

You Owe Me, My Love Chapter 191

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From her provocative and resentful gaze, Bai Rong could tell that she would definitely be sad if she saw the photos in the album.

Since she would be sad, why would she still look at them?

Knowing how to refuse was an important lesson in life.

Bai Rong placed her phone aside and asked with a smile, "Aren't you here for consultation? Tell me about your symptoms."

"My man doesn't love me." Su Wanning smiled coldly and looked straight at Bai Rong. "He loves a dead woman."

Bai Rong understood it clearly now. Hence, when Su Wanning told her that, she was not very surprised.

"And then?" Asked Bai Rong without blinking.

"He has a secret room which I entered secretly once. It was filled with pictures and belongings of that dead woman. She had already died for many years. Despite waiting for him for so long, I can't even get him to look at me. I'm not willing to accept this." Su Wanning exclaimed agitatedly as she glared at Bai Rong.

"You've lost a man who doesn't love you. But he'll be losing a woman who loves him. You've wasted more than ten years of your youth. It's meaningless to waste it further."

"Without him, it'd be a pleasant day for you each day. You can meet a lot of outstanding men and do things that you've always wanted to."

"Yet, with him, all your days would be gloomy. You'd complain, you'd be depressed, you'd be reluctant and mired in denial. Giving up is also being kind to yourself." Bai Rong said gently, as if she was talking to her actual patient.

"What I want most is to be with him. I'm not interested in other men at all." Su Wanning replied with a cold expression.

"That might be what he's thinking too. However, not all things will go as you wish and that's the most tormenting part. You need to adjust your own mental state. The therapist will only tell you how, but no one can force you to do it. You need to be the one forcing it upon yourself."

"It's easy for you to talk. What if it's you? If your fiancé or your husband is in love with a dead woman; if he is constantly obsessed with her, what would you do?" Su Wanning stared at Bai Rong fixedly.

"No matter how sad I am; no matter how unwilling I am to concede defeat; and no matter how indignant I feel, I'll chase this man out of my heart. Since he doesn't love me, why do I have to love him? If I'll never enter his heart, I'd rather leave a man who'd only break my heart." Bai Rong said plainly.

"Can you do it?" Su Wanning's eyes reddened.

"Why do you think I went to study overseas?" Bai Rong threw the question back to her.

"Then why did you return?" Su Wanning pointed at the ground resentfully.

"Because... I'm already immune to love." Bai Rong stated clearly as she side-eyed Su Wanning and smiled.

"I remember that when I met you three years ago, you were arrogant and mean, but also youthful and pretty. You'd make one's eyes light up and be the most dazzling person in a crowd. What about you now?"

"Your face is sallow, perhaps because of poor skincare or your abuse of cigarettes and alcohol to counter your foul mood. Wrinkles have crept onto the corners of your eyes. You've started growing pimples and speckles. With such a sickly look, you look like a woman suffering from domestic troubles. Are all these worth it for a man who doesn't love you back?" Bai Rong asked.

"Are you saying it so lightly because you have never gotten the man you love?" Su Wanning asked angrily.

"Do you think I've never loved Su Xuyan? I loved him very much. Even when I discovered that he hired men to kidnap me, I still married him without any hesitations. Why else do you think I'd married him?" Bai Rong asked with a smile as a misty look shrouded her eyes.

Su Wanning looked at Bai Rong fixedly.

Although she was not clear about what happened between Bai Rong and Su Xuyan, she knew Su Xuyan had a lot of girlfriends.

She even wondered who would be so unlucky to marry the man. It would be like marrying a common property.

She then discovered that Bai Rong had married Su Xuyan.

In an instant, all her previous fury disappeared. She lowered her head and tears flowed out from her eyes.

For such a proud and stubborn girl to cry in front of her love rival, it was either she had completely broken down, or she was being extremely brave.

“There are different kinds of love in this world, Kinship, friendship and romantic love. 80% of people don’t have romantic love, friendship or even kinship.”

“They might fall out of love with their lovers; Their friends do not truly care for them and they only became casual friends due to a common interest or enemy. This friendship can be broken anytime.”

“Because they spent too much time focusing on love, they have less energy to spend on other areas. It’ll still be fine if two parents only have a child. If they have many children, it is unavoidable to be more intimate with some children, and less with others. Some will be resentful, some will complain, and some will even hate them.”

“Su Wanning, you’re actually very lucky to have parents who love you and a brother who adores you. The only mistake you made is loving a man who will never love you back. Is it worth hurting your loved ones, your friends and yourself for such a man?” Bai Rong asked gently.

By then, tears were streaming down Su Wanning’s face. She lifted her head and looked at Bai Rong pleadingly. “How should I walk out of this? Teach me, Bai Rong.”

“One’s life is really short. You need to look within your heart. If I give you fifty years, can you make Gu Mingchen look back at you?” Bai Rong asked cruelly.

Su Wanning shook her head. “It’s impossible. There’s only the dead Zhou Hailan in his heart.”

“The average life expectancy of our citizens is 72 years old. You’re probably 30 this year so you have 42 years left.”

“You had a crush on Gu Mingchen since a long time ago, so you have never truly enjoyed love nor have been adored by a man who’s not your relative. Su Wanning, forget about the past and find yourself a good relationship. If you can’t find a man whom you love the most, find a man who loves you the most.” When she said this, Bai Rong’s eyes reddened.

She was actually speaking to herself.

"I, I..." Su Wanning frowned tightly and found it difficult to speak. She wiped her tears away, glanced at Bai Rong and said after mustering up her courage, "I have syphilis."

"It's not incurable. If you cherish yourself and others, find a man who loves you, and take necessary actions, you can cure yourself slowly. It'll be like curing your heart. Everything'll be fine," Bai Rong said lightly. For some reason, her tears flowed out too.

Su Wanning and her were in the same boat. They both loved a man who only loved a dead woman.

When she was treating Su Wanning, she had also found a way to cure herself.

She should find a man who loved and cherished her. At the same time, she should cherish others and cure her lost and broken heart slowly...

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After Su Wanning left, Bai Rong needed to calm herself down.

She picked up a cup of tea and stood by the window, looking at the passersby walking past.

Some were smiling brightly and cheerfully while others were pale and had a gloomy face. There were also those whose expressions were indifferent, as if they had concealed all their emotions.

She had seen all kinds of people, with different expressions, moods and mental states.

Perhaps, this was life.

Everyone who arrived in this world was lucky. God gave them a chance to experience life.

In life, the ups and downs, happiness, sorrows, worries and leisure were fleeting.

People who were easily satisfied could feel blissful after eating a meat bun.

Those who were not would become unhappy even when sitting behind a table full of food, wondering if there was something missing.

She should discard all her emotions and desires to not feel exhausted.

One must lose something in order to gain another.

Even if she had missed Gu Mingchen, she might meet another good man in the future.

Perhaps it was really time to give up.

Her phone rang.

When she saw that it was from Gu Mingchen, she picked the call up calmly.

“Bai Rong, do you think it’s easier to ask the chief for help or your boyfriend?” Gu Mingchen asked in a deep voice.

Bai Rong was in a daze.

His words almost messed up her mind and affected her decision.

She remained silent for a while. “One should know one’s limits. I know that we don’t belong in the same world.”

“Then why did you call me?” Gu Mingchen hung up the call unhappily.

Bai Rong was speechless.

It was good that he hung the call up on his own accord. Otherwise, her subsequent words might not be so pleasant.

Bai Rong kept her phone into her bag and walked to the entrance of Mu Xiaosheng’s office. She knocked on the door and entered.

Mu Xiaosheng stood in front of the whiteboard anxiously. When he noticed Bai Rong entering, it was like he had seen a ray of hope. “Come, come! Help me analyze this. Who killed Tony? Deputy Commander Su wants me to solve the case within three days. How is that possible?”

Bai Rong scanned the whiteboard. “Is Su Wanning a suspect?”

“She does have a motive to kill Tony because she contracted syphilis from him. The woman even said that she wanted to kill him. But after thinking through it, she felt that it was not worth it, so she let him go.”

