

### **Chapter 651: The House Was Flooded Too**

"I'll head back then," Lei Qingyi walked toward the door without looking back. He was afraid and he absolutely did not have the guts to face Yan Huan and the fact that he was the one who killed Lu Yi.

Moreover, he was such a coward that he could not face himself.

He closed the door and stood there for a long time before leaving the hospital with a dejected look on his face.

In the hospital, He Yibin walked over to Yan Huan and pulled the covers closer to her chin. Then, he placed his hand on her hair, just like how Lu Yi used to do it.

Yan Huan's long lashes seemed to shudder, but she remained asleep. She was not a sleeping beauty now, but a sleeping poor thing.

This is Lu Yi's favorite thing to do, hope you still remember.

He stood up straight, gently let out a sigh as he turned around and left, leaving the place a piece of silence, as well as a piece dreaded stillness.

Every day, someone would die, and someone would be born into this world.

Life and deaths were all destined reincarnations.

Sooner or later, all of us would experience it. That would be the end of our lives when we got to that stage.

Unfortunately, some people would leave too early, so early that the pain was unbearable.

Meanwhile, the atmosphere in the Lei family had been repressed for the past few days. No one was able to put on a smile. It was the same even if they were looking at Little Lei's chubby little cute face.

Little Lei was walking wobbly. He was almost two years old now and was already very thoughtful. Looking more handsome than his father and more beautiful than his mother, he was in fact a stunning little boy. Due to the strong genes, he was a lot taller and smarter than his peers. He was everyone's darling, and the whole family cared dearly for this little precious one. He was loved by everyone in his family, the Lu family, and the Ye family.

Everyone adored him. He was good looking, a sweet talker, and a good boy. They all loved him for that.

He walked to Yi Ling and reached out his chubby little hands to hold onto her clothes.

"Mama, where's aunty?"

He missed his aunt, as she would always buy him toys and played games with him. She was his favorite.

Suddenly, Yi Ling could not help but break into tears. She reached out to pick up Little Lei as she started to sob uncontrollably.

He was so startled by her cry that he began to bawl too.

Madam Lei came to the rescue and took Little Lei away from Yi Ling. Her grandchild was crying and so was her daughter-in-law. She could not help crying too. Soon, the house was filled with nothing but the sounds of sobbing.

Mr. Lei came out and saw the three generations crying their eyes out. Somehow, tears started to well up in his eyes too.

Here, let grandpa carry you.

He reached out to Little Lei. The boy was too young to know anything. All he knew was that mommy and granny were crying, so he cried too.

Mr. Lei was ready to send Little Lei to his sister's place for a few days. The house was almost flooded in tears. If this situation kept going on, not only the adults, a child would not be able to take it any longer as well.

"Grandpa, where are you taking me?"

Little Lei rubbed his eyes as he realized grandpa was carrying him in his arm now, though they were not walking toward home. Grandma had always said that he was a wild child, as he had to be taken on walks out of the house every day, otherwise he could not fall asleep. This routine started when he was only six months old, up until now. Which was why he was very familiar with the streets and realized that this was not the way home. Where are they heading to?

"We're going to your grandaunt's place."

"Will Big Brother Nan be there?" Little Lei asked innocently in his little boy's voice; his eyes wide with curiosity.

"Yes, we're going to your grandaunt's house."

"Okay then, let's go find Big Brother Nan." Little Lei clapped his small hands happily as he broke into a smile. Albeit, the sight of his smile made Mr. Lei feel like crying even more.

My dear Little Lei,

I wonder if you would still remember that beautiful aunt of yours, and your uncle Lu Yi when you're all grown up. Both of them have loved you dearly. They watched as you came into this world, just as they watched you grow up.

But now...

He did not dare to dwell on that thought. No wonder his family could not take in the news.

It could be said that Lu Yi grew up in the Lei family. So how could they not be sad? Moreover, Lu Yi and Yan Huan had saved the two ladies in his family.

Sigh, look at what has happened. What in the world is happening now?

Far away, the autumn wind escorted the fallen leaves, as they were accompanied by green frost.

It seemed like winter was coming soon. It would be a long winter when the fall season came to an end. Sea River was calm as it gently flowed forward. It was hard to believe that the sea was just raging not too long ago. Who knew how many souls it had taken away, and yet, it looked like the most innocent thing in the world now.

It was her fifth day in the hospital.

“How is it going today? Is her body temperature normal?”

He Yibin walked over and stood by the bed. Then, he reached into his pocket for his torch and gently opened Yan Huan’s eyelid to shine into them. After that, he went on to check the injuries on her body.

A nurse who stood aside flipped open the latest checkup results and replied,

“Dr. He, the patient’s body temperature is normal. All her body systems are in recovery. As of today, there is no need to administer oxygen anymore. The only thing is that the patient is still unconscious.”

“Okay, noted.” He Yibin sighed for countless times. He was now sure that she was unwilling to wake up. She would have woken up if she wanted to. But it was the fifth day and she was still in a coma.

“Dr. He, there’s not much to be done if the patient stays like this,” The nurse held the medical report in her arms.

They had been injecting nutritional drugs on her every day to sustain her life, but that was not the solution. Any living person would have to eat rice and grains to recover properly. She was not in a vegetative state but she did not consume any food or drinks. Her body would not be able to take it even if they injected her with the feeding tube every day. Her muscles would start to shrink, and her body functions would slowly shut down. This was not a sustainable solution.

This patient was unlike any other patients. She did not have a lot of injuries physically, but she was heavily injured mentally. They could not let this go on. There were so many people fighting for their lives out there, and yet, there were many people like her who just did not want to live anymore.

“Take good care of her, I’ll think of a way,” He Yibin held onto the stethoscope on his neck. Even though he said so, he knew that he was merely a doctor and could not play the role of God. He could treat the injuries on the body, but how he could treat a suffering heart. Even if he was a psychiatrist, he needed Yan Huan to wake up and listen to him.

### **Chapter 652: She Didn’t Die**

And that is why nothing can happen. Nothing bad can happen to her.

“Qingyi, it’s me. I’m He Yibin.”

He Yibin walked outside and closed the door behind him. He was not sure if his action would seem too deliberate, but he was indeed afraid of the person inside overhearing him, notwithstanding the fact that she did not even want to wake up. He probably would not have such a headache if she would just wake up.

“Is there something wrong with her?”

Lei Qingyi stood up with a whoosh and walked outside with long strides, without a care for anything else.

“Nothing, she’s fine.” Lei Qingyi stopped walking at He Yibin’s next sentence.

“She’s fine?” Lei Qingyi could feel his heart in his mouth just now. He almost screamed out loud as he was so irritated that he wanted to pick a fight with someone.

These repressed feelings lately were truly dreadful, so dreadful that he was unable to fall asleep almost every night, and he would dream about Lu Yi once he actually did fall asleep.

Every single thing that Lu Yi had said to him, was about Yan Huan.

Tell Yan Huan to live a good life, tell her to live a good life.

But right now, the problem is that Yan Huan doesn’t want to live anymore.

He was unable to push down those unspeakable repressed feelings every time he received He Yibin’s phone calls. He could feel the weight of those feelings pressing down on him to the point where he was almost suffocating.

“How are you going to tell them?” He Yibin asked Lei Qingyi. “We can’t let her go on like this. As far as her body is concerned, any sort of medicine will only repair the physical wounds on her body, but there is nothing I could do to help her mentally. She has been like this for five days, plus the two days when she was rescued.”

