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Chapter 351 No Wonder Bai Rong Rejected You

“Nian, what did Gu Mingchen mean by that?” Liu Yan asked in puzzlement.

Wu Nian shook her head.

Gu Mingchen hid his emotions so well that no matter how hard she tried, she could never get a read on him.

“What’s important now isn’t to figure out what he meant, but for us to carry out Plan B,” Wu Nian pointed out.

Liu Yan gathered herself together and hurriedly looked for Aaron.

Thankfully, Aaron was still in his seat.

Upon seeing them, Aaron walked toward Wu Nian and asked gently, “May I invite you to supper?”

Liu Yan looked at Wu Nian who simply nodded.

“What an honor for me,” Aaron said with a smile.

Liu Yan pulled Wu Nian along as they followed Aaron out. Just as they were about to reach

the door, Su Xuyan darted out in front of Wu Nian. “Would you like to have supper together?”

“Sorry, she already has a date,” Liu Yan replied on behalf of Wu Nian and promptly pushed Su Xuyan away.

Su Xuyan squinted at Wu Nian’s silhouette as she walked away. The more he looked, the

more he found it familiar. Not only did she resemble Bai Rong from the back, she even

sounded and acted like her.

At that moment, Su Xuyan knew this was something he definitely had to look into.

Aaron happened to be staying at the hotel where the auction was held, so they went straight to the restaurant there.

“What would you like to eat?” Aaron asked as he handed Wu Nian the menu.

Instead of replying, Wu Nian passed the menu on to Liu Yan. "You can order the dishes."

Aaron took a sip of his tea before looking back up at Wu Nian. "Can I ask for your number now?"

Instead of replying, Wu Nian very smoothly changed the subject. "Were you expecting the 'Dream Girl' to be sold at such a high price?"

"Yes, I expected it. After all, the bidders are both from A City. And only those who have worked with Mo Xue in A City would have an interest in this painting." With that, Wu Nian cut to the chase. "Then you should know our real reason for agreeing to this meal."

To their surprise, Aaron laughed even more heartily. "Are you always this straightforward?"

"I just don't see the need to put on a pretense in front of someone as smart as you. I'd be a hypocrite if I acted all friendly and clowned around while keeping my motive hidden. If you can help us, this meal will be on me. If you can't, I can understand that too," Wu Nian stated matter-of-factly.

"That shouldn't be a problem. I can arrange for you to meet Stephen," Aaron replied readily.

Wu Nian finally smiled and clinked her cup against Aaron's. "Here's my toast to you, with tea instead of wine."

"And I toast you in return, my beautiful princess." With the poise that came with being born into Ustrana's nobility, Aaron elegantly raised his glass and took a sip.

"Now, I wonder if I may have the honor of getting your contact details. Please don't worry if you don't wish to give it to me. That won't change my mind of wanting to help you."

Liu Yan propped her chin up in her hands as she stared at Aaron and sighed dreamily. "Give him your number, Nian."

Even so, Wu Nian wasn't about to give it that easily. Hesitating for a moment, she then asked, "What's your reason for not getting married, Mr. Aaron?" "If I said it's because I haven't met the right person, you'd think I'm exaggerating, wouldn't you?" Aaron chuckled. "I had four girlfriends. The first one was my high school classmate. But university kept us apart, so we eventually broke up. I met my second girlfriend in university, and we dated for three years. We ultimately realized that our personalities clashed, so that was a goner too." Aaron took a sip of his tea before continuing, "I quite liked my third girlfriend whom I dated for two years. However, the difference in our core values strained our relationship so much it became exhausting. My fourth girlfriend was introduced to me by one of the elders in my family. I never felt any love toward her, and it wouldn't be fair to her to carry on. Ultimately, I still want to find someone I truly love." "Even though he's had a few girlfriends, he still seems sincere," Liu Yan whispered to Wu Nian. A half-smile flickered over Wu Nian's face. "You're always so charming, Mr. Aaron. I dare say you're a perfectionist who values your family's opinions greatly. So, I'm not surprised that you'd have high standards for your partner." "You're right. That's how it is. But if I do like my partner, I'd persuade my family to approve of our relationship. I have confidence in my persuasion skills even when I'm up against them," Aaron replied with conviction. Liu Yan let out a sly smile when she noticed how well Wu Nian and Aaron were getting along. "Nian, I just remembered there's something urgent I need to do! Please excuse me, and carry on with your meal. Mr. Aaron, don't forget to send Nian home after."

