofei feared that the woman would commit the same mistake she did in her past life.. She had been reminding Xiao Rufeng not to confront her younger sister, but if things within the Xiao family were getting worse, Su Xiaofei wouldn’t be able to stop her from going back to her family.

Su Xiaofei paid special attention to Xiao Rufeng and had made arrangements to limit her talent’s encounter with the Xiao family. However, she was aware that she wouldn’t be able to stop Xiao Yunyao from completely provoking Xiao Rufeng. It hadn’t been a surprise to her to know that Xiao Rufeng was in such a dilemma. Such things in wealthy families were quite common.

Su Xiaofei and Xi Qian arrived at Hazel Brew Café, where Lu Qingfeng had brought them a long time ago. There were very few changes at the place, but the comfortable feeling Su Xiaofei felt the first time she came here remained the same.

‘The usual, Miss Su, Miss Xi?’ The daughter of the owner of the café, named Shen Jiao, smiled at Su Xiaofei and Xi Qian.

‘Ah, Jiaojiao, there’s no need for you to be polite. You can just call us by our given names.’ Xi Qian cupped her chin and winked in Shen Jiao’s way. They frequently came here whenever she and Su Xiaofei had time for a break and had eventually made friends with the owner’s daughter.

Shen Jiao was a twenty-seven-year-old woman with shoulder-length hair and a mole on her upper lip. She had been helping her father manage the café for a year now. She had resigned from her hectic work in the corporate world and chose to help in their family business instead.

Shen Jiao laughed behind her hand and glanced at the other customers enjoying their drinks and snacks. No one seemed to notice or even care that she was talking to her friends, as the other customers were preoccupied with their snacks.

‘Our new customers might think that I’m being impolite if I don’t greet our patrons properly, but you two came at the right time today since peak hours just ended.’

Ever since she worked at Hazel Brew Café, their sales shoot up and many students have come to try their menu. Amongst their

patrons, Su Xiaofei and Xi Qian became her good friends, and she kept in touch with them despite their busy schedules.

‘You are being too serious, Jiaojiao. Who cares if you call us by our names? You can just say that we are your friends dropping by to see you.’ Xi Qian scoffed before checking the familiar menu that Shen Jiao handed to her.

‘I think I’ll have the usual Jiaojiao. I’m too tired to think of what to have now.’ She told Shen Jiao.

‘I’ll have your latest, Jiaojiao. I haven’t visited you for some time. I’m also looking forward to having Xiao Feng try them.’ Su Xiaofei commented, eyeing the Zhang siblings, who had taken a seat a safe distance away from her and Xi Qian.

‘Ah, is your little boyfriend coming back anytime soon? I’m looking forward to finally meeting him.’ Shen Jiao covered her lips with the small note on her hand, enjoying the sight of the slight blush on Su Xiaofei’s face.

‘Can you all stop asking me when he will return? It’s not like he would tell me everything.’ The young woman in question avoided their inquisitive gaze and ignored their teasing smiles. Su Xiaofei

didn’t want to admit it, but she was also curious when she would be able to see Lu Qingfeng again.

There were also rumors circulating about Lu Qingfeng dating Qin Ying, but she didn’t dare to believe any of it. How can she not know that Qin Yin followed Lu Qingfeng to Shenjing? He hadn’t

been gone from Qiyang City for a week, and the news about her going to Shenjing to follow him had blown up on their school forum.

Su Xiaofei slightly envied Qin Ying because she was able to leave and go wherever Lu Qingfeng was, but she didn't want to leave her mother alone during such a critical time at Bluemedia. And it wasn't like she didn't trust Lu Qingfeng.

Since he was able to spend the rest of his life alone after her death in her past life, Su Xiaofei wouldn't doubt his sincerity towards her. It would be impossible for Lu Qingfeng to turn his back on his own words.

'Alright, let's stop teasing Feifei. I'm pretty sure Lu Qingfeng would be here once he settled all the things he needed to settle.'
Xi Qian took pity on her best friend and allowed Shen Jiao to take their orders. She also didn't think that Lu Qingfeng would dare to cheat behind Feifei, considering that Feifei had him head over heels for her.

Once Shen Jiao left, the smile on Xi Qian's face vanished. She then leaned closer to Su Xiaofei, making sure no one was eavesdropping on their conversation, which Su Xiaofei found funny, considering that the Zhang sibling won't let anyone do so.

'Feifei, I'm sure you've already heard about Ye Mingyu's return, but you don't seem to care about her.'

'Oh, have I?'

Su Xiaofei cocked her head on one side and gave Xi Qian a curious look. Of course she knew, but she didn't think it was the right time for her to deal with Ye Mingyu.

‘Well, I don’t believe that you aren’t aware of her return. She’s also the topic of conversation in our chatroom, and some of our classmates want to invite her for a reunion.’ Xi Qian explained.

She kept in touch with several of their schoolmates from QCA and while she wasn’t actively posting in their chatroom, Xi Qian tried to go back and read the conversation when she had time to make sure she hadn’t missed any important details.

Some were criticizing Ye Mingyu, while the others were curious to know how she was faring, now that she was back from abroad and just debuted in showbiz. They were also aware that Su Xiaofei had joined Bluemedia Entertainment, but they didn’t know that she was the talent manager of some of the top stars of the company, nor the fact that she was a managing director now.

Unlike Su Xiaofei, who couldn’t be bothered to waste her time following their chatroom, but she did keep in touch with other fellow students whom she thought would be valuable partners in the future. Obviously those innocent and haughty young masters and misses would eventually succeed their parents in their family business.

‘I thought our reunion was canceled? Didn’t they say they were too busy to attend a meet up?’ Su Xiaofei questioned, but she already knew that it would happen a month from now.

In her previous life, Ye Mingyu used their school reunion to humiliate her, and allow everyone to see their differences. By that time, Ye Mingyu’s career and popularity were soaring, while Su Xiaofei was struggling to secure projects and endorsements.