Actually, He Yibin was already feeling anxious when he uttered the numbers. It would be a real problem if she did not wake up within seven days, owing to the reason that there was a possibility that she could never wake up again.

What difference is there between her and the living dead? If this is truly the case, how are they supposed to not let Lu Yi down? To not let their brother down?

“Let me think about it.” Lei Qingyi lifted his fingers to rub his temples. He had to think about this properly. What will be the best way to tell their family about this so that it will be easier for them to accept the news?

The one thing humans fear the most is the great rejoicing after the great sadness, and the great sadness that comes after the great rejoicing.

He put down his mobile phone, and once again he pressed on his temples with both hands, feeling a throbbing pain in his head.

Let it be. He would bring them to her tomorrow. However, he was clumsy of speech. Although during normal days he seemed to be able to converse well, he was unable to spit out even half a word at a crucial moment.

The next day, Lei Qingyi spent a lot of effort to coax Yi Ling and Madam Lei to the hospital. As for Ye Shuyun, there was nothing he could do. Ye Shuyun did not even want to talk to anyone now, she was about to cry all her tears out.

She could not accept the death of her son, and it was even more unacceptable to her that her son died because of saving her.

If it wasn't because of her being there, if it wasn't because of Yan Huan saving her, how is it possible that both her son and her daughter-in-law will die?

That was why she could not accept it, she could not accept it at all.

In the end, Lei Qingyi had asked Lu Jin to forcefully bring Ye Shuyun to the hospital. Otherwise, Yan Huan's time might be up by the time she stopped behaving this way.

"Qingyi, why did you bring us here?" All three ladies looked pale. It had only been a few days, but everyone had lost a lot of weight. Especially Ye Shuyun, who looked like she had aged by more than 10 years as the gray hairs on her head seemed to be multiplying in an instant. She used to be such a beautiful and elegant lady. Although she had grown older, her hobbies were almost the same as those of the younger generation. She loved to take care of her beauty, to idolize celebrities, and she was also a Weibo user. But now, not only had she aged, she looked more haggard, as though her own vitality of life had depleted altogether.

She was supported by Yi Ling all the way to the hospital. She was absent-minded, occasionally feeling like her son had returned when she saw a man with a figure that was similar to Lu Yi. But once she realized that it was not him, the remaining light in her eyes would diminish once again.

As for Madam Lei, until now, she did not have any clue as to why her son would bring her here. Is it for a medical check up? But why would a medical check up be carried out with so many people around?

"You will know once you go inside." Lei Qingyi did not know what to say, so he chose not to say anything at all. After all, once they see her, they will naturally understand.

He walked to the door of the ward and placed his hand on the doorknob. Then, he opened the door and walked in, before turning around to look at them.

"Mom, Big Aunt, Lingling, come in."

Alright. Madam Lei walked in, not knowing what her son had up his sleeve. But even so, she knew that her son would never harm them.

"Big Aunt, let's go inside too."

Seeing Ye Shuyun like this, Yi Ling started to feel like crying again. This is all my fault, but no one is blaming me, and no one scolded me as well. Why did nobody scold me, why is nobody blaming me? I will feel slightly better in my heart if they were to do so.

Ye Shuyun was practically lost in the clouds when she was helped in by Yi Ling. Right at this moment, Madam Lei, who was already inside, had covered her mouth in disbelief for a long time, as she could not believe her eyes.

"Qingyi, Qingyi, this..."

She grasped Lei Qingyi's sleeves tightly. "Is this real, is this real?"

“Yes.” Lei Qingyi nodded. “Mum, it’s real. It has been five days since she was rescued. I wanted to wait for her to get better before telling all of you, but there is nothing much we can do about the situation right now.”

“Mum, Yibin said that she has no will to live, and she doesn’t want to stay alive. Lu Yi has left her to us. How am I going to face Lu Yi and not let him down if we can’t save her and keep her alive?”

Madam Lei’s words stuck in her throat. She was afraid that she would be sobbing without restraint, and that she would not be able to stop her tears.

“Huanhuan, Huanhuan...”

All of a sudden, Ye Shuyun’s eyes were beaming again. She ran to the bed like a crazy person.

Is that her, is that Yan Huan? Is she my Huanhuan? She’s still alive, then what about my son? What about Lu Yi? Where’s Lu Yi?

“Huanhuan...” She laid her hand on Yan Huan’s face. It could clearly be seen that there were some unhealed wounds on Yan Huan’s body, but there was nothing serious. Her breathing was calm, but it was so calm that it seemed like she was not breathing at all.

“Huanhuan.” She carefully caressed Yan Huan’s face again. Is it you, Huanhuan? is it you?

Yes, yes, it definitely is. Her face was warm. Judging from her chest movement, she was still breathing. She did not die, she was still alive. These two words must not be underestimated, for they were probably the only thing that Ye Shuyun had said within the last few days.

“Huanhuan...” Yi Ling was almost rolling and crawling in her haste to run to her.

She carefully moved her fingers away, as she dared not simply touch her. She was afraid that Yan Huan would turn into foam and disappear like the little mermaid in the fairy tale.

She didn’t die, she’s still alive.

### **Chapter 653: She Did Not Want To Live**

How awesome it is that there’s a chance for her to atone for what she has done.

“Is that Yan Huan?” Madam Lei asked her son carefully, she wanted another confirmation as she was too surprised and too scared to lose her again.

Lei Qingyi nodded. That was her, Lu Yi tied her up on a telegraph pole. She spent two days and two nights in the water before being rescued by someone.

“Then...” Madam Lei wanted to ask anxiously, that was something Ye Shuyun wanted to find out but she could not bring herself to ask the question. She did not dare to ask. Actually none of them have the courage to ask, they were too afraid of the answer itself.

“How about Lu Yi, is he still alive?” Even if he was a living dead, it did not matter as long as he was still breathing and still alive.

Lei Qingyi’s throat rolled up and down, his voice became bitter.

“Lu Yi, he’s... not around anymore...”

Yi Ling’s incomparable panic-stricken voice could be heard as soon as he finished the sentence.

“Eldest aunt, eldest aunt...”

As Lei Qingyi looked toward that direction, he saw Ye Shuyun collapsed to the ground. She had been very anxious and tense, and that was the last straw that broke her.

Lei Qingyi quickly opened up the door of the ward. He Yibin arrived shortly afterward.

“How is it?” Lei Qingyi asked, full of worries.

“How’s my eldest aunt?”

He Yibin let out a sigh, “It’s not something serious, just that her trouble can’t be resolved that easily. Perhaps things will get better after a few days. After all, she’ll need some time to accept the truth. They must accept it even if they don’t want to.”

Lei Qingyi stopped pacing. Now only he realized that the reality was far too cruel. He himself could not accept this cold and hard reality, let alone Ye Shuyun.

They were still clinging to a miracle, hoping that Lu Yi was still alive, hoping that a miracle that had happened to Yan Huan could happen on Lu Yi too. However, in reality, the so-called miracle would not happen to everyone.

As for Lu Yi, he was not that lucky. The miracle did not happen to him.

Yi Ling was wiping Yan Huan’s hands carefully with a towel.

“Huanhuan, you have been sleeping for a long time,” her voice cracked. “Please tell me when you will be waking up. If you continue sleeping like this, you’ll sleep to your death. Lu Yi saved you with his life, he didn’t save you so that you can die.”

Her voice cracked as she was speaking, she felt terrible too.

“Tell me, why did you save me? It should’ve been me who’s supposed to die. But now it became you and Lu Yi. What should I do if something bad were to happen to both of you? How can I ever live with this guilt in my lifetime, how can I bear such stress?”