Liu Yan wasn't about to give Wu Nian a chance to protest, so she immediately grabbed her bag and walked away. On the other hand, Wu Nian could feel the atmosphere turning awkward as soon as Liu Yan left the table. She gingerly handed the menu over to Aaron. "Since it's my treat, why don't you place the order, Mr. Aaron?"

Liu Yan could still hear them and was delighted to know how well things were going. It would be perfect if this relationship could develop into something more. Just as she was about to leave the restaurant, Liu Yan saw Gu Mingchen walking out of another private room. She was a ball of rage when she remembered Gu Mingchen's attitude that morning. With arms crossed, she strode over to him haughtily. "Sorry to disappoint you, Gu Mingchen, but you aren't the only man in Rong's life. It's laughable to think how much you've overestimated yourself. Please know that she's currently on a date with Mr. Aaron, and everything's going very well." Nevertheless, Gu Mingchen didn't bother to look at Liu Yan as he replied coldly, "The real Bai Rong wouldn't be on a date with another man." His arrogance riled Liu Yan up even more. "Why shouldn't Rong date other men when she's got the looks and personality? Are you so egoistical that you think she likes you and only you? There's no way she still likes you, especially after the way you've treated her." "If she is dating another man, then she doesn't deserve my love," Gu Mingchen said with casual indifference.

“Good. Then please move on from Rong, and find yourself another wife. You know I’m her best friend, yet you treat me with such contempt. I can’t help but doubt your feelings for Bai Rong.” Liu Yan’s words were dripping with sarcasm as she turned to walk towards the elevator.

Upon hearing that, Gu Mingchen scowled. He had tried to hide it, but the frustration he felt was overwhelming.

As he was walking toward another elevator, he got a call from Zhang Xingyu.

“What is it?”

“I finally got it all checked out, Mr. Gu! I’ve always suspected the people at the orphanage, so I tracked down the children from there who got adopted,” Zhang Xingyu enthused.

“A child who got adopted last year said he had been there for five years, but never once did he hear of Wu Nian. Wu Nian should have been at the orphanage only this year, which meant that she faked her resume.” Even over the phone, it was impossible to miss the excitement in Zhang Xingyu’s voice.

He continued with his report, “I then visited the university Wu Nian had on her resume and spoke to one of her classmates. She confirmed that Wu Nian was indeed in her class, but her photo of Wu Nian did not match with the one that the orphanage provided.”

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Chapter 352 Do You Like Me

“I got it. Keep this strictly between the two of us,” Gu Mingchen warned in a low voice. At that moment, he spotted Wu Nian walking toward him from the corner of his eye. He turned to look at her, his gaze dark and cold.

Wu Nian was on her way to the toilet when she locked eyes with Gu Mingchen. However, she didn't feel the need to make small talk, so she ignored him. She was washing her hands when she saw Gu Mingchen behind her. Meanwhile, he just stood there, staring intensely at her in silence. Wu Nian averted her gaze and continued to wash her hands. She stepped out of the toilet after, still ignoring Gu Mingchen. "Can we talk?" Gu Mingchen finally spoke as she walked past him. "Sorry, but I'm busy," Wu Nian retorted. Gu Mingchen's voice was stern and cold when he continued, "If you're trying to play hard to get, I can tell you now it doesn't work for me. You won't get another chance if you walk away now." Wu Nian merely let out a faint smirk before strutting away.

Gu Mingchen watched her go, a contemplative frown forming on his face. When Wu Nian got back to the table, Aaron had already filled her glass with wine. She raised her glass and swirled the wine. Her gaze was fixated on it as she seemed to be in deep contemplation. "What's wrong? You don't look too happy. Did you bump into someone earlier?" Aaron asked with concern. Wu Nian threw a side-eye at Aaron as she emptied her glass of wine in one slow gulp. As the alcohol kicked in, Wu Nian's eyes became glazed, and her cheeks flushed. "Mr. Aaron, do you like me? Or rather, am I your type?" she teased. "You're the most straightforward woman I've ever met." Aaron smiled warmly. "Yes, I like you. You're exactly my type." "Then let's date." "What?" Aaron was taken aback by Wu Nian's frankness.