The more Ye Mingyu shone, the more Su Xiaofei looked bad to others. It also didn't help that she wasn't able to finish her studies and was lacking connections, unlike Ye Mingyu who had the Ouyang family to support her.

‘Well, it seems like they changed their minds this time. Do you think they'll let go of this opportunity to brag about their achievements and see how the others are doing after graduating? Don't tell me you are interested in attending?’

Xi Qian knew that her best friend would rather avoid attending parties and events like this as she didn't like to socialize with anyone. She knew Su Xiaofei would rather have a good night's sleep than waste her time, flaunting herself in public.

‘It's actually a good time to build some connections for me, Qian. Would you come and attend with me?’ Su Xiaofei answered her, gauging Xi Qian's reaction.

Since she also attended the same reunion in her previous life, she also got a hunch whom she would be seeing that night. It wasn't just Lu Qingfeng who moved to Shenjing after their graduation anyway.

‘I'm not sure, Feifei. I cannot give you an answer now. We need to wait and see when it will be held and if my schedule permits me to attend it. It's also hard for us to ask for a day off these days since the flu season has just started.’

Xi Qian had just landed a job in a private hospital in Guangshang and her shifts frequently changed. Adding to the fact that she's also reviewing, Xi Qian needed to strictly follow her schedule.

Su Xiaofei nodded in understanding and fell into a deep thought. Xi Qian still ended up as a nurse in this lifetime, however, it was too early. Su Xiaofei feared that because she had changed the course of events since her rebirth, she might have stolen Xi Qian's chance to meet the love of her life.

However, what Su Xiaofei didn't know was that Li Xiran was closer now to Xi Qian without their knowing. Li Xiran's father was recently admitted for a major operation at the same hospital where Xi Qian was working.

Moreover, even if Su Xiaofei managed to change the course of events, she couldn't stop two people who were destined to cross paths and meet each other.

After meeting Su Xiaofei and hanging out with her and Shen Jiao, Xi Qian returned to Su Xiaofei's apartment, where she was residing, and quickly changed into her work clothes. She checked the time on the wall clock in the living area before wrapping her scarf around her neck and pulling out a pair of shoes to complete her attire.

Once she was satisfied with her appearance in the mirror near the front door, she picked up her purse and made sure to lock the door before leaving. Xi Qian felt that it had been a good decision for her to see Su Xiaofei and Shen Jiao today, as she felt better compared to the last few days when she was quite busy with work and reviewing.

She rushed to the train station, hoping she would be able to board on time because if she missed the seven o'clock ride, it only meant that she wouldn't be able to arrive early at the hospital for work.

Xi Qian panted as she ran towards the platform, clutching her bag on her chest as people alighting the coaches crowded the place. As her eyes swept around, she thought that she was still alone and empty inside.

Although she had friends to rely on, Xi Qian still felt a gaping hole in her chest that she had tried to ignore over the years. She knew that Su Xiaofei was aware of it, but the latter never mentioned it to her nor made any comment about it, which Xi Qian deeply appreciated, for she knew that she wouldn't be able to answer her best friend if she did.

When she was young and started to become conscious of her surroundings, Xi Qian had gotten used to her parents arguing late at night to the point that they would hurt each other physically. Xi Qian could only curl on her bed, shut her eyes and pretend to be sleeping, feigning ignorance about her parents' marital problems.

She knew at a young age that her father had a mistress and Wang Peilan had given birth to her half-brother, whom their father doted on the most. At such a young age, Xi Qian felt that she was unwanted by anyone.

Perhaps it was the same reason why she was able to understand Su Xiaofei and befriend the latter because she also knew what it felt like being alone despite having people around them.

Xi Qian struggled to understand her purpose of living. Her parents didn't love nor care for her, and her grandmother, who loved her the most, had already passed away.

During her second year at the university, she wondered what was the point of her studying pre-med, wanting to become a doctor. She had once claimed that she wanted to become a doctor to treat ill patients when she was younger, but as she looked at her acquaintances, she realized that she really didn't know what to do with her life.

Xi Qian arrived at the hospital an hour before her shift started. She left her belongings in her locker and chose to go up to

the roof deck of the hospital to clear her mind before she started working. It wouldn't be good to be distracted with such thoughts while taking care of the patients.

She rested her arms on the railings of the roof deck and glanced down at the city lights in Guangshang. Unlike Qiyang City, Guangshang was more developed with so many high rise buildings, which catered to numerous large corporations and businesses. It was too bad that she wouldn't be able to gaze at the stars as the thick clouds and the black fog hovering over the city blocked her view from them.

A soft crunch and light footsteps could be heard after the metal door closed behind her with a low thud. She jerked her head and turned her eyes to see who it could be, as not many were allowed access to the roof deck, and most were used by the hospital staff instead.

Xi Qian sucked in a breath when her eyes saw a tall man, joining her at the roof deck. The man was breathtakingly beautiful. She thought that it was impossible for her to be starstruck, given how she was used to seeing Su Xiaofei and Lu Qingfeng, whom she considered the most beautiful people she knew in her life. However, seeing this man, Xi Qian felt that she was proven wrong.

Something inside her stirred as her brows frowned in confusion. It wasn't because of this man's appearance, Xi Qian was sure of it. The man had a pair of piercing dark eyes, a tall nose and a pair of thin lips. The coat and his clothes underneath were tailored to fit his form, which was strong and lean.

Xi Qian felt that standing near him at the roof deck of the hospital made her look like a rag doll compared to him. She didn't dare to chase the man away and inform him that he was in an off limits area, because she noticed the expression on his face. He seemed to be struggling too, like her.

The man seemed to take no notice of her, and Xi Qian didn't dare to bother him in return. She thought that perhaps he was a relative or a kin of one of their patients and just wanted some time for himself to clear his mind.

They stood there for what felt like hours, though Xi Qian learned that it only had been half an hour. Slowly, the man started walking towards the exit, leaving Xi Qian in silence. As Xi Qian watched him go, she said a small prayer in her heart, hoping that whatever that was bothering him would be resolved soon.