"When did she let Tony leave? When did he die and when did he meet anyone in between?" Bai Rong asked.

"There's no news from the forensic department yet. Do you know Chen Jing Apartment? Su Wanning rented a serviced apartment there so that it was convenient for her to date. Tony went there at 10 p.m.. The weird thing is that there was no recording that showed Tony leaving Su Wanning's room. However, the cleaner discovered his corpse in a public toilet at 5 a.m. the next day." Mu Xiaosheng said, feeling perplexed.

"Let the policemen search Su Wanning's room and see if there are any traces of blood on the floor. You can also ask Su Wanning if she actually saw Tony leave her room. Plus, you should go to the police station instead of staying in your office. They can obtain the information from the forensic department immediately and explain the details to you. It'll help you solve the case." Bai Rong said with a smile.

"I'll go to the police station later. The forensic department's report should be out soon." Mu Xiaosheng threw his pen down.

"Xiaosheng, if I want to test some DNA or compare fingerprints, do you know anyone who can be of help?" Bai Rong asked.

"If I do, do I still need to wait for the results from the forensic department? I've already told them to pass it to me within one hour but it's been such a long time already." Mu Xiaosheng said in irritation.

Bai Rong thought that he made sense. After all, they needed to follow the standard procedures. Unless...

She thought of Gu Mingchen again.

An idea crossed Bai Rong's mind and she went to visit Liu Yan.

Liu Yan was playing a game. When she saw Bai Rong walk over, her gaze was still glued to the computer screen. "Are you off work? Wait for a moment, I'll be done soon."

"Okay." Bai Rong sat on the sofa.

Her phone rang and the call was from Gu Mingchen.

After a short moment of hesitation, she picked the call up but did not speak.

Gu Mingchen remained silent too.

Bai Rong waited for a while. "If there's nothing, I'll hang up first."

"I squeezed some time out at night. Do you want to continue from where we stopped at lunch? You still owe me a meal." Gu Mingchen said in a deep voice.

Bai Rong glanced at Liu Yan. "Do you know where Liu Yan is staying outside the military base?"

"Yup, I know. Why?"

"I'll cook." Bai Rong invited him over.

"Okay. I'll reach at around 7 p.m.."

When Bai Rong hung up the call, Liu Yan was already standing in front of her and she teased, "Who're you inviting for dinner? Is it your new boyfriend?"

"It's Gu Mingchen. Don't go away this time." Bai Rong stood up and grabbed Liu Yan's arm. "Let's go and make a report at the police station first. I'll say that I was raped and give them the condom. The policeman will go through the standard procedures and they can probably catch the culprit quickly."

Liu Yan was completely stunned. "You're together with Gu Mingchen again? Also, it'll be damaging to your reputation if you make a police report. Never mind, I'll just pretend to have been bitten by a dog. Anyway, it's not my first time being bitten. It's fine as long as I don't get sick. I'll just treat it as a passing incident."

"I don't care about my reputation. We can't let the culprit escape scot-free."

"Nah. If you are caught to be falsely accusing someone, you might be jailed. Forget about it. It's always better to deal with one less thing. If I don't say anything, it won't affect my marriage prospects. If I make a huge fuss, I'll become a joke in the military base and it might drag my parents into this mess. Tell me about you and Gu Mingchen. What happened?" Asked Liu Yan worriedly.

"There's nothing between us. I owe him a favor in the past so I'm treating him to a meal. We'll owe each other nothing then." Bai Rong said indifferently.

"You must consider carefully. Gu Mingchen's family will not accept you. It's so hard for you to have a stable life now. If you want to risk your life to date him, it's not worth it." Liu Yan reminded her friend.

"I know what to do. Don't worry." Bai Rong said with a smile.

She went to buy pork ribs, winter melon, sword beans, shredded meat, tomatoes, eggs, peppers and beef tenderloin, then.

After a while, all the ingredients had been transformed into pepper and beef tenderloin, fried egg with tomatoes, sword bean and shredded meat, as well as winter melon and pork ribs soup.

Gu Mingchen arrived punctually and brought roses and red wine. He had changed out of his military uniform and was standing there in a straight posture, wearing a black suit which exuded a forbidding aura.

When Liu Yan saw Gu Mingchen, she was still a bit scared. She stood up nervously and shouted respectfully, "Chief."

Gu Mingchen nodded. Passing the rose to Bai Rong, he said in a deep voice, "Follow me to a place after dinner. When we reach there, you can tell me your final decision. No matter what it is, I'll respect it."

Bai Rong paused. She had a feeling that Gu Mingchen knew what she was going to say.

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Bai Rong ate with a heavy heart, sneaking glances at Gu Mingchen once in a while.

He ate his meal slowly and politely. When he side-eyed Bai Rong, his gaze met hers.

Slightly guilty to have been discovered, Bai Rong flickered her glistening eyes away.

He picked up a piece of pork ribs and placed it into her bowl.

"Eat up, you're too skinny. You're gonna have a hard time giving birth to a baby." Gu Mingchen said in a serious tone.

Bai Rong blushed.

Giving birth to a baby?

What is he thinking about?

Liu Yan glanced at Gu Mingchen suspiciously, moved her gaze to her friend, then back to the man again.

He was still looking at Bai Rong as if she was his entire world.

Did they get back together even after he had lost his memory due to love?

“Chief, do you like Rong?” Liu Yan asked straightforwardly.

Bai Rong was unnerved as she gripped her chopsticks and lowered her head, pretending to be nonchalant about his answer.

Just when she thought that he would not answer, he replied, “Yes.”

Bai Rong’s hand was trembling.

Liu Yan held onto Bai Rong’s hand and looked at Gu Mingchen. “What if your parents oppose it? Your family is privileged, while Bai Rong has nothing.”

“With my current status, no one can restrict my freedom to marrying anyone.” Gu Mingchen promised.

Liu Yan laughed and looked at Bai Rong.

However, she discovered that her friend’s expression was gloomy, without any hint of happiness.

“Then, when do you intend to marry Bai Rong? Although you have lost your memory, she hasn’t. Both of you had dated in the past, so you should take responsibility for Rong.” Liu Yan pressed on.

“Yan.” Bai Rong interrupted. “I don’t need anyone to take responsibility for me.”

When Liu Yan noticed that Bai Rong got angry, she immediately shut up.

“I’ll take responsibility.” Gu Mingchen promised Bai Rong.

The latter smiled. However, her smile was superficial and there was a hint of mysteriousness in her eyes that he could not discern. “Does Chief Gu think that I can’t survive on my own, or that I can’t find a boyfriend?”

Without you taking responsibility for me, I can lead a great life and find a man who likes me. You should only take responsibility for weaklings and I'm not one."

Gu Mingchen's gaze darkened and his tone became unhappy. "Who do you want to find?"

Upon seeing how Gu Mingchen was about to get angry, Liu Yan explained hurriedly, "Bai Rong's not trying to find someone else. She meant that even if you don't want her, she can still find herself a boyfriend."

"Did I say that I don't want you?" Gu Mingchen stared at Bai Rong fixedly.

"I don't need you." Replied Bai Rong.

"You just don't want me, right?" Gu Mingchen slammed his chopsticks down and strode out of Liu Yan's house briskly.

Liu Yan looked at the angry man then at Bai Rong. She said anxiously, "What are you doing? Wasn't the atmosphere nice earlier? Although Gu Mingchen is mean and tough, he is a man of his word. If he says that he will be responsible for you, he definitely will. Rong, I think that you are at fault here."

"Yan, I know what I'm doing." Said Bai Rong rationally.

"If you do this, you'll push him far away." Liu Yan rushed to the window anxiously and saw Gu Mingchen smoking under the streetlamps. "Rong, he hasn't left yet. You can still make it in time if you chase after him now."

"If someone can be pushed away easily, do you think that relationship can last? Never mind, I'll wash the dishes." Bai Rong carried the bowls to the sink.

Her phone rang.

Seeing that it was from Mu Xiaosheng, she picked up the call. "What's wrong?"

"Have you eaten dinner?" Mu Xiaosheng asked.

"Yes and I'm washing the dishes now. Why?" Bai Rong was puzzled.