“If things would really go this way, I’d rather die in the first place.”

“This life was traded with Lu Yi and your life, I don’t want it.”

Then, she held the towel carefully and gently cleaned Yan Huan’s face, “If mom knows that I had turned you into something like this, she would definitely be mad at me. Huanhuan, tell me, what did you owe me in the past lifetime, because I haven’t done anything for you or helped you with anything in this lifetime, yet you saved me with your life.”

She bent over on Yan Huan’s body, sobbing miserably until her face was full of tears.

Tell her, what should she do?

Tell her, how could she atone for her sin?

Tell her, what could she do to make Yan Huan wake up from the coma?

Lu Yi was not around anymore. What should she do if anything were to happen to Yan Huan again?

At that moment, a hand was placed on her shoulder.

Yi Ling quickly looked up, thinking that it might be Yan Huan, but then she saw that Yan Huan was still lying there motionless and half-dead. She looked totally like a dead person, except that she was breathing.

As for the person standing behind her, it was none other than Lei Qingyi.

“Qingyi, will Huanhuan die if she doesn’t wake up after some time?”

She held Lei Qingyi’s hand tightly, “Is that so? Is that so?” Lei Qingyi could feel his throat was burning with pain.

“Don’t worry, she’ll need some time to wake up. Humans can’t die from sleeping, look at the human vegetables, some live their time even though they have been sleeping for a lifetime, some are in a coma for months and don’t regain consciousness for one to two years. Yan Huan has been asleep for half a month only. The mechanism in her body needs a recovery process. She’s only sleeping, how can she die, right?”

“That’s great, that’s great,” Yi Ling sniffed her nose, wiping Yan Huan’s face carefully, but the tears kept falling from her face as she was wiping.

How could she do this, how could she leave Yan Huan in such a state? She promised Madam Yan that she would take good care of Huanhuan, but now Huanhuan was in a coma. Huanhuan lost half of her life, she even killed the person whom Huanhuan loved the most.

“Huanhuan, you have to wake up, mom will protect you.” She said that every day, word by word, from time to time. She was afraid that if she did not talk to Yan Huan, Yan Huan would live in a silent world and would be trapped there.

“What should I do if you’re going to be like this. What about Lu Yi’s parents? They are Lu Yi’s dearest family members. What are they going to do when they age? Who’s going to take care of them? Who’s going to be with them at their last moments? They’ve already lost Lu Yi. Do you want them to lose you as well?”

She kept mumbling about it but Yan Huan could not hear her at all.

Suddenly, she felt that there was a water droplet on Yan Huan’s face, she could not help but feel happy for her.

“Huanhuan, Huanhuan...” She shouted excitedly, thinking that Yan Huan was about to wake up. However, she saw another water droplet when she took a closer look, dropping on Yan Huan’s face from mid-air.

In the same position, the same water droplet.

She wiped her face, and then she realized that it was actually her tears.

Then, she put that towel on Yan Huan's face and wiped the tear drop off.

She sniffled her nose. "I'll get you a bowl of hot water, I know you are a very hygienic person, I'll help you wipe your body until you're all clean so that you can sleep peacefully."

She took the bowl, turned around ready to leave, but she turned around all of a sudden and glared at the lady in a coma. "Huanhuan, is this really what you want? Are you going to be half-dead and half-alive, let the people around you to see the most pathetic side of you, letting people treat you like cattle, is this how you repay Lu Yi for saving your life?"

"You can hate me, you can complain, but why would you do this and turn yourself into something like this? If you are happy with yourself in such a state, then I only have one sentence for you, Yan Huan. I despise you, I despise you."

### **Chapter 654: You Still Have Us**

She opened the door and walked out of the room. What she did not know was that Yan Huan's finger, which was on top of her blanket, appeared to twitch slightly. Then, it stopped moving.

She did not want to wake up. She would rather live like a vegetable, as that would be much better than waking up to face everything that had happened. Maybe she could just continue sleeping, as it did not hurt when she was asleep. Yes, just continue sleeping, and she would not feel the pain anymore.

However, no matter how long she slept, she had to wake up sooner or later.

Things would not change for the better simply because she was asleep. She would not be able to find another ending.

Things were just the way they were.

Nothing changed, no matter how hard she tried to run away from it.

Yi Ling came back after a while. She placed a basin of warm water on the table and soaked a face towel in the water. After wringing the towel dry, she was just about to clean Yan Huan's face when someone opened the door from outside.

"Let me do it." A hand reached over and took the towel away from Yi Ling's hand.

Yi Ling's fingers trembled, but she eventually put her hands down helplessly. She lowered her head and did not dare to make any sound. She felt extremely remorseful, and the guilt was driving her crazy. Then, she felt a hand on her shoulder, which started to pat her gently.

"Big Aunt..." Only now did Yi Ling pluck up enough courage to speak, but she only dared to utter these two words.

"It's not your fault." Ye Shuyun patted Yi Ling's shoulder again. "We all agreed to it when we went. You don't have to shoulder all the blame yourself and live with the guilt forever, because you do not deserve to suffer like this."

Yi Ling did not know if Ye Shuyun was mocking herself inadvertently. Ye Shuyun took the face towel and placed it on Yan Huan's face. Her movement was so light that it was as though she was afraid that she would accidentally scrape her face.

As she was cleaning her face, she looked at Yan Huan's sunken face with a heavy heart. Her body had been bloated and swollen previously, so it was not very obvious that she had gotten very thin. Now that the swelling had subsided, her body had shriveled up to nothing but skin and bones.

"Lu Yi's biggest fear was you becoming too thin. He would only be relieved and at peace if you eat well and gain back your weight. We only have a few members in our family. Tell me, what are your father and I going to do if we lose both Lu Yi and you as well? How do you expect the both of us to continue living our lives?"

She closed her eyes with a lump in her throat. She could barely hold it in. She grasped hard onto the towel in her hands as she had no idea what she could do if she did not do so.

After so long, she was finally willing to accept the fact that Lu Yi was not with them anymore. However, that acknowledgement was so painful and cruel to her. Is there any pain in the world that is greater than the pain of parents sending away their own child?

He was her one and only son in her whole lifetime.

She turned around again and placed the towel into the basin of water absentmindedly.

She scrubbed the towel to clean it and wrung it dry. Ye Shuyun carefully wiped Yan Huan's fingers, which had gotten so thin that they looked like chicken feet. The back of her palm was a pool of green. The blood vessels looked as though they could not take the pierce of a needle anymore.

"Please wake up. Mom can handle this, and so can you. I believe that what Lu Yi wanted the most is for you to continue living happily, only then I can continue living my life too."

"You're a good child, no one blames you for this." She rested her hand tentatively on Yan Huan's face, only to realize that her body temperature was very low. Yan Huan was so cold that sometimes she wondered if she was already dead.

She was only assured that Yan Huan was still alive by checking her breathing. It was true that she had already lost Lu Yi. Therefore, she could not bear to lose Yan Huan too. Even though Yan Huan was just her daughter-in-law, she had always treated her as her own daughter.

Time still passed, those who were destined to leave would leave, and those who were destined to stay would stay. Everyone in this world would go through birth, old age, sickness and eventually death. Everybody was just waiting for the time when they left the world, either from old age or illness.

Yan Huan was still half dead. She did not wake up, so maybe the only thing that was still alive was her body. Other than Lu Yi's death, Yan Huan had also been comatose for some time. She was probably going to end her own life in her sleep soon.