Xi Qian then returned to the nurse station and clocked in to start her shift. Her colleagues thought that she was kind enough to give them their nights off, but to be honest, Xi Qian had volunteered to take the night shifts as she had trouble sleeping at night.

While her partner at the station left for her break, Xi Qian was left to file out reports and check on their patients later. Once she started walking in the hallway, Xi Qian fought the urge to yawn, telling herself that she cannot afford to doze off and take a break at this point.

Most of their patients were elderly, each visited by either their spouse or adult children. Because of this, Xi Qian easily got along with them, as both were yearning to have some company during their stay.

When she checked the next private room on her list, she was surprised to see the man she saw on the roof deck seated on a chair next to the patient's bed. The patient was a sixty-year-old man who had just undergone an open-heart surgery, and had a cardiac arrest while he was on the operating table.

It made sense to Xi Qian now why the man had such an expression on his face earlier. He must be worried sick about the patient. It was obvious that the stress of seeing the patient like this was driving him insane.

Xi Qian quietly moved in the room and did her task without a word. When she took the patient's chart at the corner, it was only then the man lifted his head and looked at her with scrutiny.

‘You ? What are you doing here ?’ His tone was accusing, but deep and cold at the same time. However, when he caught sight of her uniform and a stethoscope around her neck, he sighed in relief. He had seen her earlier, despite her false assumption that he didn’t.

Xi Qian was still wearing her coat and scarf when she went to the roof deck earlier, and he assumed that she was also a visitor of a patient just like him.

‘Apologies. My mind must have been clouded with worry.’ The man murmured. ‘Stupid old man. Just wake up and stop making us worry.’ He hung his head with his hands holding the sides of his head.

Although he said such mean words, Xi Qian could hear the worry in his tone. He clearly loved his father despite his cold countenance.

Xi Qian gently placed a hand over his right shoulder, catching not only herself but also the man off guard with her actions.

His eyes met her kind ones, seeing a small smile gracing her lips.

‘It will be okay.’ Xi Qian murmured, hoping that she wasn’t giving him false hope.

It was hard to tell whether his father would recover soon or not. Xi Qian knew that doctors and nurses like her were no Gods. They can’t give their patients assurance that they would be okay, however, Xi Qian couldn’t help but console the man from his worries.

She patted his shoulder once more before walking away, leaving the man to sit with his father.

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Xi Qian didn't think much about her meeting with the man, as there was nothing unusual seeing a family member hoping for the patient to recover soon. In fact, she understood what he felt as she had once found herself in the same situation as him when her grandmother was hospitalized and losing her life three days after her admission.

Xi Qian regularly stopped by to visit the man and eventually, she became aware of his family's circumstances. It was said that his father was the Chairman of a huge corporation in Guangshang and had suffered a heart attack at work.

The nurses who were on duty during daytime had been talking about it, so it was impossible for Xi Qian not to catch wind of what was going on. As for the man she met on the roof deck, she found out that his name was Li Xiran, and he was the eldest son of his father. His parents were divorced just like hers. His father was remarried to another woman, leading to the birth of his younger half-brother.

However, unlike Xi Qian, Li Xiran's father seemed to still care about him as there were rumors about the older man trying to convince his eldest son to live with him, but Li Xiran would turn down his invitation every time.

‘We always see him arguing with his younger brother and stepmother outside his father’s room in the hallway, in low voices. I think that he’s one of those children who couldn’t accept that their parents were divorced and felt abandoned by them.’ Xi Qian heard one of her co-workers say one afternoon.

Xi Qian couldn’t blame Li Xiran for doing so because she would have done the same thing if Xi Yang invited her to live with him along with Wang Peilan and her half-siblings. It was hard to see your own father happy with his new family, making her feel that she was a stranger who didn’t belong to their family.

Perhaps it was a good thing that her grandmother decided to take her in instead, Xi Qian thought. Knowing Wang Peilan’s

personality and attitude, the woman would surely give her a hard time while living with them.

‘Nurse Xi?’

Xi Qian turned her head and looked at Li Xiran in surprise. She wondered how he knew her surname, only to realize that he had been looking at her name plate that was pinned on her uniform.

‘How is he? Would he be able to wake up anytime soon?’ Li Xiran asked her, the worry still evident on his face. His complexion was a bit pale and his eye bags darkened due to lack of sleep these days.

Xi Qian gave him a sympathetic look, but couldn’t assure him that things would be better. She couldn’t make the same mistake

she made during their second encounter. It had been five days since their first meeting on the roof deck of the hospital.

‘I cannot tell,’ she said truthfully. ‘Although his condition is stable now, it’s hard to tell when he will be able to wake up at this point.’

The older man had just had an open-heart surgery and his life was still in danger. Even the doctors weren’t certain if his father would be able to recover, given how serious his condition was.

Li Xiran didn’t say anything in response and fell silent, his eyes never leaving his father’s face. A flash of guilt and remorse could be seen in his eyes, and Xi Qian wondered if he regretted that he never had a good relationship with his father.

It seemed that he was the only one who would be looking after his father tonight, as his stepmother and younger brother weren’t here to accompany him.

‘Do you know, Nurse Xi, my father used to be my hero and my idol when I was younger. He was everything to me, and I wanted to be like him when I grew up.’ Li Xiran suddenly said out of the blue, which startled Xi Qian.

Xi Qian, who wasn’t sure why he was telling her these, chose to remain silent and decided to become his tree hole for the meantime. Li Xiran must have been holding such thoughts inside ever since his father was admitted to the hospital.

‘However, all of it changed when he and my mother divorced and when he married that woman. I don’t understand why he left me

and my mother, nor do I see what he saw in her to love such a woman who only cared about his status and wealth.' Li Xiran paused for a moment, as if he was trying to find the right words to convey his thoughts.

Actually, his stepmother wasn't a commoner nor did she come from a poor family. She was born into a wealthy family who had lost their grandiose status several years before his father met her. She had been trying to earn his favor and blessing for as long as Li Xiran could remember, but he vehemently refused to acknowledge her.