"Do you want to have supper together? The crayfish is in season now. I'll treat you to it! Haha!" Mu Xiaosheng invited Bai Rong enthusiastically.

"Tell me what exactly is going on. You don't have to beat around the bush with me." Bai Rong was already getting impatient.

Mu Xiaosheng frowned and said softly, "Someone froze my case. He wants me to invite you out."

"Who?" Bai Rong was still confused.

"Your ex-husband." Mu Xiaosheng said apologetically.

Bai Rong paused.

Su Xuyan snatched Mu Xiaosheng's phone and said, "Rong."

"Threats, lures and coercion. It's been so many years, yet you haven't changed at all." Bai Rong said mockingly as she smirked.

"I want to meet you, but I'm scared that you won't come out. I might have good news for you after a few days." Su Xuyan said gently.

"If I don't come out, will you blacklist Mu Xiaosheng?" Bai Rong asked coldly.

"That's not my objective. I just want to meet you."

"Then don't blacklist him. Since it's too late tonight, I'll treat you to a meal tomorrow afternoon." Bai Rong replied coolly.

With her understanding of Su Xuyan, she knew he was a man who would not give up unless he had reached his goal. No matter what, she would still have to meet him.

However, she was a bit exhausted today and her feelings were all over the place. Although she looked fine on the surface, her heart was heavy, as if something was weighing it down.

"Okay, see you tomorrow. I'll pick you up from the research institute tomorrow. Good night." Su Xuyan said gently.

Bai Rong hung up the call, placed the bowl back into the shelf and turned around.

Liu Yan was standing at the entrance, looking at her worriedly. "Let me tell you what I think. Su Xuyan has turned over a new leaf. In the three years you were gone, he did not enter any relationships and was uninterested in other women. He's waiting for you to return single-mindedly."

"On the other hand, Gu Mingchen seems so unreachable. And he's too quiet and poor at talking. The key point is that he lost his memory. If he hadn't, he might be a good candidate. After all, his parents cannot influence his decisions anymore."

Bai Rong lowered her eyes.

She remembered what Leng Qiuzun said about Su Xuyan. Tomorrow was a good time for her to clarify with him clearly.

"I'll just follow the flow. Plans can never catch up to how fast things change. The world won't become what we wish for it to become. It feels more at ease to just take one step at a time and admire the scenery along the way." Bai Rong smiled.

"Rong, I think you're different from the past. You used to be quite petty in the past, but you seem so open-minded and unburdened now." Liu Yan said admiringly.

"I'm still very petty. The thing is, at least I know what I'm splitting hairs about. With that knowledge, if I cannot convince myself to stop being petty, I'll just give up struggling." Bai Rong shrugged. "I'm going to leave. Otherwise, it's going to be late."

Liu Yan hugged Bai Rong. "Move here and stay with me. Don't you find it expensive to stay in a hotel?"

Bai Rong flicked Liu Yan's nose. "You stay in the military base six days a week. I'll be so lonely here. There are a lot of people in the hotel and it's near my workplace too. With my current salary, I can afford to stay in a hotel easily."

"Alright, then. I'll visit you during my holidays."

"Okay." Bai Rong agreed with a smile.

When she left via the staircase, someone grabbed her arm suddenly.

It was Gu Mingchen who was tugging her. She did not expect that the chief had not left yet.

"What are you doing?" Bai Rong asked, feeling puzzled.

"You'll know after you follow me to a place." He pulled her into the car, frowned and drove her away quickly...

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Bai Rong had no inkling of where he was taking her.

Anyway, Gu Mingchen could not force her to do anything.

“How long more before we can reach?” Bai Rong asked as she looked at the pitch-black sky outside.

“Around one and a half hours.” Gu Mingchen replied.

“Wake me up when we arrive.” She leaned against the seat and closed her eyes.

Gu Mingchen took off his suit and draped it over her body.

As Bai Rong had not slept yet, she could smell the faint tobacco smell on his clothes.

Had he been smoking the entire time?

She did not like the smell of tobacco so she opened her eyes and looked at him.

Three years had passed and Gu Mingchen grew more mature, introverted and quiet. However, he could still give others a sense of security. Perhaps, this was a soldier’s unique characteristic.

“Don’t smoke in the future. It’s not good for your body.” Bai Rong said gently.

“I didn’t like to smoke in the past. I’ve been losing sleep during the past three years and my state of mind isn’t that good. I’m facing a lot of pressure at work too, so I’ve been smoking a lot, so much that it has already become a habit. Keep an eye on me in the future.” Gu Mingchen said seriously.

Bai Rong turned her head away and faced the window quietly, looking at their reflections on the window.

“Chief, can I give you a psychological test?” Bai Rong asked gently.

“Sure. Go ahead.”

"If you're watching a horror movie, where do you think the ghost would appear? 1. Lift; 2. Toilet; 3. Under the table; 4. Storage closet." After asking, Bai Rong looked at Gu Mingchen.

"I never watch horror movies and I don't believe that ghosts exist." Gu Mingchen replied in a deep voice.

Bai Rong was speechless.

"Let me change the question. Suppose you're walking on the streets one day and you see someone almost getting knocked over. Do you hope that the person is a 1. Woman; 2. Man; 3. Child; or 4. Elderly? Choose." Bai Rong was slightly mad as he was not cooperating at all.

"What does the person have anything to do with me?" Gu Mingchen asked confusedly.

Deciding to ignore him, Bai Rong swiveled her head away.

Gu Mingchen frowned. "If I had to choose, I'll hope that he's a man."

Bai Rong understood and nodded. "Okay, I know now."

"What do you know? Can you tell me the results?" Gu Mingchen asked.

"People who choose the second option are strong and courageous. They do things efficiently and directly. Although they're rational, they shun trouble too. It's also very difficult for them to be tempted outside external temptations. This type of people have their own goals and ideas, and are relatively more mature. They're... the ideal type of spouses." Bai Rong was reluctant to say the last sentence.

Gu Mingchen smiled. His smile was very light and almost unnoticeable. "Do you know why I chose the second option?"

"Why?"

"The elderly person is too old. Even if he had barely avoided the collision, his blood pressure will still rise and his heart might not be able to take it."

"The child is too young and might be traumatized after being shocked."

"Women are too troublesome."

"If the man is agile enough to evade it, then they'll probably brush this incident behind them." Gu Mingchen analyzed.

"I think you are prejudiced against women. How are women troublesome?" Bai Rong asked persistently.

"If the woman was almost hit, she would definitely call her boyfriend to complain and might even start an argument with the driver."

"Gu Mingchen, so you didn't have a girlfriend for so many years because you're scared of trouble?" Bai Rong interrupted. "If the person is me, do you think I'll call and complain to you, or argue with the driver?"

"That's why I understood why I liked you in the past." Gu Mingchen said directly, looking at Bai Rong with a passionate gaze.

Bai Rong's heart trembled. His eyes made her especially uncomfortable. "Look in front when you drive."

"Okay." Gu Mingchen answered.

Bai Rong lowered her eyes.

Women were weird because even when they knew that the other person loved another woman, they would still probe persistently to prove that the person loved them instead.

Because of this meagre hope, they would take pity, surrender, or even think they could replace the woman in his heart.

However, the reality was that the human heart was the hardest thing to control in this world. If it was too near, people would naturally shun away from it. However, if it was too far, it would be neglected. The most ideal position was somewhere in between.

However, no one could control it.

Bai Rong's heart ached and tears started to brim in her eyes. Not wanting to cry in front of Gu Mingchen, she forced herself to stop overthinking.

Sometimes, it was painful to understand things too clearly.

Ignorance, arrogance and foolishness were sometimes the key to happiness.

For example, children were happy because they were unconcerned, forgetful and could not understand many things clearly.

Unknowingly, they arrived at Gu Mingchen's military base.

When the soldiers saw that it was his car, they saluted him. However, people would need to check them at the second checkpoint.

This was part of Gu Mingchen's strict requirements for his own military base.

After the check, the soldiers saluted him again.

Bai Rong had gone to his military base three years ago. There had been a lot of changes since the previous time, with a couple more buildings being constructed.