Wu Nian poured herself another glass of wine and smiled coyly. "I only have one request."

Aaron had a look of utter confusion as he muttered, "What is it?"

His reaction made Wu Nian smile even brighter. "If we're doing this, then I expect the

breakup to be just as straightforward. When either one of us initiates the breakup, we'll do it

with no questions asked, deal?"

"Oh, okay... but this is all too sudden," Aaron replied, unable to hide his embarrassment.

"As sudden as when you got sick on the plane?" Wu Nian moved his glass of wine away and

locked eyes with him.

"With your health, you ought to be drinking less and resting more. Don't worry about me. I

can go back on my own." Wu Nian said as she stood from the table. "I hope you can think

about what I just said. If you don't want to date me, that's fine too. You can contact me

again once you've arranged for the meeting with Mr. Stephen."

"No more supper for you?" Aaron asked.

"Here's what you need to know about me, Mr. Aaron," Wu Nian stated.

"First, I'm not one to

easily give men chances. Second, my only reason for dining with you is to arrange a meeting

with Mr. Stephen."

She paused when she saw Aaron's eyes widen. "Third, if we decide to date, we'd have many

chances to dine together. But if we don't, this meal would just be a waste of time. Last but

not least, this is how I am. It's better being honest now than to end up with regret in the

future."

Wu Nian picked up her bag. "I'll be leaving first, Mr. Aaron. Have a good night."

Aaron finally got back to his senses as he quickly stood up. "I'll send you back."

“Like what I’ve said earlier, sending me back is the same as eating together. We can leave all that in the future if we decide to date. Rest well.” With that, Wu Nian left the room and called Liu Yan.

“I’m leaving now. Shall we meet at the entrance if you haven’t gone far?”

“That was fast. Were the dishes even served yet? Oh, did you have a falling out with Mr.

Aaron?” Liu Yan was surprised.

“We’ll talk in the car.”

During the car ride, Wu Nian told Liu Yan everything and watched her eyes widen in disbelief.

Liu Yan turned toward her and asked, “Did you really suggest that you start dating?”

Wu Nian remained cool as a cucumber as she reminded Liu Yan to watch out for traffic.

Right then, Liu Yan’s anxiety was running high. She pulled the car over and turned to look at

Wu Nian. “Nian, are you serious? You don’t sound like yourself. What has gotten into you?”

“Aaron may have many virtues, but he has his shortcomings too,” Wu Nian remarked.

“What shortcomings?” Liu Yan stared at her incredulously.

“He lacks loyalty.”

Liu Yan angrily smacked Wu Nian upon hearing that. “Even after knowing that, you still want

to date him? Are you out of your mind, or is this a side-effect from your new medication?”

Wu Nian turned toward Liu Yan to explain, “He’s just what I need for my situation right now. I

need a boyfriend to dispel Gu Mingchen’s suspicions toward me and fend off Su Xuyan’s

advancements. And he’d be able to protect me after you leave.”

As sure as Wu Nian sounded, it still didn’t help to ease Liu Yan’s worries.

“But he’s a playboy.

He might only be interested in you for three months, then what? That wouldn’t be fair to

you.”

A smile crept onto Wu Nian’s face. “I know what you’re thinking, but Aaron doesn’t like me that way. He’s just testing the water for now. When I suggested that we date, he didn’t seem too keen about it.”

Liu Yan was even more confused now. “What do you mean by that?” “He was born into nobility and had been inculcated with the ideals of a gentleman from young. He finds it hard to turn down a woman’s request as long as it’s within his power. And he would respect my decision if I said no to his advancements.”

“But what if... “ Liu Yan hesitated. “What if he fell for you?”

“Don’t forget, he’s a perfectionist. And I’m a person with many flaws. Over time, he’ll come to realize that I’m not suited for him,” Wu Nian said very candidly.

“What if he doesn’t agree?”

Wu Nian remained unfazed. “Then he would stop pestering me. That’s not a bad thing either.”

“Is that so?” Liu Yan had an odd feeling about it even though she couldn’t put it into words.

“With Aaron in Ustrana and you in A City, you wouldn’t have much time to meet up.”

“To me, his existence is just to prove that I can still get a boyfriend when I say I want one.”

“That seems like you’re just out to play with his feelings,” Liu Yan whispered.