For Li Xiran, his parents' divorce was his stepmother's fault in the first place, and he couldn't forgive her for that. Even now, he couldn't tolerate her presence and would rather be in a different place than to see her face.

However, given his father's grave condition, Li Xiran knew that he could only suck it up and ignore his stepmother's presence.

'It must be my father's way of tormenting me.' He chuckled to himself.

'That's not it.' Xi Qian frowned and looked at Li Xiran, then to his father. 'Please don't say that. Despite the arguments and misunderstandings you have, I'm sure that your father cares about you. He would never harbor such ill thoughts towards you.'

Li Xiran laughed at that, but his smile never reached his eyes.

'You sounded so sure about that, Nurse Xi.' He replied.

Xi Qian shrugged and returned the patient's chart in its place.

'The fact that you're here tells me that he will never forget about you.'

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Li Xiran watched Xi Qian leave the room, leaving him speechless due to her words. As he looked back at his father's face, he wondered if it had been obvious even for a stranger like Nurse Xi.

Indeed, after his father remarried, he kept in touch with him and always tried to be in every important milestone of his life. No matter if he already had a new family, it still remained that Li Xiran was Chairman Li's firstborn son.

Chairman Li made sure that everything Li Xiran needed would be provided. Li Xiran wasn't lacking in anything and didn't suffer nor taste bitterness in his life. Despite his efforts, Chairman Li knew that his firstborn son still resented him.

Even now as he laid on the hospital bed, it was obvious that Li Xiran wouldn't come here and see him had none of these happened to Chairman Li. Li Xiran had been working in a foreign firm in Shenjing when he heard the news about his father, forcing him to leave his work indefinitely and flew to Guangshuang.

The door opened for the second time, revealing Li Xiran's stepmother and his younger half-brother, Li Xingtian. Li Xiran's mood darkened upon seeing them.

Li Xingtian had a deep scowl on his face upon seeing his brother, while his mother could only tug his sleeve, reminding him to behave and not fight with Li Xiran.

‘Xiran, why don’t you go home and take a rest tonight? Xingtian and I would be here to look after him.’ His mother said in such a gentle voice that didn’t fail to irritate Li Xiran.

Li Xiran gave her a scathing look, which made his stepmother step back and cower in fear behind her son. No matter how she tried to earn Li Xiran’s trust, he always reminded her of her place and how she would never be able to become his mother.

‘Li Xiran, you jerk. Don’t bully my mother! She’s only concerned about you!’ Li Xingtian hissed at his elder brother, annoyed that Li Xiran was showing such disrespect towards his

mother despite their father’s condition.

Li Xiran scoffed and stood up from his seat before facing the mother and son. He really hated seeing this woman pretend that she cared about him. Aside from having a beautiful face, she didn’t have the intelligence nor the elegance Li Xiran’s mother had, making Li Xiran wonder if his father was only blinded by this woman’s looks.

‘Aren’t you tired of pretending that you care about me? Don’t even think that you would be able to lay your hands on the Li family’s fortune if something bad happens to my father.’ He said to Madam Li.

‘That’s enough! Dad is already in such a condition and yet you keep on accusing me and my mother about the finances! Do you think we want all of this to happen to Dad? Don’t be so ridiculous, Li Xiran!’ Li Xingtian said in return. Even when they were younger, he never got along with his elder brother because of his arrogant nature.

‘You keep saying you truly love my father, and you married him out of love and not because of the money he has in his name, but how could you let this happen to him? You already know that my father has health issues, and yet you allowed him to work hard as if nothing ails him? This only makes me think that you couldn’t wait for my father to die.’ Li Xiran said to his stepmother, leaving her stunned by his words.

‘You bastard!’ Li Xingtian pounced on his elder brother, wanting to plant a solid punch on his arrogant face, but Li Xiran easily avoided him. ‘Take back what you said! My mother is nothing like that!’

‘Stop! Please stop!’ Li Xingtian’s mother begged the two to stop fighting. Tears were rimming her eyes as she clasped her hands together, wondering what else she must do for Li Xiran to see that she wasn’t pretending at all.

It was at that moment that the door opened again, revealing Xi Qian with a deep frown etched on her face. The three turned their heads to look at her. She looked at the two brothers and then to the crying woman near her.

‘Young Masters, in case you are forgetting where the two of you are, this is a hospital. If you want to get into a brawl and kill each

other, I suggest the remote alley at the back of the hospital.' She said with a straight face, leaving Madam Li and the two brothers speechless by her words.

Oddly enough, Li Xiran lost his will to fight with his half brother and scoffed. He then picked up his coat from the seat he just vacated.

'I'm going home. You better make sure that my father is still alive once I return.' He said, glancing at the mother and son pair.

Perhaps Xi Qian's presence had reminded Li Xiran that his father wouldn't want him to argue with his stepmother and brother anymore. If anything, his father would want him to get along with them, which was impossible in Li Xiran's opinion. That would never happen.

'Just leave, will ya?' Li Xingtian harrumphed and crossed his arms over his chest. 'You are worrying too much for nothing. Dad will make it. He's not a weakling that would easily succumb and accept defeat. You should know that better than anyone else.'

Li Xiran only raised a slender brow and said nothing in return. He didn't have any retort to deny what his brother had just said. He then left, but not without giving Xi Qian a look and nodded, acknowledging her, much to Li Xingtian's surprise.

Li Xingtian looked suspiciously at his elder brother and Xi Qian and wondered what kind of relationship they had, for he knew from childhood that Li Xiran had such a bad personality and wouldn't even bother to give a woman a single glance.

‘Nurse Xi, I apologize for letting you witness such a scene from our family.’ Li Xiran immediately said once he stepped out of the room and found Xi Qian outside.

A part of him felt ashamed that she had seen him under such circumstances. He thought that she had already left when his stepmother and half-brother arrived earlier. She had been kind enough to listen to his worries, but he didn’t want to offend her at all.

Xi Qian kept her poker face on and shrugged. She wondered if Li Xiran didn’t care that she had seen such a horrible attitude from him. She had just stepped out of the room when Madam Li and Li Xingtian arrived and not one minute had passed, and she could already hear them arguing inside the hospital room.