However, the chief still lived in the same place.

She followed him to the basement and suddenly recalled the secret room that Su Wanning mentioned.

Although she did not reveal it on her face, her heart was aching. The closer she approached the door, the more she was reluctant to walk forward.

"Why did you bring me here?" Bai Rong stopped in her tracks.

Gu Mingchen did not force her to proceed any further and just pushed open the door to the secret room.

Subconsciously, Bai Rong stepped in. The first thing that entered her eyes was the room full of pictures. She looked at Gu Mingchen in surprise and her hands were trembling in nervousness.

Holding her hand reassuringly, Gu Mingchen led her into the room.

The secret room was completely filled with pictures of her. Some were dug out from her social media page, while others had been secretly taken by him.

"I hung these pictures up this afternoon." Gu Mingchen explained in a deep voice as he picked up a red jewelry box from the table.

Bai Rong glanced at the jewelry box and examined the man.

He looked at her with his brooding eyes, as serious as usual. But there was a flash of pain surging through his eyes that would make one's heart ache.

"Three years ago, when I woke up in the operating theatre, all I could think of was the huge fire during a mission from a long time ago. In the mission, everyone I led perished and only a spy survived. My girlfriend, Zhou Hailan, was amongst the deceased."

“You were not in my memories at all. From that day onwards, I kept dreaming about a weeping girl. She kept shouting, ‘Where are you, Gu Mingchen?’ I thought the girl was Zhou Hailan as I had zero impressions of you back then. I’m sorry to have forgotten about you.” Gu Mingchen said.

Bai Rong spun her head away.

That memory was too painful. As she recalled it, her face was already streaming with tears.

“It was until I met you around three years ago. Somehow, you felt familiar, so I went around to find out more about you. Your past seemed to have been wiped clean deliberately. I even visited you at your school a few times. As time passed, I believed more strongly that the weeping girl looking for me is you, Bai Rong.”

Gu Mingchen opened the jewelry box and a diamond ring rested within. “I love you. Marry me. You’ll be responsible for my life in the future.”

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All women had a soft side within them.

Whenever they had an argument with their boyfriend, they always hoped that the latter would become what they had desired; Whenever a quarrel broke out, it was not because they longed for a breakup, but they hoped to know their standings in their other half.

The same applied to her as well.

She did not mind her other half being poor, having no authority, or was not good-looking. As long as he cared for her, she would follow him to the end of the world and would be willing to sacrifice without feeling a sense of grievance.

What worried her more was that her other half would not be bothered about her and that would leave her feeling in a grievance.

Bai Rong wished to give herself a final chance, as she was determined to give everything she had in the name of love.

She pointed to his heart with her index finger, “Am I here, right in this place?”

“Yes.” Gu Mingchen said with a resonant voice as he stared at her.

"Can I fill up the spot that Zhou Hailan once occupied in your heart?" Bai Rong asked with her reddened eyes.

"I'm working on it." Gu Mingchen said with a deep voice.

"Alright, then I'll agree to marry you. From now onwards, as long as you do not betray me, no matter how much hardship I've to endure in life, I'll be willing to stay by your side." Bai Rong was determined.

The man got down to one of his knees. "Let's go get our marriage certificate tomorrow."

One could not easily divorce if they were married to a soldier.

There would be no turning back once the marriage settled in.

Suddenly, Bai Rong was hesitant as a chilly sensation was felt around her ring finger.

Gu Mingchen reached out to her hand and put on the ring. His head lowered and kissed her on the forehead, "You've already agreed to it, so please do not ever say you're going to divorce me and I will do the same thing as well."

"Alright." Bai Rong choked as she promised while tears came strolling down her face.

Gu Mingchen kissed her teary face, all the way down to her soft lips.

Bai Rong shut her eyes tightly and kissed him back as well.

As time passed by, Gu Mingchen's breathing became much labored while her breathing rate became erratic as well.

He held her in his arms and came to a long table. Spreading out his big palms, he loosened the buttons on her jeans and removed her underpants before placing it on the chair.

Bai Rong could sense his strong and warm presence. She felt helpless as she slowly dropped down.

Gu Mingchen grabbed onto her shoulders, supporting her whole weight, and took his own sweet time.

The woman's vision slowly got blurry as she grasped onto his shoulders. He placed his lips on hers just when she was about to scream, silencing her as he continued kissing her madly.

Bai Rong's mind wandered to another dimension as she allowed him to continue kissing.

After a minute, he placed her on top of a table. With his five senses, he paid full attention to appreciating her scent.

"Rong, let's make a baby." Gu Mingchen said.

Bai Rong came back to her senses as she glanced at him with a sexy and mesmerizing look.

She was still on her pills and was not allowed to conceive.

It would have to wait for three more months after she stopped taking her pills.

However, would her insomniac issue be solved if she were to stop taking her pills?

He reached out to her in a confused state as he could feel the tightness around his belly, as though it was filled with explosiveness that was about to explode. Nevertheless, he remained calm and kissed her on the forehead, gently and said, "Stay here tonight."

"Alright." Bai Rong answered.

He placed his shirt around her.

The chief's shirt was extremely huge for her and could even be worn as a dress.

He carried her into his room and put her into a filled-bathtub. The gentleman then bathed her.

Something struck Bai Rong's mind, "I think I can't stay over as my clothes are still in the hotel."

Gu Mingchen was showering when she spoke, "You don't have to worry about that. I'll have someone to go over to get your luggage here. Tomorrow, after we have collected our marriage certificate, I'll buy a house near your workplace as our marriage home. You can decide if you want to buy a house that has already been renovated. As for the furniture, I'll accompany you to go buy it once I'm free."

Bai Rong felt a pinch in her heart.

He was still so meticulous and would get everything well organized.

"Let's have a house that has not been renovated yet. What kind of style would you like to have for the renovation?" Bai Rong asked.

Gu Mingchen was done showering and brushed his teeth as he placed a towel around his waist and kissed Bai Rong on her forehead, "Anything as long as you like it. Don't soak yourself too long in the bathtub. Careful not to catch a cold. I'll go have someone prepare a pillow."

"Ok." Bai Rong said as she watched Gu Mingchen leave her view.

She stared at the ring on her ring finger. It was a three-carat ring and was sparkling so much that it hurt her eyes upon looking at it.

She finally married Gu Mingchen. Lowering her head, she kissed the wedding ring.

After the woman finished bathing, she got out of the bathtub and wrapped herself with a towel.

She thought of brushing her teeth but her toiletries were not there.

Right then, he entered in his pajamas and handed her a brand-new set of toiletries, along with a black shirt.

Bai Rong accepted it.

"You can leave this set of toiletries here as you will be coming here often in the future. Wear my shirt tonight to sleep, it is clean." Gu Mingchen said to her in a deep voice.

"Alright." Bai Rong brushed her teeth and sniffed the shirt given by him.

The shirt had a nice scent.

She pulled on the shirt and strolled out the bathroom.

Gu Mingchen had already set the bed.

"Do you want to sleep inside?" Gu Mingchen asked.

She was so used to sleeping by herself. However, back when she was sleeping with Gu Mingchen, she would always sleep on the inside.

"Sure." Bai Rong got onto the bed and sneaked a peek at the clock. It was almost approaching 12 a.m. as she placed her handphone beneath her pillow.

Gu Mingchen took her handphone away and placed it on the wardrobe and explained, "Handphones will emit radiation."

"Oh." Bai Rong answered, with her back facing him.

Gu Mingchen then switched off the light.

She did not consume her medication as she stared into the air, absent-minded while Gu Mingchen was snoring behind her.

No matter how hard she forced herself to close her eyes, she could not fall asleep. So she turned around to face him.

His eyes were closed, breathing shallowly. Even in his sleep, he seemed as elegant as a prince.

Suddenly, Gu Mingchen opened his eyes.

This startled Bai Rong as she fumbled.

"Can't sleep?" Gu Mingchen asked with a hoarse voice along with a soothing vibe of the night.

"You go ahead and sleep. Don't worry about me."

"Coincidentally, I can't sleep as well. Wanna do something else?" Gu Mingchen asked.