"We will be visiting Lu Yi today." Yi Ling came over and took Yan Huan's hands in hers. She could barely feel the flesh on her fingers, is this a human palm or a chicken foot?

“Big Aunt finally accepted Lu Yi’s death, and so they are building a cenotaph for Lu Yi. We are all going there today as it is the fourth week since he passed away. Huanhuan, don’t you want to see him too?”

She exerted some strength in her fingers as she said that. She was unsure whether the pain on her fingers had inadvertently caused the pain in her heart as well.

“We’ve got to go.” Yi Ling stood up and wiped her face. Her voice was still nasally. “The nurses here will take care of you. We will be back with you in the afternoon, we won’t leave you alone.”

She leaned over and caressed Yan Huan’s face.

“Even though Lu Yi is not here anymore, you still have us, don’t you?”

She wanted to smile, but she could only widen her mouth in a pitiful semblance of a smile in the end. She was unable to put up a smile, nor could she laugh. However, if someone were to ask her to cry, she would be able to do it instantly and immediately.

Following that, the gentle sound of the door closing could be heard.

Some time later, a gust of wind seemed to whistle through the windows and found its way into the room. The curtains billowed in the wind, and a strand of hair lying on the patient’s forehead swayed in the breeze.

Right at this moment, it slowly rose, and fell back gently. Then, all was calm again.

Eventually, the person’s long eyelashes fluttered slightly. But, she was still not awake. Perhaps she did not want to wake up, she was unwilling to wake up, or maybe she just could not wake up.

However, nobody knew about this.

Yi Ling was dressed in all black. She placed a bouquet of flowers in front of the gravestone.

There was a picture of a young man on the gravestone. He was indeed very young, about 30 years old. He was a mature man who was responsible, composed and perhaps emotionless. But in reality, they knew that he had helped countless people, and all his cases were judged fairly without bias or prejudice. His name was Lu Yi. Today was his final seventh day.

Ye Shuyun took a step forward and gently brushed her hand over her son’s gravestone. “Son, Lu Yi, this is the spot Mom chose for you. Mom wants you to settle down as soon as possible, I don’t want you to become a stray spirit, which is why Mom made you a new home here. Look around, isn’t it beautiful? Mom has specifically picked it for you. When my time comes, I will come and accompany you again, is that good? You won’t be alone by then.”

She pressed her face against the cold gravestone, as if it could bring her closer to her son. However, who could have guessed that Lu Yi’s ashes were not in the grave, because Lu Yi had no remains. He did not even have ashes. What was buried here was nothing but a shirt that he had worn before.

### **Chapter 655: Who Does Lu Qin Think He Is**

“Don’t worry, son. Mum knows what you worry about the most and what you lose sleep over. I will take good care of Yan Huan. You know as well, I like Yan Huan a lot. I will treat her as my own daughter and

will not let anyone hurt her. I will make sure she is safe and sound throughout her whole life. Mum will be her guardian angel for you.”

The wind gently caressed the leaves. A fallen leaf happened to descend slowly in front of Ye Shuyun. Ye Shuyun squatted down and picked up the fallen leaf from the ground and held it between her numb fingers.

In the end, she could not hold her feelings anymore. She held on to her son’s tombstone and broke down into tears.

What can I do now, what can I do now, God, what can I do now?

She did not want to live anymore as she had lost her son. But how could she not want to live, how could she just die? Her son exchanged his life for hers.

Lu Jin walked over and squatted down beside her. Then, he put his hand on Ye Shuyun’s shoulder.

At that moment, a guard pushed over a wheelchair.

Lu Jin turned around to look at him, his pale lips touched for a brief moment. Then, he shook his head and stood beside Ye Shuyun.

Old Master Lu was seated in his wheelchair, with his expression blank. Even though he was well-groomed and dressed, his grief and hopelessness could clearly be seen from his white hair and hollow stare.

Even though he always scolded and beat Lu Yi, who would have known that he liked this grandson the most, and loved him dearly as well? When he heard that his grandson passed away, he nearly could not make it as well. His hair turned grey overnight and he could not walk. He locked himself up for a few days. He would not have been here if it was not because of Lu Yi.

“Hmm, this is a good place,” he caressed the tombstone and continued, “Grandpa always gave you a hard time, but that’s because I want you to be successful. You’re always the one who is well-behaved, why aren’t you doing the same now? Why can’t you just let me go first? You’re an unfilial grandson.” He raised his arm, holding a leather whip in his hand. Crack! He hit the tombstone with the whip.

“I’ll beat you to death, you unfilial grandson. You just leave Grandpa and your parents like this. What kind of son and grandson are you...” He hit the tombstone continuously with the whip, yet tears were streaming down his old face. He was crying.

The Old Master, who was a veteran and a man of power for his whole life, was now sobbing like a child.

Ye Shuyun’s legs got weak, she could barely stand on her own without leaning on Lu Jin. She touched her own face and still found it hard to face this grief.

Lu Jin gently tapped her on the shoulder and sighed as well, “Those who are alive have to move on and continue living. Sooner or later we will come to this stage, it’s just that he left earlier than us.”

Ye Shuyun nodded and held in her dam of tears. She was afraid that if she let out the waterworks, it would be hard for her to stop.

“At least I can be sure of one thing now.”

She moved the edges of her lips but her eyes were locked on Old Master Lu, who was standing in front of the tombstone. The Old Master had aged too. She came to a realization that the prejudices and biases were all in the past; everything was in the past.

Life is fragile. Since that person has already passed away, what’s the point of remembering all that? Would it be useful?

“What’s the matter?” Lu Jin tightened his grasp on Ye Shuyun’s shoulder, yet his own eyes were bloodshot and his gaze dull.

Ye Shuyun could cry out her pain, but he could not do anything. He could only repress all the grief deep in his heart, together with the heart-wrenching pain.

An elder had to face the death of his child, how could he not ache?

Ye Shuyun held Lu Jin’s hand tightly. The two of them were left alone now, till death tore them apart.

“Now I believe it.”

“Believe what?” Lu Jin asked his wife, whom he had spent his whole life with.

“Believe that...” Ye Shuyun’s voice came to a halt, her throat was sore, who knew how much pain she had swallowed to put on a happy face. “You are indeed your father’s son and definitely not adopted.”

Lu Jin ran his fingers through his wife’s locks. He did not know what to say when he saw the Old Master Lu beating the tombstone not far away. Just hit it, hit it.

After that, he can do whatever he wants to do. Those who are alive have to move on and continue living until the day they die, that’s when everything will come to an end.

Yi Ling went to the hospital right after work. She had to take care of Linlang because Luo Lin could not handle Linlang alone, she had to assist with the internal operation. No matter what, Linlang was Yan Huan’s painstaking effort. She could not just leave Linlang. She could not give up regardless of all the obstacles.

Thankfully, they had Lei Qingyi, who was the head of the National Security Department, to support them so that nobody dared do anything to Linlang. She would kill anyone who dared to lay their hands on Linlang. Since Yan Huan was in that situation, all she needed was protection. As for the people who wanted Linlang, they should just go back to daydreaming.

Some random people had announced Lu Yi’s death to the public but they had toned down all the rumors. However, even if they could shut one person up, it was clearly impossible for them to shut the mouths of a whole country.