Did Li Xiran really think that his father’s new family didn’t deserve his acknowledgement and respect? What she had seen earlier only proved that his relationship with his father was being dampened by his arrogance and pride.

It didn’t matter if he was displeased with his father being remarried, but she didn’t think he should act like that towards his father’s family when all that she could see was that they also cared about his old man. However, Xi Qian kept such thoughts to herself, as she was in no place to criticize him.

‘There’s no need for you to apologize, Mr. Li.’ Xi Qian said, as she thought that the people who needed his apology were the ones who were accompanying his father inside the room. She then

excused herself, not wanting to get involved with Li Xiran's family issues.

It wasn't the first time she had witnessed relatives of their patients fight in front of them. She had yet to forget an old woman's children who refused to look after her after finding out that she was in the late stages of cancer.

It only made Xi Qian think that blood wasn't that much thicker than water because the person whom you think wouldn't hurt you and would understand you, could be the person who would turn their backs

on you. If anything, the people she now considered family were only Su Xiaofei and Yun Qingrong. Even her emergency contact on her records were the two of them.

As she left, Li Xiran could only watch her retreating figure, wondering why she had such a longing expression on her face. The nurse had never asked him anything, nor tried to befriend him after knowing his identity.

'Such an odd woman.' Li Xiran told himself as he walked to the opposite direction with his mind still on the poker-faced nurse whom he met recently.

A week had easily passed and Xi Qian found herself at the Yun Mansion, as today was Auntie Liu's last day at the household. After spending years serving Su Xiaofei's family, the old woman was about to retire now to help his new daughter-in-law take care of her grandchild.

‘It’s a pity I wouldn’t be able to see Xiao Feng once he returned.’
Aunty Liu sighed dejectedly, thinking that she wouldn’t be able to welcome the young man once he came back from Shenjing.

It was almost time for his return, and the old woman knew that her young miss had been anticipating it ever since Lu Qingfeng celebrated his twenty-first birthday. Aunty Liu could see that Su Xiaofei had been waiting for his return, as she always had such a wistful longing look in her eyes when Su Xiaofei thought no one was looking at her.

‘I heard from Chairman Lu that Xiao Feng is still in the middle of an important overseas deal. It might take sometime before he could return here.’ Yun Qingrong nodded. ‘I’m sure he will pay a visit to you once he’s back. Xiao Feng loves your treats and cooking for as long as I can remember.’ She laughed at this.

Xi Qian glanced at Su Xiaofei who was seated across from her at the dining table as they had dinner with Aunty Liu and Yun Qingrong tonight. She noticed that her best friend hadn’t been in the best of moods, but she understood that it was because of Lu Qingfeng’s absence. The man had also given Su Xiaofei less calls recently.

However, she couldn’t tell Su Xiaofei that Lu Qingfeng was planning a surprise for her twenty-fourth birthday in three weeks. Xi Qian wouldn’t dare to ruin such a surprise, but she wouldn’t be surprised if the little tyrant would fall on one knee and ask for her best friend’s hand in marriage. She knew that Lu Qingfeng was only bidding time until he was old enough to propose to Su Xiaofei.

Aunty Liu giggled at Yun Qingrong's words as she couldn't help but agree with her. They all knew that Lu Qingfeng wasn't a picky eater like Su Xiaofei when the two were younger, and Aunty Liu had a good time feeding the boy with her creations, enjoying seeing him wolf down the food she served for him.

'I do hope so.' She agreed with Yun Qingrong before glancing towards Su Xiaofei, who hadn't uttered a single word since Lu Qingfeng's name was mentioned.

'Feifei, come with Xiao Feng to visit me, okay? I will be waiting.' The old woman said with a gentle expression on her face.

She had seen Lu Qingfeng and Su Xiaofei grow up together, and she wasn't blind not to notice the young man's growing affection towards her young miss. Su Xiaofei had been oblivious about it at first, but before Lu Qingfeng's departure to Shenjing, it had been obvious that she was starting to feel the same towards her childhood friend and with Lu Qingfeng's long absence, it only made her heart yearn for him.

Su Xiaofei only gave her Aunty Liu a smile and didn't say anything.. Whether it was because she had a long day from work, or because she was upset over Lu Qingfeng's absence, no one was certain.

Su Xiaofei sent off Aunty Liu with her mother and Xi Qian by her side, wishing the old woman a happy life with her family. Aunty Liu had spent years looking after her, and it was time for the

older woman to prioritize her own family, but it didn't mean that Su Xiaofei was willing to let her go. She could only watch as the car that transported Auntie Liu and her son drove away from the Yun Mansion.

This only reminded her of how things could remain the same despite her being reborn in this lifetime. In her previous life, she was already married to Mo Yuchen by this time and Auntie Liu had begrudgingly left the Yun Mansion, leaving Yun Qingrong on her own with nothing to rely on. However, this time, Su Xiaofei still had them by their side, and it was enough for her to see her mother and best friend safe and away from harm.

'Feifei, your birthday is coming soon. Do you have any plans?' Xi Qian tried to probe. She didn't want to admit it, but she was Lu Qingfeng's accomplice. She had to make sure that Lu Qingfeng's plan would proceed as planned.

Su Xiaofei sighed and shook her head, before turning around to follow her mother's lead to get inside.

'No. I don't think I will be free on my own birthday.' She told Xi Qian.

'Feifei, you can call it off if you want. Don't worry too much about work. I worry about your health.' Yun Qingrong commented as she glanced at her daughter.

It was odd for Feifei to be this exhausted, but not odd for Yun Qingrong to be worried like this. If Yun Qingrong thought that she was a workaholic, she would easily pale in comparison when it comes to her own daughter.

Ever since Su Xiaofei joined Bluemedia at the age of eighteen, she had actively participated, albeit in secrecy, in the company's projects. She would listen to their long meetings, read and study several documents, and would chip in her valuable opinion once in a while.