"Didn't we already do it?"

"Did we use to only have sex once per night?" Gu Mingchen said, curiously.

"No. But that's different because at that time it's hard to even meet you once, so the emotions beat me to it whenever I thought about being apart from you. Besides, you were only in your twenties and you said that I'm your first woman." Bai Rong said softly.

"You're still the only one now." Gu Mingchen said sternly.

Bai Rong was touched as she turned around and threw herself into his arms, staring at his firm expression. Her face went bright red, "Then, let's do it."

Gu Mingchen's lips curled and kissed her lips while his warm palms were running all over her waist. Then, he grabbed hold of her waist and pressed down on her belly.

Bai Rong groaned as that was not her first time doing it tonight and she did not feel much pain. Besides, she had the advantage of being the one who initiated it, so...

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Half an hour later, Bai Rong and Gu Mingchen slumbered without taking a bath.

Hitting the sack after an intensive exercise was just...

Early in the morning, Bai Rong woke up to the chirping sound of the birds as the ray of the sunlight came shining into the room.

She looked aside and found out that Gu Mingchen was no longer there.

Her handphone was placed on the wardrobe. Beaming at it, she found out that it was only 5.30 a.m..

Gu Mingchen wakes up very early.

Her luggage was being placed beside the coffee table.

She had no idea since when did her luggage appear in the room.

She got down from the bed and unlocked her luggage to ensure all her belongings were in it.

After that, she changed her attire and sauntered to the bathroom.

On the sink, there was a new set of Guerlain cosmetics.

She could vividly recall a long time ago that this brand was his first gift to her. It looks like he really loves this international well-known brand.

A smile curled up on Bai Rong's mouth as she brushed her teeth. Only when she was about to wash her clothes did she realize that the set of clothing from last night was nowhere to be seen.

She went out of the house.

"Good morning," A soldier greeted her.

Bai Rong was too embarrassed to ask about her clothing.

"Where's Gu Mingchen?" She asked.

"The chief is currently at the training grounds and will be back by 6 a.m.. Madam, if you're famished, you can go ahead and have your breakfast." The soldier said with a smile.

Madam? The greeting used to sound strange to her but at that moment, she felt joyful being greeted that way.

"I'm heading out to look for him."

As soon as Bai Rong left the entrance, Gu Mingchen was seen marching back home, flanked by Lieutenant Song and two colonels.

Lieutenant Song seemed to be reporting something as Gu Mingchen was paying full attention to it. Her fiancé barely had any expression, but would nod his head from time to time.

She spun around and went back to the bedroom, thinking that he might be busy and did not want to disturb them.

Gu Mingchen noticed her but did not call out. He turned around to face Lieutenant Song and ordered, "Cancel the meeting at 8 a.m.. Also, help me look for a wedding company and arrange a romantic wedding ceremony. I'm getting married."

"What? Chief, you're getting married?" Lieutenant Song was thunderstruck.

"What a scumbag. The chief's already 32 years old. Why can't he be married?" The colonel snorted.

"Yes sir! I'll have it done in a while!" Lieutenant Song said.

"Then let's dismiss." Gu Mingchen ordered as he walked into the house.

Bai Rong was not in the hall.

"Where's madam?" Gu Mingchen asked the servant.

"She just went back to her room." The attendant replied.

"Alright, go get breakfast ready." Gu Mingchen instructed as he pushed the door open.

Bai Rong was sitting on the sofa, playing with her handphone. She immediately bounced up when she saw him entering the room. "That's fast. Are you guys done with the discussion?"

"Yeah." Gu Mingchen placed his arms around her waist, "Next time, you don't have to sneak around."

Bai Rong let out a gentle smile, "It's not a good idea for ladies to stick their nose in politics, so it's best if I keep a distance. You guys are discussing top secrets within the military. If anything goes wrong, I'll be the suspect. So, to be on the safe side, it's best if I know nothing."

"You got your point. In a while, there will be a document specially prepared for you. It's been approved by the research institute." Gu Mingchen said with a deep voice.

Bai Rong was dumbfounded, "A document for me? What did the research institute approve of?"

"Xiong Zhiqing and Xiong Changan's incident made me realize that we need to strengthen the mentality of our soldiers and this is what you're good at, so you're hired for three months by the Special Forces military base. Further details will be explained during this afternoon's meeting."

"Why am I not informed about this?"

"The documents were sent straight to the research institute. If you go to the institute this morning, you will be able to get it from Mu Xiaosheng."

Bai Rong was left speechless.

She had a hunch that he had done everything that was necessary before informing her about it.

"If I don't accept your marriage proposal, will the documents still take effect?" Bai Rong asked suspiciously.

"Regardless of whether you accept my marriage proposal, these documents will still be given to you." Gu Mingchen said with a domineering aura.

Bai Rong stared at him calmly, "Last time, was it you who pursued Zhou Hailan or the other way round? You're too straightforward when dealing with issues."

"You're the only lady whom I have ever courted." Gu Mingchen explained.

A smile was curling at the corner of Bai Rong's mouth.

She was satisfied with his comment and felt her pride as a woman.

Gu Mingchen let out a smile as well when he saw her smiling, "Bai Rong, there's one thing I would like to tell you beforehand. Being married to someone from the military would not allow you to just divorce as you please unless I've committed a grave mistake."

"I know." She had already thought about it last night.

"We've already decided to get married before informing everyone. If my parents were to trouble you, you need not bother about them. After all, I'm the one who is going to live with you, not them. In fact, I seldom meet them so you can be rest assured." Bai Rong nodded after hearing the man.

She had come to comprehend his way of getting issues settled before disclosing it to the public.

The woman was no longer the Bai Rong she used to be as she had become more cruel, rational, and lonelier.

"One last thing. Regarding our wedding banquet, do you want it to be organized on a grand scale or to just invite our relatives?" Gu Mingchen asked.

Gu Mingchen asked her out of respect. However, it was only appropriate to have it on a grand scale, given his position as the chief, "I'll leave it to you to decide on that."

He gently smiled, "Let's have our breakfast. After that, we'll head over to the Civil Affairs Bureau."

On the way to the Bureau, Bai Rong was beaming out the window, feeling surreal, as if everything was just a dream.

Soon, she would be Gu Mingchen's wife.

She thought of many things, especially the child she had with him.

If she were to tell Gu Mingchen about it, would he be able to find out about their child?

Or perhaps the child had deceased and everything would just be all for naught.

But if she told Gu Mingchen about their child, things would be linked to the rape incident that took place six years ago.

She was feeling conflicted.

Bai Rong snapped out of her thoughts when Gu Mingchen's phone rang and she looked towards him.

Gu Mingchen frowned when he saw the incoming call on the screen before answering it, "Mom, what's the matter?"

"I heard that you're getting married. With who?" Song Xiyu asked in an astonished voice.

"You're quick to pick up the news. I'm marrying Bai Rong. You should know her." Gu Mingchen said with a cold and ruthless tone as his gaze was fixed on the road ahead, without any emotion.

"Why would you marry her? You guys just met not long ago!" His mother was shocked.

"You are clear that we both had known each other for a long time." Gu Mingchen said disdainfully.

"Did Bai Rong tell you that?" Song Xiyu was astonished yet anxious.

"I managed to recall some of my memories. Bai Rong did not tell me anything. Alright, I'm gonna be busy for now. Will contact you later. Since I've decided to marry her, I'll be sure to bring her home."

"We won't approve of your marriage." Song Xiyu said sternly.

"Whether you approve of this marriage or not is up to you. I'm just informing you. That's all." Gu Mingchen immediately hung up the call before his mother had the chance to speak.

Just a moment later, it was Bai Rong's handphone that started ringing.

It was Song Xiyu.

"Bai Rong, what are you doing? You promised to leave Mingchen's side." Song Xiyu questioned with anger.

"I'm sorry. I regretted it."

Song Xiyu was speechless.

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"Have you forgotten the lesson in the past?" Song Xiyu warned her.

In the past, both Song Xiyu and Gu Tianhang had kidnapped her and threatened Gu Mingchen to marry Su Wanning. They even amputated her finger.