The netizens were gossiping that it was time for Linlang to change the owner. Since the Lu family only had two heirs, it would either be Lu Yi or Lu Qin. Now that Lu Yi was not there anymore, naturally it would belong to Lu Qin. From then onwards, Lu Qin would be Linlang’s new owner. Even though Linlang was a newly established company, its assets were shocking. Every year, the company’s assets were increased by multiples, the hottest films were all produced by Linlang. Hence, Linlang was gaining fame

very quickly. Besides, the company was going to move to a brand new tower next year. The building itself, excluding the additions and renovation, was worth a few billion dollars or even more. If Lu Qin became the new owner of Linlang, it would mean that the new era of Linlang, countless resources and the billions of assets, would all belong to Lu Qin.

Yi Ling could not help laughing every time she saw the news. She was lazy to explain it further anyway.

Whoever came up with that idea had an impressive imagination. Why not use that imagination to write books or scripts, instead of making one story after another as if they were all real?

Who did Lu Qin think he was to have a say in Linlang?

Yan Huan predicted that this would happen in the first place, so Linlang's representative by law was not Yan Huan or Lu Yi, but Yi Ling from the Lei family. According to the law, the Lu family had no relation with Linlang at all, which meant it had nothing to do with Lu Yi as well. Similarly, it was impossible that it was related to Lu Qin too.

### **Chapter 656: Unfilial Grandson**

Nowadays, it is easy to daydream, but you should not indulge in it too much as nothing is more practical than drinking more water and eating more rice.

Yan Huan had left them many scripts. Together with Luo Lin, they had picked out one script and was ready to begin shooting. No matter what happened, the company must not stop here. Fortunately, Yan Huan had left so many scripts behind that they could still churn out productions for the next four to five years.

However, what she did not know was that those scripts were indeed intended to last for a few more years. Based on the current filming situation, everything should run smoothly, at least within these few years. As for a few years later, Lin Lang would already have its own capability to produce its own scripts.

"How's today?" Opening the door, Yi Ling put her bag aside and went straight to the sickbed to put her hand on Yan Huan's forehead. Fortunately, Yan Huan's body temperature was not very high and still considered normal. After making sure of that, only did she withdraw her hand. The thing she was most afraid of right now was Yan Huan coming down with a fever.

Even a normal person will be helpless in the face of the cold, let alone an invalid. Not to mention that Yan Huan is currently far from a mere invalid, as there is not much difference between her and the living dead now. Mess up just once more, and she will be as good as gone.

"Quite good." A nurse came over to scribble something on the medical record while answering Yi Ling's question. There was nothing that warrants immediate medical attention, as both her heartbeat and body temperature were stable.

That's great. Yi Ling let out a heavy sigh. She sat down to rest her feet, which were so tired that they would give out at any time. Initially, she had wanted to wait until Little Lei turned three years old before returning to work, but now it appeared that she did not have time to wait for that to happen.

"That Lu Qin is really despicable." After sitting down, she wasted no time in conversing with Yan Huan, and of course, it was full of complaints. "He really thought that Linlang belongs to him now that Lu Yi is

gone. I can see that he is just waiting for someone to deliver Linlang into his waiting hands. There were people who asked him about his work arrangements after taking over Linlang, and he actually dared to speak about that.”

Yi Ling recalled Lu Qin’s face when he was having the interview on television, and suddenly had the urge to throw up.

“He said something about not changing the general workflow of Linlang, but he will be inclined to invest in high quality films and also boldly use the new talents in the industry and such. There is no need for him to say these out loud.”

Yi Ling sulked unhappily. Most of the actors and actresses that Linlang had been employing were originally fresh talent in the industry. As for those veterans like Liang Chen, who was already an international actress, they were just working for Linlang for the sake of showing respect for Yan Huan. As for Lu Qin... So sorry to say this, but who are you? Nobody cares about you.

“Huanhuan, seriously, I have seen so many shameless people before, but it is nearly impossible to find someone as shameless as Lu Qin.”

She sat there and ranted for a long time, jabbering on and on. She rambled on for nearly one hour and a half, as she would not feel tired of talking anyway. As for her listener, who was not actually capable of hearing what she said; it was impossible for that person to give her a response even if she was annoyed by the constant babbling.

Yi Ling gently caressed Yan Huan’s hair. “Your hair has grown long, I think you need a haircut. Let me help you trim it so that you will feel more comfortable. Yup, tomorrow then. We’ll wait until Lu Yi’s final seventh day of mourning is over, and I will come here again to give you a haircut.”

Oh, time really flies. Even Lu Yi’s final seventh day after his death is almost over. Once that day is over, it means that the person has really left us forever.

“Huanhuan, you have to wake up soon. Go and visit him, okay?” Yi Ling’s heart ached to see Yan Huan like this, she also felt the same for Lu Yi. “Do you know that he’s alone inside that ice-cold grave, and yet his remains aren’t even buried there?”

“I think you’re the person that he wants to see the most. Can you wake up soon and visit him?”

She kept on talking, not knowing whether or not Yan Huan was capable of hearing her. The response she received in return was still the same, Yan Huan was just breathing as usual. There was no change in expression, movement or sound, there was nothing. She was just a woman who was asleep, but also a woman who would die in her sleep soon.

“I’ll wash your hair first. Your hair is so oily.” Yi Ling ran her hand through Yan Huan’s hair, and could feel the grease accumulating on it. She then stood up and rolled up her sleeves, heading out to get water.

Now that her voice was no longer resounding around the room, silence fell. The setting sun from the distant horizon was still crimson red, and the glow of the sunset had spread over half the sky. Even the sunlight appeared to be red.

The woman who was lying on the sickbed remained motionless. She was still breathing, but she had no thoughts.

As the minutes ticked by... her eyelashes seemed to be fluttering slightly. Tears rolled out from the corners of her eyes and dripped into the pillow, never to be seen again.

Nobody knew, and nobody saw it as well.

In their minds, she was still in a coma, a living dead who did not have any thought and was just waiting for her death.

The door opened again, and Yi Ling came in with a basin of water. After placing the basin on a nearby chair, she once again rolled up her sleeves. As she felt that it would hinder her movements, she decided to take off her outerwear. Then, she did some stretching to help loosen her tense shoulders.

“Okay, Huanhuan, we will start washing your hair. Don’t worry, I know you love your hair the most, so I will make sure that not even one strand of your hair will be shed.”

Just when she was about to call for a nurse to come over and help, someone came in.

It was Ye Xinyu.

“Just in time. Xinyu, come over here and help me.” She waved at Ye Xinyu, gesturing for him to come over. “I want to wash Huanhuan’s hair. It’s getting dirty.”

“Okay.” Ye Xinyu put the flowers that he brought along on a table and promptly came over to help out. He was a well-built guy and had great strength. Recently, he would come over every day to watch over his cousin’s wife when he had nothing else to do. Thus, he was the one who did all the dirty and heavy work, as he did not mind getting dirty or tired either. He had certainly matured so much in a short period of time.

Yi Ling ordered Ye Xinyu to hold Yan Huan up as she placed the basin on a chair. She washed Yan Huan’s hair with lots of care, even using the hair shampoo that Yan Huan had liked the most.

Ye Xinyu’s eyes turned red again, as he felt the sadness well up within himself. Yi Ling patted his shoulder and said, “Alright, stop crying. You are a real man, why are you crying all day long?”

“Men only weep when deeply grieved.”

Ye Xinyu wiped his face and held back his tears, but he was still very sad. A cousin who had grown up together with him was already gone, while that cousin’s wife who had saved his life before ended up like this. How could he not be sad?

Although Ye Xinyu and Lu Yi were only cousins, they were actually closer than any pair of biological brothers. In fact, Lu Yi was practically his biological brother.