'It's fine, Mom. The meetings were already confirmed, and

it would be a shame to ask them to reschedule.' Su Xiaofei replied, but she was aware of what Xi Qian and her mother were thinking at the moment.

Indeed, she was overworking herself these days, and it didn't help that she hadn't heard from Lu Qingfeng lately. Not even one message, which was starting to frustrate her.

Su Xiaofei bid her mother and best friend good night, announcing that she would call it a day. She slipped into her bedroom, took a long shower, slipping into a comfortable nightdress before taking a seat in front of her vanity, trying to dry her long hair.

It had already reached past her waist and she hadn't cut it ever since Lu Qingfeng left for Shenjing. As her thoughts came back to him, she couldn't help but frown, wondering what made him act like this.

Lu Qingfeng had never ignored her nor forgotten to message her for a long time. He would always make sure to inform her of his tight schedules, but never as long as this damn business trip.

Su Xiaofei shut her eyes and took calming breaths. She could only hope that he would come back or at least give her a call.

The sudden ringing that came from her phone broke the silence and peacefulness of the night. Su Xiaofei begrudgingly stood up from her seat, glad that her hair was dry enough for her to sleep with. She almost didn't want to pick up the call, knowing it might be one of those business calls that reminded her of work yet again.

'Hello.' She answered the phone, without looking at the caller ID.

She flopped on her comfy bed, looking at her blank ceiling, wondering if she should turn off her phone late at night in order to catch up with sleep. Since Lu Qingfeng hadn't bothered to call or message her, it was pointless to wait for his calls late at night.

'As expected, you are still awake at this ungodly hour.' The familiar voice reached her ears, and Su Xiaofei suddenly jolted from her bed and sat up.

She couldn't be mistaken this time. There was no person in this world who was able to make her heart race like this.

'Lu Qingfeng?'

'Hm? Were you expecting another person to call you?' She heard the chuckle from the other end of the line, clearly showing his amusement.

Su Xiaofei huffed and tried to control her breathing. Traitorous heart! Why does it always react like this whenever she hears Lu Qingfeng's voice?

‘How was work?’ She asked, trying to change their conversation. If it was another person who called her, she would have made an excuse and hung up, but not Lu Qingfeng.

‘Ah? You’re more interested in my work, than me?’ Su Xiaofei, I didn’t know you could be this heartless.’ Lu Qingfeng answered, but Su Xiaofei knew he was only teasing her.

‘If I didn’t know any better, I’d think that you are already married to your work at such an age. You wouldn’t be able to keep a mistress at all.’ She retorted.

At her words, Lu Qingfeng’s lips curled into a slight smile. He wished he could see her face, right now, and see the pout he was sure she had on her face at the moment.

‘Why do you think I bothered to spend five years away from you? Feifei, I don’t like being apart from you for as long as I have.’ He admitted. ‘So I’m looking to cut my workload, even for a little, just to be with you. Bear with me for a while, Feifei. Once I’m back, I won’t leave your side for too long ever again.’

Su Xiaofei bit her lower lip and nodded.. It wasn’t like she had any other choice but to wait for his return.

‘Then just finish whatever you need to do. I won’t be going anywhere.’ She murmured quietly, not wanting to make Lu Qingfeng worry about her.

Her worries about him started to ease now that she was able to hear his voice again. Now, she could only hope that she wouldn't have to wait for his calls and messages anymore and would be able to see him in person soon.

‘Alright. I will listen to you.’ Lu Qingfeng didn't dare to argue with her, as he had been missing her too lately. It would be a waste of time, and he would rather hear her voice and listen to her endless chattering like she used to do when they were younger.

The past five years without her had been hard for him. It reminded him of the long years he'd been in despair and loneliness after she died in his previous life. However, Lu Qingfeng was aware that she needed enough time to grow and do things on her own without his influence.

With their busy schedule, Lu Qingfeng didn't want to cause her any more inconvenience than he already had. He was also aware that she had been waiting for his return, and he had been stalling their reunion.

‘Is there something else that's bothering you?’ Lu Qingfeng asked in a gentle voice. As he glanced at the time on the clock on his desk, the only reason he could think of why she was still awake this late was that something was in her mind.

Su Xiaofei sighed and covered her eyes with her arm, thinking that Lu Qingfeng knew her well and she couldn't hide anything from him for too long. She wouldn't even be surprised if the young man was suspecting something about her rebirth and the reason behind her sudden change five years ago.

‘Just stress about work. Nothing too serious.’ She replied, hoping that he wouldn’t probe any further. She also didn’t want to admit that she was missing him terribly. It was one thing that she wasn’t able to see him, but not being able to hear anything from him distressed her even more.

It also didn’t help that she kept worrying about him getting assassinated in this lifetime. In her previous life, he had fallen into a deep coma for a few years before he recovered fully, only to find her on her own deathbed.

Although she was able to avoid marrying Mo Yuchen, Su Xiaofei feared that Lu Qingfeng wouldn’t be able to avoid the calamity that was about to hit him. Even if Su Xiaofei wanted to warn him about it, she was also at loss as she was unaware of the details of the assassination attempt towards him.

‘How about you? Are you back at Shenjing now?’ She asked in return. It had been exactly twelve days since she last heard from him and she’d been worrying since then.

Su Xiaofei talked to him for another hour until she dozed off on her bed peacefully. For the first time since Lu Qingfeng left for his recent business trip, she was able to fall asleep without worrying about him.

When Lu Qingfeng didn’t hear anything from her, he surmised

that she had already fallen asleep. He hung up the call and wasn't upset with Su Xiaofei as this wasn't the first time it happened anyway.

'Master, everything has been prepared according to your orders.'

Lu Qingfeng turned his head to his right.

Nine appeared next to him and delivered his report. He was a little disturbed when Lu Qingfeng sent him back to Qiyang City alone two months ago to investigate the other members of the Lu family, only to find out that there was danger awaiting his master upon his return.

Nine didn't know how Lu Qingfeng knew about it, as there hadn't been any occasions or events that would make the young man suspect that someone was plotting against him.