That thought made her feel hurtful.

Bai Rong turned pale and curled her lips, "I've recorded everything down. That kidnapping incident occurred three years ago was done by you guys and the reason for kidnapping me had something to do with Governor Cheng. I've stated all names that were involved in the kidnapping. I left that piece of information back in America in a black box and is under the watch of my friend. Given my popularity in this industry, I believe many professionals from all over the world will believe what I have written. Even if it's a fake, many will still buy it. What more, my copy is genuine and it has proof to support it."

"Are you out of your mind? Do you know how many will get involved if words were to leak out?" Song Xiyu said, feeling uneasy.

"It's not up to me to decide upon that but your sanity! Nothing will happen if my life is secured. However, if I were to face danger, then that leaves me no choice. I could bother less about others as I need to protect myself." Bai Rong said coldly as her eyes were glittering ferociously.

"You're one cunning woman. Does Mingchen know about it?" Song Xiyu asked as her face turned pale.

"There are many who forget what they have done when they're questioning other people. Madam Song, speaking of being cunning, have you ever thought of what you've done?" Bai Rong said calmly.

"You're good with words, I'll never approve of you marrying into our family." Song Xiyu said, feeling exasperated.

Bai Rong let out a smile, "Nothing will change regardless of your approval. If you treat me well as a daughter-in-law, naturally, I will treat you well too, like my mom."

"Forget it. I don't have such a daughter-in-law." Song Xiyu rejected flat out.

Bai Rong instantly got the message, "Then if there's nothing else, I'll hang up the call."

"Bai Rong, you want to marry into our family, but have you thought about the attitude you're having right now? If Mingchen marries you, that makes me your mother-in-law. Your behavior will place your husband in a rather difficult position." Song Xiyu lectured her as an elder.

"Ever since the beginning, you kept threatening me, making me recall the incident that took place three years ago. You should be thankful that I'm still able to talk to you. Like what you just said, you won't acknowledge me as your daughter-in-law, so why should I acknowledge you in return? Besides, it's not me who will place Gu Mingchen in a difficult position, but you. Also, you despise me, always looking at me skeptically and the situation will not improve with me giving in to you. It will only get worse if I compromise and I'll always have to live my life in the shadows. The last person I should let down is myself. I'm sorry but I don't plan on giving in." Bai Rong said in a cold tone.

She was well aware since three years ago that it was important to have power and not just crying around and begging others while leaving your fate in their hands.

There would be times where others would do whatever it took to frame you and would not just let you off the hook just because you pleaded.

Therefore, all she did was just to protect herself.

Three years ago, she was helpless as she could not defend against the malicious ambush of Song Xiyu and Gu Tianhang.

However, three years had passed. She was no longer the helpless lady she used to be.

"You insist on marrying my son, don't you?!" Song Xiyu was enraged.

"What's your thought about that?" Bai Rong counter-questioned.

"Three years ago, I thought of you as an obedient little girl. Looks like I've misjudged you. I should not have let you off the hook if I know you will turn out to be like this." Song Xiyu said with much hatred.

"I'm not bothered whether you've misjudged me or not. Alright, I'm hanging up." Bai Rong hung up the call before Song Xiyu could even speak.

Despite expressing explicitly that she was not bothered, she took it personally deep into her heart.

After all, that woman was Gu Mingchen's mother, the mother of the man she loved.

Bai Rong turned to look at Gu Mingchen. "I'm sorry, I can't get along with your mom."

He glanced ahead without any expression.

All the past information about Bai Rong was erased. He had long ago known what his parents had done in the past as they forbade him from investigating the past.

"Three years ago, my parents had kidnapped you and threatened me to marry Su Wanning, right?" Gu Mingchen asked coldly.

"Your parents thought you should marry someone better. Perhaps, they did it out of their love for you." Bai Rong said as she then turned to face out the window.

She did not wish to stand in between Gu Mingchen and his parents.

"They amputated your little finger. I've chopped my little finger as well to force my parents to give in. In the end, I'm just engaged to Su Wanning." Gu Mingchen said.

Bai Rong looked into Gu Mingchen's eyes.

At that moment, Gu Tianhang forced Gu Mingchen to marry Su Wanning. Actually, it was all because Su Zheng had the evidence of his father's wrongdoing.

Everyone would never wish that their parents were villains.

However, she kept the truth to herself.

It was not because of how noble she was. She just did not want the man she loved to be depressed.

"Well, everything is over. Aren't we now together after enduring all the sufferings?" Bai Rong said with a smile as she quickly changed the topic.

Gu Mingchen clenched Bai Rong's hands, eyes fixed upon her, not saying a single word.

He was a man with a few words, yet his eyes were telling that he was keeping a lot of things to himself.

Without them realizing it, they had arrived at the entrance of the Civil Affairs Bureau.

"Before we get married, you can state any request you have." Gu Mingchen said while holding onto her hands.

"I've only one request." Bai Rong had seriously thought about it before speaking.

Gu Mingchen looked at her and said, "What's that?"

"If I want to divorce one day, I hope you will agree to it. Being married to someone in the military means that the wife can't propose a divorce, but the man can. Can you promise me that?" Bai Rong said.

Gu Mingchen felt a sting in his heart as he frowned his brows. His expression darkened, "We're not even married yet, but you're already thinking about divorcing?"

"Everyone never thought about divorcing when it comes to marrying someone; However, when it comes to divorce, no one ever thought about getting back together again. That is because they only think about the good side of their other half when they're getting married, but when it comes to divorce, they will only think about the downside of their other half. I think one should be more rational before getting married and that helps a lot to stabilize a marriage. What do you think?" Bai Rong tried to persuade Gu Mingchen.

"I think, sometimes you're just being too inconsiderate." Said Gu Mingchen with a deep voice.

She felt it was rather inappropriate for him to describe her that way.

Perhaps she really was inconsiderate as she never had the chance to experience the love of a family.

The corner of Bai Rong's lips curled, "Why not..."

"I got it." Gu Mingchen interrupted her.

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"I got what you said. We shall not speak of this again." Gu Mingchen's tone was commanding.

Since they had decided to get married, she should focus on this happy day and put all negative thoughts out of her mind.

Bai Rong nodded, smiling widely. "Let's go, my dear Mr. Gu."

"Still Mr. Gu?" Gu Mingchen was obviously not satisfied with the term. He needed her to be sure that she wanted to marry him.

"How about my dear husband then?" Bai Rong offered, grinning.

Gu Mingchen beamed. "That is acceptable."

"Let's go."

They walked hand in hand into the Civil Affairs Bureau.

The morning sun was scorching and it beat down relentlessly on them, casting a shadow that made them look intertwined.

Bai Rong realized that Gu Mingchen was nervous.

His palm was sweaty and it stuck to her palm as well.

He walked in, looked around the room and headed for the window.

"Hello. We're here to get married." Gu Mingchen said to the staff at the window.

"Identification card, passport and picture will be taken together inside. You are not allowed to apply any makeup. The fee is nine bucks and if the lady is pregnant, she needs to go for a prenatal check-up. Do you have a marriage contract? Do you need a prenuptial agreement?" The staff member seemed impatient, prattling off a whole string of words.

"Not pregnant and there is no need for either contract." Gu Mingchen replied, not missing a beat.

The staff pushed her black-rimmed glasses up her nose and looked at Gu Mingchen.

Bai Rong handed her identification card and passport to the staff wordlessly and the man did the same.

He could have used his military identification but was afraid that it might attract too much attention. So, he went with his personal one.

Gu Mingchen was gorgeous, that staff member had to admit. She could not help but take a closer look to see if he was some celebrity. If so, she could be the first to break the news about a celebrity's marriage.

"Is something the matter?" Gu Mingchen raised his eyebrows.

"Nothing." She quickly dropped her head back down.

She needed to check if they were registered as unmarried in the system, then ensure the numbers on their identification card and passports matched.

Bai Rong strained her neck over the counter to peek at Gu Mingchen's identification card photo.

"Usually, people's identification card photos turn out really ugly. But yours is alright. Did you use photoshop?" Bai Rong teased, sniggering.