“You need to grow up first. You are not even a man now, aren’t you?” Yi Ling chided as she washed Yan Huan’s hair carefully. “Right, it’s time for you to grow up, as both the Ye and Lu families will be dependent on you in the future. How can you expect people to respect you if you’re frequently behaving like a sissy who likes to throw tantrums and cry? You are not even as manly as I was back then.”

## Chapter 657: The Old Man Who Had A Bark Worse Than His Bite

Yi Ling took the towel and wiped Yan Huan's hair as she was spouting vicious words from her mouth. It was true that Ye Xinyu was too pretty and had a soft personality, no one could predict what he could become after staying in that callous and cruel mall for long. Nevertheless, as long as Lei Qingyi and she were still there, they would not let him be at any disadvantage. After all, he would get mature after being picked on for a few years.

One had to grow up eventually. You either chose to grow up by yourself or you are forced to do so.

She grabbed a hairdryer to dry Yan Huan's hair.

On the other hand, Ye Shuyun placed the flowers she brought into a vase. The flowers gave out a faint scent, circulating the ward, so that Yan Huan could smell the fragrance when she was sleeping.

"Will your grandfather attend your brother's ceremony later?" Yi Ling asked Ye Xinyu. She honestly didn't want any elderly to be there. Old Master Lu's previous action freaked her out. Didn't they say that Lu Jin was adopted? Why did Old Master Lu act the way he did last time, as if he went mad? He whipped Lu Yi's tombstone repeatedly, then called him an unfilial grandson. It was obvious that he was his biological grandfather.

On the other hand, Ye Jianguo was his biological grandfather. How could an elderly like him take such a blow?

"Yeah, he'll be there."

Ye Xinyu lowered his head, put the fresh flowers into a vase and adjusted it to a suitable position. The air was filled with the aroma of dainty flowers. On top of that, the flowers added some liveliness and warmth to the ward room.

When he heard that it was the seventh day after Lu Yi's death, he felt as if there was something pressing on his chest, making it difficult to bear.

Yi Ling tucked Yan Huan in bed and covered her arms under the blanket. She watched her by her side, wishing that she would open her eyes suddenly. However, most of the time, she would rather hope that Yan Huan would not wake up because she would not be able to accept the fact that Lu Yi was gone.

She sighed and frowned. How could she be left alone...

On the second day, they entrusted Yan Huan to the nanny, doctors, nurses and He Yibin. As for them, they were all going to attend the ceremony as it was the seventh day after Lu Yi's death.

At that moment, everyone was at the ceremony. Old Master Lu and Ye Jianguo stood side by side. Ironically, both of them lived long enough but they were still alive, while their grandson left the world before them. Both of them could finally let go of everything at this moment.

"If I were to know what's going to happen, I would let him marry whoever he wanted. Why would I quarrel with him over things like that? I didn't even get to see him one last time." Old Master Lu had forgotten when was the day he last saw his grandson.

It seemed to be a very long time ago. He probably did not remember how his grandson looked like anymore.

Grandpa Ye kept silent, "It is useless to blame anyone now. He's already gone. Please spare the living ones."

"Yan Huan is a pretty good kid," he let out a sigh and said. "You are already at this old age, how much longer would you live? You should change that old-fashioned mindset of yours. Who said there wouldn't be good-hearted people in the acting business? I like that kid. She saved so many people, including your son, your daughter-in-law, my daughter, the Lei family and not to mention, my family. Besides, she is attractive, and knows how to earn a living. What else are you not satisfied with? She depended on her own to get to where she is now, and did not steal from anyone, is that not good enough?"

Actually, I do not hate her that much.

Old Master Lu finally opened his mouth after dawdling for awhile, "You know my temper. I don't discriminate anyone. It's just that both of us are stubborn, we're like stones and bricks. None of us is willing to take a step back. Is it that difficult for her to bow down and talk to me nicely?"

Ye Jianguo shook his head, "Your bark is always worse than your bite."

"Don't reprimand others for trivial things in the future. Anyone would be upset by such remarks. Nowadays no one is willing to bear your attitude. Our generation is long gone. This is the world of the younger generation now. We're too old to fit in the younger generation."

Old Master Lu had his head down. He did not even have the energy to stand up, not to mention bickering. Living day to day, he suddenly felt that there's no point in living anymore.

He lost a grandson and that was enough.

Why was he not the one who died, why was it his grandson? How is that fair?

Where in this whole wide world could we search for justice and fairness?

Greeneries filled the horizon. That was indeed a decent place for eternal rest. A breeze brought along some wilted leaves in desolation.

It was rather quiet in the hospital at night. What occupied the silence was the mild flower scent besides the sound of breathing. The flowers soothed the pungent smell of antiseptics and added some colours to the ward, making it more lively.

It was no longer the freezing ice cold hospital nor the cold-blooded doctors.

A nurse measured Yan Huan's body temperature and then checked for other vital signs. Seeing that she was doing fine, the nurse moved on to the next bed where Yi Ling was sleeping on.

She insisted on taking care of Yan Huan by herself. No one could persuade her otherwise and even Little Lei was taken to the eldest aunt's house. The current household was not in good shape. Without harmony and laughter, it was not suitable for a child to live in for the time being.

Darkness devoured all the light outside. Despite a glimpse of light shimmering through the door cracks in the ward and the silhouette was vaguely visible, it was still pitch black.

Yi Ling already dozed off. She turned over to the other side, letting out a soft snore.

Meanwhile in this pitch black dark night, no one noticed that the emaciated patient who had been in deep slumber finally opened her eyes, staring blankly at the ceiling. She could not make out anything with her sight even though the light shone in her eyes.

She slowly sat up and pulled the blanket away. She put both her feet on the floor, stood up and wandered off like a discarnated spirit. Her eyes were lifeless. She was so thin that she could easily be blown away by the wind. Her pace was unstable, like she was going to fall down anytime.

### **Chapter 658: You Didn't Keep Your Promise**

Step by step, she walked out of the hospital, moving forward with her bare feet stepping on the ground. The light of the street lamps shone on her face, making her seem paler than usual.

Then, she stopped and raised her head to gaze at the starry sky ahead. The stars were reflected in her empty eyes.

She opened her mouth, but nothing came out except her breath. She did not even feel like talking.

She kept walking ahead, her thin body swaying in the dark, but she did not pause in her steps at all. The hospital gown that she was wearing was so thin and transparent. A chilly breeze blew past occasionally and ruffled her hair, making the messy strands fly up and down, again and again.

The breeze blew into her gown, but she felt nothing. It barely brushed across her cold eyes, under her long eyelashes. She was still moving forward as the breeze blew on her, as if the breeze was dragging her body along to move forward.

Meanwhile, it appeared like she was not walking, but floating in the air like a wandering spirit instead. Some men who harbored malicious intentions whistled at her.

"Hey, bro! Let's have some fun!"

"Yeah." The other man smiled obscenely and said, "She's out alone while wearing such revealing clothes in the middle of the night. She doesn't really look like a proper woman to me."

"If she isn't a proper woman, then what is she?" Another person grinned and asked.

"She must be a female ghost."

Those men, who were dressed roguishly, burst into laughter as the words settled. It was exceptionally ear-piercing in this peaceful night.

Of course, these men trailed behind the woman while whistling, planning to have some fun with her later.

However, they started to feel weird as they followed her further and further away. They could feel a gloomy and cold wind blowing on them continuously.

“Boss, I’m scared.” A man with a crew cut trembled, almost tucking his chin into his neck.

“What are you afraid of?” the boss snapped as he gave him a slap. What a loser! “She’s just a woman, what is there to be afraid of? This is a nice unpopulated place, which is a great place for us to do something.”