As expected, Lu Qingfeng didn't waste time and made preparations for his return to Qiyang City. Now that he had finished his training as his grandfather's successor, it only made sense why some of his relatives were getting edgy as they refused to acknowledge him as the next head of the family.

One of Lu Qingfeng's relatives had hired a team to ambush him on his return to Qiyang City, and they were only waiting for the informant to let them know when the young man would arrive.

'Alright.' Lu Qingfeng replied and stood from his seat. His eyes glanced outside the floor-to-ceiling glass window of his office, watching the bright lights in Shenyang.

It had been too long for him since he had last been in Qiying City, seeing Su Xiaofei in person. It didn't matter if someone was plotting against his life right now, because no one would be able to stop him from returning to her side no matter what happened. His relatives were able to harm him in his past life, obstructing him from pursuing the woman he loved, but not this time.

The murderous glint on Lu Qingfeng's eyes startled Nine. There weren't many people who can annoy and trigger his master like this and everytime Nine sees it in Lu Qingfeng, it only meant he wouldn't hesitate to crush his enemy beyond recognition.

Since his relatives had plotted against him, Nine wouldn't be surprised if Lu Qingfeng would cut their familial ties without batting an eye and crush them without mercy.

His master might be young compared to other successors of other prominent and wealthy families, but Nine never saw Lu Qingfeng hesitate or show weaknesses even once during his training days. In fact, Lu Qingfeng acted accordingly, showing great potential to succeed his grandfather with his competence, despite his young age.

Lu Qingfeng had already leaked the information that he would be returning to Qiying City in two weeks' time. However, what his relatives didn't know was, it was actually a trap that would implicate them, exposing their wicked schemes to the world.

A week later, Yun Qingrong woke up too early and couldn't fall back asleep, so she tidied up her bed and went to check on her daughter. Whenever she had time, she made sure to pay Su Xiaofei a visit, whether she was sleeping or not. Seeing her was

enough for Yun Qingrong to forget her worries and her exhaustion from work.

However, upon checking her daughter's room, Su Xiaofei was nowhere to be found. Looking at the time, it was only four in the morning, and Yun Qingrong was surprised that her daughter was up this early.

She went downstairs to look for her, but Su Xiaofei wasn't in the living room or in the kitchen. She then remembered that Feifei mentioned that she needed to lose some of her excess weight, so Yun Qingrong decided to check their vast yard.

As she expected, she saw her daughter shadowboxing. She was dressed in a dark blue tracksuit, which she usually sported whenever she sparred with Xi Qian and Xiao Rufeng.

Although Yun Qingrong wasn't certain of the type of self-defense Feifei and Xi Qian had learned over the past five years, she was at ease knowing that the two women would be able to defend themselves.

Su Xiaofei's movements were fast and strong, and it was obvious that she had been taking her training seriously. As to why her daughter was up this early, Yun Qingrong didn't need to ponder too long to know that Feifei must be worrying about her childhood friend again.

Yun Qingrong's eyes softened upon seeing her daughter. She felt immense pride when she looked at Su Xiaofei. As her daughter, she hadn't expected Su Xiaofei to follow her steps and learn the

ways of the company. Initially, Feifei voiced her displeasure regarding it and would rather become a celebrity instead.

By the time Su Xiaofei noticed her, she was already done with her third round.

‘Mama? Is there something wrong? You are up early.’ Su Xiaofei said as she walked towards her mother, worry flashing in her eyes.

With Yun Qingrong’s health condition starting to affect her work recently, it was normal for Su Xiaofei to be worried.

‘It’s nothing, dear.’ Yun Qingrong tried to assure her daughter. ‘If you are done with your training, why don’t we go inside and let me prepare a quick breakfast for us.’ She added.

Su Xiaofei stared at her mother for a moment, knowing that Yun Qingrong had been suffering from chronic chest pains and dizziness. Those were the same symptoms her mother had in her previous life before Yun Qingrong lost her life in an accident.

Her rebirth hadn’t done anything to change it, although Su Xiaofei had been convincing her mother to cut off her workload to take a rest.. Su Xiaofei could only pay more attention to Yun Qingrong and make sure she didn’t overwork herself now that she had an illness that could threaten her life.

Xi Qian adjusted her skirt and glanced at her reflection in the mirror. Today was their high school class reunion, and although Su Xiaofei rarely attended such events to socialize, Xi Qian was surprised that her best friend was willing to attend with her.

Su Xiaofei had no interests in reunions, so she rarely attended them. At most, she would agree to meet up with a few acquaintances once in a while. It wasn't a secret that she didn't have many friends, nor did she like to socialize in the first place.

Right now, Su Xiaofei and Ye Mingyu were the most famous ones out of all their batch mates and most of them were expecting to see the two tonight. Xi Qian didn't doubt that they were only curious and wanted to compare their accomplishments.

However, it was obvious that this reunion would be different and Xi Qian wasn't sure if her best friend would be able to leave unscathed knowing that she was about to meet Ye Mingyu in person again.

Because it was their batch's high school reunion with over a hundred people attending, the venue would be held in a banquet hall of a five-star hotel in Qiyang City. The hotel was owned by one of their batch mate's family, and some pitched in to help cover the cost of the event.

'You look stunning.'

Xi Qian turned around and found Su Xiaofei joining her in the guest room she occupied. Su Xiaofei had insisted on providing the dress Xi Qian would wear and with the help of a stylist and makeup artist, Xi Qian couldn't believe that she could look as beautiful as Su Xiaofei tonight.

‘Thanks!’ She replied with a smile. ‘You look dashing though. It would be hard for anyone not to notice you tonight.’

Although their clothes had been specifically prepared for tonight’s event, they were too extravagant in Xi Qian’s opinion. Her evening dress had a classic sweetheart neckline, its bodice filled with hints of crystals on it. It also had a high slit on her right side, showing her shapely leg.

Meanwhile, Su Xiaofei was wearing a navy blue high-neck halter evening gown, which could go with just about anything and work in almost every setting. With elegant appeal, this one left a lasting impression with a clean style.