Gu Mingchen cleared his throat and whispered, "Be serious."

Bai Rong resumed silence.

How was she not being serious? He was the one taking it too seriously, looking like a catatonic robot on their wedding day.

"Don't forget to smile during the photo." She reminded him.

He did not say anything. The staff member pointed out, "You're not allowed to show teeth when taking the photo."

Her comment sent Bai Rong into an uncontrollable fit of giggles.

The staff shot Bai Rong a look. "You go in for the marriage examination. The groom shall pay."

"Okay." Bai Rong headed into the room labeled Marriage Examination.

Gu Mingchen took out twenty from his wallet and passed it to the staff.

"We have the ninety-nine and the nine hundred and ninety-nine sets as well. Are you interested?" The staff asked politely.

"What is the set about?" Gu Mingchen enquired.

He had no experience in this after all.

"With the nine hundred and ninety-nine set, you can leave your handprints as well as taking it home as a souvenir. It is very meaningful." The staff explained.

"Okay." Gu Mingchen replied kindly as he pulled ten one hundred bills from his wallet and handed them over to the staff.

The latter received the money with a smile and returned him his change.

Gu Mingchen deposited the coin into the charity box sitting on the counter.

"Are you a celebrity?" The staff could not hold the question back any longer.

"No." Gu Mingchen replied seriously.

"Oh. You're so handsome that you would definitely do well as one." The staff exclaimed excitedly.

Gu Mingchen did not reply.

Bai Rong stepped out of the examination room and joined Gu Mingchen on the sofa.

She followed his gaze to a couple standing at the counter.

"What's wrong?" Bai Rong asked him.

"They're here to get divorced. Look at how neither is smiling. This is obviously an unhappy affair for both of them. Don't ever say that you want to divorce me." Gu Mingchen said in a low voice, locking his gaze with Bai Rong's, but she didn't reply.

"Let's go get our photos taken." Gu Mingchen then pulled her into the Photography Room.

The room was furnished very simply, with just a camera facing two chairs.

They took their seats.

"Lean in closer." The photographer instructed them.

Bai Rong leaned closer to Gu Mingchen.

"Closer." The photographer urged.

She shifted towards him even more.

“Closer.” The photographer repeated.

Gu Mingchen pressed his hand to the side of Bai Rong’s head, and she came to rest on his side.

“Okay, okay, okay, the groom can remove his hand now.” The photographer said good-naturedly.

Bai Rong burst into laughter.

Gu Mingchen could not help but smile too. It was bright and full of life, the best he had in his life so far.

“Got it. If you want to put up any hand gestures now, you can. When you’re done, you can go and collect your marriage license.” The photographer reminded them.

They left and returned to the counter where the staff was already waiting. She led them over to get their handprints taken.

The mold was already set up to look like a novelty gift. It was heart-shaped and had roses garnished on the sides.

Peeling off the plastic covering the material, the staff said, “Just press your hands into it.”

They did so.

“This needs to be fired up in the furnace. It takes about five minutes. Please wait here.” The staff explained as she carried their handprint out.

“Nine can surely go a long way nowadays.” Bai Rong commented.

Her words reminded Gu Mingchen that this was Bai Rong’s second marriage and an uncomfortable feeling gnawed at his heart.

“Nine hundred and ninety-nine.” Gu Mingchen replied monotonously.

“Oh.” Now Bai Rong understood why they were able to get so many items.

Five minutes later, the staff came back with a red gift bag and placed it into Gu Mingchen’s hands. “The molds, marriage license, passports, your identification cards and a gift from the Civil Affairs Bureau are all inside. Have a happy and harmonious life together. As long as you don’t smoke,

gamble, cheat, or use drugs, everything can be settled through compromise.”

“Thank you.” Bai Rong nodded graciously.

The staff member gave Bai Rong one last look before leaving.

Bai Rong rummaged through the bag for the marriage license.

When she found it, she gave it a good look. They were smiling blissfully.

She thought of her first marriage license.

She had forced Su Xuyan into marrying her, a fact he showed throughout the process by keeping a fixed scowl on his face. He stared furiously at the camera and she was unhappy too.

The photographer at the time had figured out their situation but did not comment on it, nor did he instruct them to move closer like he did today.

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If the marriage was fated to be mismatched from the beginning, one must not continue to force it. The result will only be pain and exhaustion.

She and Gu Mingchen started off well and she hoped that it would carry on like that.

“One for you and one for me. Keep it somewhere safe.” Bai Rong happily tucked her identification card, passport and marriage license into her bag.

She was so over the moon that it made Gu Mingchen’s heart soften.

This woman, who started out as a stranger, was now his wife, someone whom he needed to cherish and protect for the rest of his life.

The thought of her as his wife made him smile. “Shouldn’t we keep them together?”

Bai Rong smiled in agreement and put her marriage license back into the gift bag. “Sorry to trouble you, my lord.”

Gu Mingchen cleared his throat and replied as chivalrously as he could, “It’s no trouble at all.”

Bai Rong cracked up again.

She remembered their early days, where she used to badger him with questions and he would reply each with the same seriousness he did today.

He had not changed at all. Rather, it was her who had changed considerably.

Bai Rong felt tears of happiness well up.

Gu Mingchen noticed and frowned. "What's wrong?"

She put her arms around him and hid her face in his embrace, choking out, "Your dream was right. I was looking for you... For a long time."

Gu Mingchen's eyes drifted down and he rested his hand on her back, and softly whispered into her ear, "Bai Rong, I'm back."

"Yes." She wiped her tears away.

"I used to be so desperate to recover my lost memories. The more desperate I got, the more tired I became too. Now that I have you, I no longer care about those. The doctor did say that I might never get them back." Gu Mingchen explained earnestly.

"I'll try and treat you with hypnosis."

Gu Mingchen cupped her face gently. "There's no rush. We still have a long road ahead of us and many more important things to attend to first."

"Okay."

"I'll drop you off at the research institute. Come to the military base in the afternoon after getting your files. I'll arrange for you to work with Liu Yan. The two of you would never run out of things to say to each other. I've already started preparing for the wedding and will let you know when it's done."

Bai Rong remembered her lunch with Su Xuyan.

She needed to clear things up with him.

Now that she was already married to Gu Mingchen, Su Xuyan should give up.

"I can go by myself. I still have things to discuss with Mu Xiaosheng and am having lunch with them. I'll be at the military base around 2 p.m.." Bai Rong kindly rejected his offer.

Gu Mingchen looked at her solemnly.

"What's wrong?" Bai Rong asked as she felt guilt creep into her heart.

"You should be taking advantage of your husband's service. If you reject me, I'll feel like there's still some distance between us. Besides, the research institute is rather far so just let me send you there." Gu Mingchen insisted.

"Okay then." She nodded.

On their way to the research institute, Bai Rong kept her gaze forward, enjoying this time of peace and serenity.

"Call me half an hour before the lunch ends. I'll send someone over to fetch you." Gu Mingchen said.

Bai Rong turned to look at him. The sunlight illuminated his breathtaking features.

The old her would have hated bothering anyone.

But his previous words came back to her.

He was now her husband and this no longer counted as her bothering him. It was letting him into her life and opening up her heart to him.

"Okay, I will. See you this afternoon." Bai Rong said softly.

"I like your cooking. It's much better than those prepared by the orderlies." Gu Mingchen complimented her with a smile.

That made her smile too. "If you like my cooking that much, I'll make an exception and cook for you everyday."

"Okay."

When they were together, time flew by. They were sitting in silence, but being in each other's company was more than enough and neither was bored.

Gu Mingchen caught sight of the research institute from far off and slowed the car down.

Bai Rong peeked at the speedometer. The needle had fallen from sixty to forty.

The car might be slowing, but Bai Rong's heart was utterly full and she felt content in their little bubble.

As much as the car slowed, they eventually still arrived at the entrance of the research institute.

"Do you need me to see you up?" Gu Mingchen asked hopefully, reluctant to see her go.

She flashed him a smile. "Then do you want to work at the research institute as well? Let's be conjoined twins."

"Don't joke." Gu Mingchen's face fell.