“But... You see...” The man with the crew cut reached out and pointed straight in front of him. “Boss, she’s really a female ghost!”

Someone let out a horrible shriek. The three words: ‘Sea River Cemetery’ came into view, under the eerie lighting.

Cemetery, graveyard, graveyard?

Right at this moment, the woman turned around as she heard the shriek. The wind blew her hair to the front of her face, blocking her face from their sight.

“Ah! Ghost!”

“Help, there’s a ghost!”

“Mommy, I want my mommy!”

The few of them were almost rolling and crawling while retreating out of this cursed place.

The moon cast a pale light onto the ground, and the moonlight dusted itself on the thinly clad woman. Again the wind blew, blowing off the hair on her face, revealing a pale face. Then, she turned around and walked into the cemetery.

There was still no shoes on her feet, yet she did not feel cold or pain as she stepped barefoot on the ground.

She walked along the gravel path, as though she was looking for something, but she could not find it. When she finally stopped, she kept her gaze fixed in front of her before walking over.

Right in front of her was a tombstone. It looked new, seemingly set up just a few days ago, as the surface was smooth and flat. The photo on the gravestone was faintly visible, it was a man who was still very young.

It was such a pity that he had died at such a young age.

She walked ahead and stood in front of the gravestone. She then reached out and wrapped her arms around the tombstone.

Husband Lu Yi, I’m here. She sat down and pressed her face on the cold gravestone, as if it was the only way for her to get closer with him.

She curled her body up into a ball beside the gravestone, with her arms still wrapped firmly around it. “There’s this Chinese legend about Liang Shanbo. Apparently, his grave blasted open out of a sudden and his lover, Zhu Yingtai, jumped inside without hesitation.”

“Why don’t you do so? I will jump inside as well. It’s okay even if we will turn into butterflies like they did in the legend. I don’t want to be separated from you. We didn’t have the opportunity to be together in our past life, but in this life, we are destined to be together. Despite that, it didn’t last long. Tell me, why is this so?”

“I’m sorry... It’s my fault.” She closed her eyes as tears rolled down her cheeks. “You told me not to go out, but I went out without heeding your warning. You told me that I shouldn’t have said it, but I did.”

“I should’ve believed, I should’ve believed it. Is it because of me knowing too much and changing fate too much that karma took you away in exchange?”

“But this is obviously my fault, not yours. What should I do? What should I do to get you back?”

She started to knock her head on the gravestone, again and again. The only thing she got from that action was pain and dizziness, instead of his familiar warmth.

His wide palms, his familiar body temperature, and the smell of freshly-washed cotton that always came with his presence was no longer here.

She pressed her face on the gravestone. All of a sudden, lightning flashed through the sky, followed by a roar of thunder. In spite of that, she remained motionless.

“You’ve promised me that you’ll let me die before you, so that I won’t have to suffer the agony of being apart from you.”

“You didn’t keep your promise.”

“You’ve promised me that you’ll arrange to bury our ashes together after I die.”

“You failed to do this too.”

“Why? Because you didn’t even leave single a bone behind.”

“You’ve promised that you’ll protect me forever, until the day you are no longer capable of doing so.”

“And you didn’t do it either.”

“Lu Yi, you are a liar, liar, liar...”

Again, the thunder roared, mingled with the sound of her crying herself hoarse.

“You are a liar!” She smashed her hands hard against the gravestone over and over, so hard that her hands were almost battered to a pulp.

“Lu Yi, I hate you. I hate you...”

Large raindrops began to fall again, pattering on her body. She could feel a blunt stinging sensation all over her body as she was pummeled by the rain, but the pain was nothing compared to the agony and bitter disappointment in her broken heart.

If this was the case, she would rather let them drain her of all her blood than suffer the agony of being apart forever.

Her shoulders trembled occasionally. She rolled her thinly clad body into a ball beside the gravestone, but her arms were still tightly around the gravestone.

The rain continued to pour. This autumn rain seemed to have brought back the torrential downpour on that day, but the Sea River was still calm and peaceful, as though nothing much had changed in everyone's lives. However, the whole world was turned upside down for some of them, and they had to live with that sorrow for the rest of their lives.

Lei Qingyi was sleeping soundly. Suddenly, the mobile phone that was sitting on the table next to him began to ring loudly.

He sat bolt upright in bed and grabbed his phone hurriedly. His phone was reachable 24/7, and it must be an emergency matter for someone to call him at this hour.

### **Chapter 659: Lost Her**

He took his mobile phone and placed it in front of him. His eyes were still sore from just waking up.

"Lingling, what's wrong?" Yi Ling had been with Yan Huan for a very long time now. He squinted his eyes in tiredness. He was not fully awake, but he shook himself up quickly. As if he got a shot of adrenaline, he was up and going in a blink of an eye.

"Don't panic, hold your tears. I'll be right over."

He put down his phone immediately and grabbed a shirt to wear. He had to look for his shoes in the mess and ran right out of the door, only to find that it was raining outside. He wanted to go back for an umbrella but worrying that he would not make it in time, he ran right into the rain instead.

It was around three o'clock after midnight and the rain was pouring heavily.

He drove speedily and from time to time his car wheels would splash water from puddles. The car's spotlights were a little dim, and it felt cold and lonely under the storm. Whether the weather was warm or cold, the spotlights shone regardless. They seemed to be playing around with one another, attracting moths toward them again and again.

He retracted his overflowing emotions and focused on driving. After half an hour, he arrived in front of the hospital and hurried inside.

Pushing through the doors, he saw that the once quiet patient room was almost brimming with people.

Once Yi Ling saw him, she ran over and hugged him immediately. She was already breathless from crying.

"Qingyi, what should I do? Huanhuan is missing, I've lost her. How could I be so stupid, how could I be sleeping? How could I have lost Huanhuan? How can I face her mother, how can I face Lu Yi, how can I ever face myself now?"

"Don't cry." Lei Qingyi patted Yi Ling's back in a comforting manner while his gaze fell on the empty sickbed before looking up at the solemn expressions of the people standing around.

Everyone looked grave and worried.

It was just hard to comprehend how she could have left. She could not have disappeared into thin air or been carried away. The only possibility was that she walked out herself. But how would that be possible? She had been unconscious for more than a month. Even if she had woken up suddenly, she would not have just vanished like that.

He led Yi Ling to sit as he asked the nurse, "Does the hospital have security cameras?"

The nurse nodded, "Yes we do."

"Bring me to the security room so I can investigate it."

Lei Qingyi opened the door to leave, but the nurse hesitated, "How can it be investigated?"

Lei Qingyi retrieved his identification from his pocket, "I am the head of Sea City's National Security Department. I have the authority to investigate this."

"Let me check with the dean." The nurse ran out quickly to look for the hospital's dean. After a while, the dean came over and accompanied Lei Qingyi into the security room.

After they retrieved all the security tapes, they went through the tapes bit by bit. It was like reliving the past and remembering memories.

"Pause right here."

Lei Qingyi gave the order and pointed at the top corner of the computer screen. In the scene on the computer, a long-haired woman was walking out of the hospital. It was unmistakably Yan Huan.

Yan Huan was conscious, but she had left on her own accord. Where could she have gone?

Lei Qingyi did not dare imagine where a patient like her could go. The security camera footage stopped at the hospital gate. They only knew that she had walked right ahead along the road.

Lei Qingyi took out his mobile phone and ordered investigations on all the security cameras nearby. He had to find out where she went.

Ye Shuyun, Lu Jin and the Ye family arrived not long after.