The embellishments, embroidery and pearls really pop on her elegant long evening dress, making it a stunning choice for tonight’s event. She had a long overcoat over it to protect her from the coldness of the night.

Since Su Xiaofei was naturally attractive to begin with, the makeup artist didn’t put too much makeup on her face. Instead, the makeup artist focused on enhancing Su Xiaofei’s best features and styled her hair accordingly for the occasion.

She sat off on one side and gazed at Su Xiaofei. With such a beautiful face, it wasn’t surprising that many men wanted to date her and seek Su Xiaofei’s hand in marriage. No wonder Lu Qingfeng had been worried that someone would sweep Su Xiaofei off her feet during his absence.

‘I now regret agreeing to attend this damn reunion.’ Su Xiaofei said as she slightly adjusted the strap on her back, which held her dress in place around her waist.

‘I would rather sleep early

than see her face again.’ She muttered, but it couldn’t be helped as Xi Qian already confirmed their attendance for their class reunion.

‘We could leave early if you want.’ Xi Qian suggested. Indeed, she would rather spend her time reviewing her notes than to party tonight.

Su Xiaofei had changed a lot over the years, but Xi Qian thought that she was seeing a side of her best friend that she didn’t know existed in the first place. Unlike their teenage years, Su Xiaofei had become a glutton despite her slim figure.

Su Xiaofei liked to try new dishes and ate with such eagerness that Xi Qian hadn’t seen before. She ate fast and protected her food like a tigress, afraid that someone would steal her food.

The more Xi Qian paid attention to her best friend, the more she realized that Su Xiaofei had taken control of her life and refused to follow others’ rules, which was a good thing in her opinion.

While Su Xiaofei was preoccupied, Xi Qian took a quick snap of her photo and forwarded it to Lu Qingfeng. If Lu Qingfeng was here, he would have taken the role of Su Xiaofei’s escort tonight.

If this couple went out together, Xi Qian would have no doubt that she would be the third wheel again tonight. From their appearance to temperament, Xi Qian couldn't deny that the two complemented each other. Standing together, Lu Qingfeng and Su Xiaofei would surely get a lot of attention, overshadowing others.

Ah, it's a pity Su Xiaofei didn't pursue her previous dream of becoming a celebrity, Xi Qian thought. Because if she did, Xi Qian would have no doubt that her best friend would outshine not only Ye Mingyu, but the other celebrities as well.

'Going with Feifei for tonight's reunion. Don't forget our deal.'
She told the little tyrant after sending Su Xiaofei's photo.

'It's already arranged according to your request.'

Lu Qingfeng replied in an instant, which earned a scoff from Xi Qian. This little tyrant was really a simp for her best friend. She had never seen any man chasing Su Xiaofei as persistently as Lu Qingfeng had.

It wasn't like she wanted to help Lu Qingfeng, but she had been the one feeding him with updates regarding Su Xiaofei. In return, Lu Qingfeng would send her study materials she could use for her review, which had been a great help to her recently.

'I'm ready whenever you are.' Su Xiaofei said as she picked up her purse, glancing in Xi Qian's way. 'Let's see if Ye Mingyu grew some brain cells while she was away.'

Su Xiaofei and Xi Qian arrived right on time and saw a lot of guests rushing to the banquet hall. Considering that Su Xiaofei was an heiress and the granddaughter of the affluent Yun family,

she arrived with Xi Qian and the Zhang siblings as her companions for the night.

There were a lot of guards stationed around the hotel premises from different families, showing how important some of the guests were.

However, Su Xiaofei also thought that it was one way for the others to brag about what they have to the other guests, not that it bothered her one bit.

When they entered the banquet hall, she and Xi Qian found several guests already crowding around Ye Mingyu, who was obviously enjoying the attention.

‘Schoolmate Ye, it’s been a long time since I’ve seen you. You’ve gotten more beautiful with time.’ Someone praised her beauty.

Ye Mingyu lowered her gaze, looking bashful from the praise she received.

‘Ah, you’re getting more popular these days. When you become a film empress, don’t you dare forget about us, okay?’ Ye Mingyu’s classmate teased her.

‘Classmate Xiang is joking. There’s no way I would be able to forget someone like you.’ Ye Mingyu said in return, a blush dusting her cheeks.

Seeing the scene in front of them, Xi Qian frowned and leaned closer to her best friend. Even now, she couldn’t stand Ye Mingyu at all.

‘I see Ye Mingyu remains the same. She still has three brain cells in her head, trying to compete for third place.’

Su Xiaofei smirked and shook her head, leading Xi Qian away from Ye Mingyu’s group.

‘Since you know the truth, why are you still paying attention to her? Wouldn’t that only make her happy, knowing that she could annoy you like this?’

She had always known that Ye Mingyu was a two-faced woman and a white lotus. Ye Mingyu was living for everyone’s praises, wanting nothing more but to become the best in everyone’s eyes.

It was because of this that Ye Mingyu had forced Su Xiaofei to become the villainess in her story. Because the more vicious Su Xiaofei became, the more Ye Mingyu would shine. However, Su Xiaofei refused to give Ye Mingyu a leverage in this lifetime. Even if Ye Mingyu forced her to play the villainess role, Su Xiaofei would make sure that Ye Mingyu would regret it.

However, even before Su Xiaofei and Xi Qian could walk away, Ye Mingyu and her group spotted them. Soon, Su Xiaofei became the center of everyone’s attention.

‘Hey, isn’t that Su Xiaofei?’

‘I thought it was just a rumor that she succeeded her mother’s company. I can see that Su Xiaofei looks better now.’

‘Ah! What are you saying? While Ye Mingyu is now a celebrity, don’t you know that Su Xiaofei is known as a star maker? I heard

that Su Xiaofei manages top stars at Bluemedia and works closely with them!

As the other guests turned their attention to Su Xiaofei, praising not only her beauty, but also her expertise in show business, the smile on Ye Mingyu's face faltered, her eyes boring on Su Xiaofei.