“Even when he’s dating me, he’d still be on the lookout for more suitable partners. I just happened to show up at a time when he’s feeling burned out from his relationship. Once he has found someone better, he’ll break up with me.”

“Are you saying he hasn’t broken up with his fourth girlfriend?” Liu Yan asked as she started the car and slowly drove off.

“That’s my guess. I’m sure his family would only introduce someone of equal caliber to him.

He's not in a position to outwardly reject, but with his high EQ, he should be able to sort it out without much problem."

"But, that would make her your love rival." Liu Yan was again worried for her friend.

"I don't even have a boyfriend. So what love rival do I need to be worried about?" Just as she

got her words out, Wu Nian saw a figure dash out in front of the car.

Liu Yan had seen it too and immediately braked.

Both of them hurriedly got out of the car to check what had happened.

There, on the road, was an old woman. Before they could react, the old woman pointed at

Wu Nian and shouted, "Bai Rong, I've found you at last!"

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Chapter 353 Getting Jealous

Liu Yan was stumped at the sight of Wu Nian.

The latter cast an impassive gaze at the woman on the floor. "I'm sorry, you've got the wrong

person. Are you hurt anywhere?"

"Are you not Bai Rong? I mean, you have to be..." The old woman tried to get up from the

floor but to no avail. "My legs. My legs hurt."

"Yan, call the police," Wu Nian said icily.

"Aren't we sending her to the hospital?" Liu Yan was bemused. This is not what Bai Rong

would do.

Bai Rong would definitely send the old woman to the hospital first before calling the police.

"We are surrounded by trees, and I don't think it's necessary for her to cross the road right

now. Even though she's old, and her vision is not that clear but I believe that she'd be able to

spot any cars coming her way. Besides, she's calling me Bai Rong. Is she your friend? Do

you think your friend would have recognized this old woman?" Wu Nian furrowed her brows

as she talked to Liu Yan.

“You’re right. I think it’s a trap. Someone has arranged for her to appear right here.” Liu Yan

cast wary looks at the surroundings and noticed something odd in the bushes. She edged

closer to examine it and noticed a few people scurrying off.

“Nian, someone set this up,” Liu Yan said.

“Get in the car.” Wu Nian turned around and got into the car.

“So are we going to just leave this old woman here?” Liu Yan asked as she trailed behind Wu

Nian.

“How should we deal with her anyway? I don’t want to look like a fool sending someone

who’s trying to harm me to the hospital. And so what if I send her to the police station? She’s

just going to be released after being remanded for two days. It’s a waste of time,” Wu Nian

sneered.

“At least we’d get to know who’s behind her, right?” Liu Yan looked at the old woman who

had since fled the scene. She doesn’t look like she’s hurt at all.

“Su Xuyan,” Wu Nian was positive that it was him.

Liu Yan felt a chill down her spine. “Has he started to suspect you?”

“I have the benefit of the doubt. Don’t worry about it.” Wu Nian said in a low voice.

Her phone started to ring. Noticing that it was Gu Yan, she picked it up right away.

“Nian.” Gu Yan’s childlike voice could be heard coming from the other end.

She took a look at the time. It was already eleven o’clock at night. There was a three-hour

time difference between A City and Xyperia. It was only eight o’clock at Xyperia.

“Have you had your dinner? How do you find your classmates? Are you getting used to your

school life already? Don’t kick your blankets at night, and don’t get into bed too late either.”

Wu Nian’s face softened as she went.

“I’ve had dinner already, and I’ve been getting along with my classmates too. The teacher likes me. I like going to the school because they’re all very friendly. I don’t kick the blankets at night and I go to bed early too. I just miss you... I’m at grandma’s place. Daddy’s outstation right now, and I’ve heard that he’s only going to be back after some time. Do you think you can drop by to visit me, like secretly?”

Wu Nian’s lips curled into a smile. “Sure, I’ll make the necessary arrangements.”

“It’s just like those spies in the movies. I’m going to call our little project Nian Yan. I hope you know what it means and don’t forget me.” Gu Yan beamed with delight.

“Sure. I promise to never forget you. Promise,” Wu Nian assured him with a loving tone.

“Muacks, Nian. Grandma is asking me to go take a bath. I have to go right now. I’ll give you a call whenever I can.” Gu Yan hung up the phone merrily.