"Qingyi, where in the world is our Huanhuan?"

Ye Shuyun had cried all the way there. She should not have gone back today, she should have stayed with her. It had just been seven days since her son's passing. Was Huanhuan going to leave her parents alone too?

"Aunt, don't be so anxious first." Lei Qingyi felt like he was tied up with so many things at that moment.

"Yan Huan left by herself, no one abducted her."

"By herself?" Ye Shuyun's eyes widened, "You mean Huanhuan woke up and left alone."

"Yes." Lei Qingyi nodded and replied confidently, "From the security cameras, that seems to be the case."

"But how was she able to leave? Where is she now? It's raining so heavily outside..."

Lei Qingyi had no answers to all these questions. How would he have known where Yan Huan went, how would he have known where she was right now? No one had expected that she would wake up all of a sudden and left mysteriously after she gained consciousness. No one would know her exact location now.

What worried Lei Qingyi the most was that Yan Huan could seek death herself.

So, he had secretly ordered men to check by the Sea River.

The raindrops splattered randomly on the glass windows as the rain pitter-pattered occasionally. It showed how heavy the rain was outside. With a loud crash, a gust of wind blew the window open. Cold air and rain fell on them.

Involuntarily, Lei Qingyi shuddered.

So cold.

It is indeed cold.

Where on earth would Yan Huan have gone, dressed in her thin patient's gown?

No one could sit still now. Lei Qingyi wanted everyone to remain and wait for news, but no one could wait even for a second. A few people started driving around to look for her. Meanwhile, Lei Qingyi had sent quite a number of men around to review the security cameras of various places but even after some time, they returned without much findings. They only knew that Yan Huan had left the hospital and crossed a few crossroads. But no one knew which direction she had picked as there was no further news or sightings of her after that.

The security feed from the Sea River had been retrieved too. Up until now, there was no sign of Yan Huan. So, it was confirmed that she did not go to the Sea River. This made Lei Qingyi sigh in relief.

But it was only one sigh of relief, because the Sea River was where Yan Huan was most likely to appear. The river was not any other place, it was the turning point of her life. Her life and death started from the river.

Usually when people encountered incidents like that, the Sea River would naturally be the first place they would think of.

Of course, it was possible that she might have other plans. But it was also possible that she would return to the Sea River eventually.

Lei Qingyi revisited all the places he could think of. He even went along the road she had walked by. He searched for her meticulously, not missing any blind spots. This was the Sea City, even after midnight there were still all sorts of cars around, and there were a number of moving vehicles around the major roads. Even on a rainy night like this, the traffic did not stop.

### **Chapter 660: The Ghost of a Woman**

The rain lasted from the day before till the next morning, without pausing or dwindling. It washed away the dust in the air and brought a cool, fresh breeze.

As the days got colder, people started wearing thicker clothes on their way to work. Some even donned cotton-padded clothes. More cars were appearing on the roads. Meanwhile, in the Lu Estate, Ye Shuyun was holding onto Lu Jin's sleeves, so weary that she couldn't get her fingers to work.

Lei Qingyi pulled Lu Jin closer and whispered,

"Uncle, we can't let Aunt go on like this. Should we get Doctor He to give her a prescription?" Ye Shuyun was tense like a taut bowstring these days. If that string snaps, it won't be long till her body collapse as well. That would be too much of a blow for any of them, in their current state.

"Forget it," sighed Lu Jin. "I have even thought about knocking her out myself. But what good will that do? She will eventually wake up, and blame herself whether we find Yan Huan or not. The pressure is crushing her, but if we stop her now, she would drive others crazy before going crazy herself. Let her join the search and do something on her part. When we have done what we could, we can only leave the rest to fate."

It was nearly morning, yet they found nothing so far. Lei Qingyi had even dispatched a few police units to aid the search. It was as though she had vanished from the surface of earth. Could she have jumped into the sea? Why weren't they finding anything?

Just as everyone was at their wit's end, the phone in his pocket rang. He quickly answered, hoping for good news.

"What is it? Did you all find her?" he asked in a tone of marked anxiety.

"No, sir," said the man, before pausing to shout a warning to the hooligans before him. "But we found a few shady hooligans, and they are insisting that they'd witnessed a ghost. I find them pretty suspicious. Would you like to come down to the station and interrogate them?"

"These things can wait until I'm free," said Lei Qingyi. He didn't have time for such trivial cases before he finds Yan Huan.

"Wait," said the policeman anxiously, "Don't hang up yet. There's more to this."

"Go on," said Lei Qingyi, walking to the side with his phone. "I'm listening."

"You've to come down and interrogate them," insisted the policeman. "They were loitering around this area yesterday. Men with criminal histories of harassing single woman."

Lei Qingyi's heart skipped a beat.

"I'm coming over. Keep them there."

He hung up, grabbed his keys and rushed outside. What should he do? This was his worst fear. If Yan Huan had been violated...

How does he answer to Lu Yi?

He had no answers. Even death wouldn't be enough to offer as an explanation. He drove the fastest his car could go, and arrived swiftly in ten minutes.

“Are these the ones?” asked Lei Qingyi. The young hooligans winced at the size of him, a two-meters tall man bear. Good lord, he’s not going to get rough, is he? How could their bony limbs endure the blows from such a brute?

“Yes, sir. These are the ones.”

The youngsters shuddered and cowered as Lei Qingyi’s eyes roved around them.

“You,” Lei Qingyi pointed at one of them at random. “Come here. The blonde one.”

“Me?” whimpered the hooligan as he pointed to himself. The others nodded along. He was the only one among them who had dyed his hair blonde.

The rest of the gang secretly rejoiced at not having dyed their hair yellow.

He’s gonna get beaten to a pulp, isn’t he?

They silently prayed for their fallen brother.

Good luck, brother. It’s not that we don’t want to help you, but as you can see, the enemy is too powerful to be opposed. Rest in peace.

The blonde hooligan walked before Lei Qingyi in shaky steps. He looked up, only to meet Lei Qingyi’s chest at eye level. Oh momma, how tall is this guy? And who is he? A basketball player?

“Follow me,” Lei Qingyi turned and walked towards the door. Behind him, the blonde hooligan dragged his steps reluctantly. By the time Lei Qingyi reached the door, the blonde hooligan was still far behind.

Lei Qingyi bristled when he turned and saw the blonde hooligan moving at turtle speed.

“You better get your ass over here before I hurt you real bad,” he warned.

Taken aback, cold sweat beaded and streamed down the blonde hooligan’s forehead.

After much effort, he finally made his way to the day, but balked at the thought of entering it.

He turned back and glanced at his buddies, who promptly turned away in planned coordination, paying him no heed at all. His eyes darted about, thinking of a way to save his own skin.

He still had some savings. He wondered if that would do him some good here.

What did the big pervert want from him? Could it be that he had fallen for his good looks and wants to...? No, no, please. He didn’t swing that way. Anything but that.

Impatient, Lei Qingyi gave him a hard kick in the ass, sending him reeling and plunging face-first into the ground.

“Get up,” he grunted as he held back the temptation to plant his boot in him again. “I’m not in a good mood right now, so you best behave.”

The blonde guy got up quickly, too scared to even breathe loudly.

Annoyed, Lei Qingyi picked him up by the collar, carried him into the room, and flung him onto the ground. There was no need for courtesy when dealing with scums like this. They won't learn until they spend a few years rotting in jail.

He walked beside him and squatted down. His piercing eyes narrowed threateningly. Shivering, the blonde guy was only a step away from crying for his mommy.