Bai Rong leaned over and kissed his cheek. "Darling, I'm off to work now. See you later."

Gu Mingchen's eyes shined.

He liked that she was taking initiative. "See you later."

"Bye." Bai Rong climbed out of the car and closed the door behind her.

She headed for the stairs, failing to notice Su Xuyan peering at them from a window.

He had a very ugly expression donning his face. His lips were drawn into a thin and tight line and he exuded murderous rage.

The thought of Bai Rong and Gu Mingchen sleeping together, then starting a family together incensed him and his chest felt so tight that it hurt.

He burned with jealousy. It threatened to drive him mad.

Bai Rong had always been his. When did she slip out from his grasp?

He had to do whatever it took to get her back.

Bai Rong was climbing up the stairs when she found herself face to face with a glowering Su Xuyan.

He glanced at the ring on her finger. Suddenly, he grabbed her wrist, raising it to eye-level.

The stone was huge and shone brilliantly.

Su Xuyan's malicious gaze faltered. "You're engaged to him? Don't you know that the only one in his heart is Zhou Hailan?" He shouted in rage.

Bai Rong remained calm. "We're not engaged. We're married. We have the marriage license to prove it. You may look forward to the invitation to our reception."

"Are you insane?" Su Xuyan let go of her hand and gripped her shoulders forcefully instead. "He doesn't love you."

"That's for me and only me to judge." Bai Rong barked back, wrenching out of Su Xuyan's clutches.

"What about me then? Can't you see all that I've done for you these past three years? I love you so much that I am willing to turn over a new leaf. I'm completely loyal to you now. Don't you believe me?" He simpered imploringly.

"I already knew why you came to me all those years ago." Bai Rong revealed flatly.

"I showed mercy because he's your father. For you, I can let go of all my hatred. So please, don't leave me. I'm the one you truly love." Su Xuyan furrowed his brow.

"I love him now."

"He's bound to hurt you. Deeply. It's only a matter of time. Bai Rong, it's not too late to turn back. I can find a way to fix all of this."

"How dare you!" Gu Mingchen's voice thundered.

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Bai Rong almost jumped out of her skin. She whipped around to face Gu Mingchen.

He had a hand in one of his pockets as he sauntered up the stairs one step at a time, his gaze fixed on Su Xuyan the entire time. The man was the picture of power.

Su Xuyan's eyes narrowed, his gaze just as ferocious.

"You'll never make Bai Rong happy." Su Xuyan hissed out.

Gu Mingchen took his place by Bai Rong's side, wrapping an arm around her waist and pulling her towards him, clearly marking his territory. "That's not up to you to decide. Your petty jealousy is pathetic."

Su Xuyan gritted his teeth. "I won't waste my breath on you."

He breezed past Gu Mingchen, preparing to descend the stairs.

Gu Mingchen loomed over him. "Mr. Su, I may not have the right to decide who my wife befriends but I suggest that you know your limits. Don't blame me for retaliating if I were to be provoked."

Then, he pulled Bai Rong tighter against him.

"Retaliating?" Su Xuyan sneered at Gu Mingchen. His eyes showed no sign of fear, only condescension. "You can't force love."

Su Xuyan turned his gaze to Bai Rong. "Don't forget about our lunch date. I'll contact you with the details later."

Gu Mingchen's cold gaze landed on Bai Rong. He frowned deeply. "You promised to have lunch with him? When did this happen and why did I not hear about it?"

Bai Rong felt stuck as she thought about the right response that could quell her husband's anger. Su Xuyan swooped in and answered for her instead. "It was last night."

Gu Mingchen's eyebrows drew even tighter together. "Did you promise him before or after I proposed?"

Bai Rong could feel his imagination spiraling.

Did he seriously think that she agreed to have lunch with Su Xuyan because she had feelings for him?

She would not take this sitting down.

"I arranged the meeting because I have something to discuss with him. If you must know everything, it's because he's an obstacle in Mu Xiaosheng's case. I was going to persuade him to compromise through this lunch." Bai

Rong declared, not only as an explanation to Gu Mingchen but also to set the record straight with Su Xuyan.

But Su Xuyan had already left. Perhaps it was to avoid the sight of the couple who were so obviously made for each other.

Gu Mingchen relaxed.

“Not only is your ex-husband pursuing you, he is also trying to ruin our marriage. If we were not married, you would have the right to see anyone you wanted to. But now that you’re my wife, don’t you think you should keep your distance from him? Bai Rong, I’m human too. I’m just like any other man. If you see other men, much less your ex-husband behind my back, I’m bound to be jealous.” Gu Mingchen chided her, his voice dripping with jealousy.

His honest and reasonable statement made Bai Rong feel bad.

“You’re right. From now on I’ll reject him the next time he invites me out.” She promised him sincerely.

“Next time?” Gu Mingchen’s voice grew sharper.

Bai Rong’s heart warmed.

She liked how he cared so much about her and treated her as someone important.

“He was the one who invited me. I can’t control his actions. What I can do is to reject him. Besides, I feel that I’ve already made my position clear.” She elaborated, trying to put his worries to rest.

Gu Mingchen nodded and the issue ended there.

“Go and get your files from Mu Xiaosheng and we’ll go to the military base together. Then we don’t have to eat out either. We can grab food at the military base.” Gu Mingchen said, his tone insistent.

“Okay.” Bai Rong walked towards Mu Xiaosheng’s office.

She knocked on the door then entered.

When Mu Xiaosheng saw that it was her, his face lit up. “Bai Rong, you came at just the right time. Please save me! I’m going nowhere with this case and I promised Deputy Commander Su that I would have it solved by tomorrow.”

Bai Rong took a seat in front of him. "What information have you gotten from the forensics and police?"

He handed the file to her.

"It makes no sense. it makes no sense!" Mu Xiaosheng sighed in vexation. "A lot of evidence has been compromised so there's not a lot of usable ones left. Even the time of death is questionable. One piece of information indicates that Tony was killed by someone who knew his way around a knife. The wound was so precise and clean that it could have been done by a machine. However, the surveillance cameras did not catch Tony leaving Su Wanning's room. Su Wanning claimed to have been very angry to the point where she wanted to kill him, but couldn't bring herself to do it. She tried to get him to leave but he refused, trying to sleep with her instead. She was so pissed that she left."

Mu Xiaosheng adjusted his glasses, shaking his head in frustration.

"Did you just say that Su Wanning left before Tony? Did she go back after she left?" Something sounded off to Bai Rong.

Mu Xiaosheng shook his head. "The tape showed her leaving but not her returning. Isn't that weird?"

"No, it's not. There's a simple explanation for this." Gu Mingchen's voice rang out from behind them.

Bai Rong looked back as Gu Mingchen strolled into the office.

"Why are you here?" She asked.

"You're taking too long." Gu Mingchen said as a matter-of-fact.

Bai Rong had nothing to offer in return.

Mu Xiaosheng nodded, acknowledging Gu Mingchen as someone with significant influence.

He was humbled by the presence of two powerful people in his office.

"May I ask why you do not find it weird?" Mu Xiaosheng asked respectfully.

"Tony had a strong built due to his love for exercise. He would often attend group events. Su Wanning lives on the third floor, which, to an athlete, is nothing. Tony could have easily jumped out of the window and left." Gu Mingchen presented his explanation.

Mu Xiaosheng was enlightened, but his face soon fell again. "This still doesn't give us any new leads."

"It does. By separating the body parts, it provides the killer the convenience in getting rid of them. At the same time, it also indicates that he harbored great hatred for Tony."

"That's right. Not only did he dispose of them in the toilet, he even had Tony's genitals stuffed into his mouth." Mu Xiaosheng interjected.

"That makes things easier. Tony had infected many people with syphilis. His killer must have been infected too. Now, I think Bai Rong can give a more accurate answer than me." Gu Mingchen turned to face her.

Mu Xiaosheng followed.

"The killer has to be a couple. They're probably middle-class. Neither of them were Tony's clients but the woman was his ex-girlfriend. They have equipment used for cutting at their house, so it might be a slaughterhouse. If you filter your search based on these conditions, you should be able to find the killers." Bai Rong presented her analysis.