Gu Yan’s call was like a ray of sunshine, warding off the gloom looming over Wu Nian just moments ago, his voice like molten chocolate to her ears.

Liu Yan cast a glance over at Wu Nian and sighed.

How is she going to fall in love and embrace her new life? She’s not even willing to live together with Gu Mingchen, and can only stealthily contact Gu Yan like this. They can’t even reunite with each other.

Gu Yan is still young, and he is still highly dependent on the adults. I don’t think he’s even going to remember Rong when he grows up.

Liu Yan sighed again at the thought of it.

There were just endless things to worry about.

Meanwhile, Wu Nian enjoyed a good night’s sleep, perhaps because she had thought things through. When she was at the third lap of her morning jog, her phone rang.

She had a hunch of what it was about after seeing that it was from Aaron. The woman made her way over to a shade and picked up the call. "I didn't sleep a wink last night because I missed you," Aaron said with a low, dreary voice. The man sounded weary. Her heart constricted as she furrowed her brows. "And then?" "I want to give us a try. I don't want to miss this chance," the man said with a pause. "Uh-huh," Wu Nian muttered a reply. Aaron went silent. Wu Nian reciprocated the silence as she set her gaze on the horizon. "I have to admit that I'm a little nervous right now. I've been single for a long time, and I don't think I'm used to feeling this... again," Aaron said with a smile, in an attempt to ease the tense atmosphere. "I... uh... I'd get to know the girl for some time first before we even think about starting a new relationship. Right now, I don't know what you like, your interests, your dislikes. I am... lost. Do you have time for lunch later? Maybe we can spend some time together and get to know each other." "Aaron, there's no need to morph yourself into who you think I might like. Just be yourself," Wu Nian replied. Aaron was stumped and there was a brief pause before he answered, "How did you know that? I mean, I'm willing to change, for you."

Wu Nian smiled. "You turn into someone you think I like. And when we get to know each other better, you will realize that somehow I'm straying further and further along from your ideal type. Somewhere along the line, you will get so tired that you fall back into who you were. Then, you start to hurt me. I start to get upset and feel indignant as I complain and

throw tantrums at you. And then, you get disdained at me as I slowly turn into your worst nightmare. This is what you experience, time and time again. That is why you haven't found the one that you've been chasing after your whole life."

"You... Do you study psychology?" Aaron was flabbergasted.

"I guess. It was my minor back in university. Are you afraid of me now?"

Wu Nian started to get more relaxed right then.

"No, it's my pleasure. Care to have lunch with me in the noon?" Aaron extended his invitation again.

"Sure, I'll go to your hotel."

"Remember to pack your luggage," Aaron reminded her.

The crease in between her brows deepened. "You don't look like the type that will rush to move in with people."

"Didn't you want to meet Stephen? I've made an appointment for you. He's living on a private island. I'll bring you there after lunch. It's a bit far so we're only able to come back tomorrow.

If you're still worried, I'm totally fine with you asking your friends to tag along," Aaron said gently.

"I'm not at all worried. Countless women want to climb into your bed, Mr. Aaron. I trust that you will not resort to such a despicable act. But, this is only going to be Liu Yan and Stephen talking. I'll be the one tagging along," Wu Nian explained.

"Sure. But please don't call me Mr. Aaron anymore. Just Aaron will do, or darling, if you fancy that."

Wu Nian chuckled.

Mr. Aaron likes coy and demure girls. Unfortunately, I'm none of those.

After lunch, they headed toward the dock. Stephen's yacht came over to pick them up.

Wu Nian and Liu Yan trailed behind Aaron as they boarded the yacht.

After getting to the

living room, then only did Wu Nian realize that Gu Mingchen was there too. The man sat upright on the sofa, looking dapper dressed in a black suit. He kept his head low as he was on his phone.

He lifted his gaze as looked over at Wu Nian. His eyes darkened and turned frosty the moment they locked gaze.

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Chapter 354 Jealousy

It was a look of disdain.

Wu Nian averted her gaze as it dimmed.

“Why is he going too?” Liu Yan was taken aback and asked Aaron.

The man shook his head and said he had no idea.

“Hey, Gu Mingchen. Why are you going to see Stephen too?” Liu Yan went straight to the point.

The man merely cast a glance at her and said nothing, disregarding her question.

Liu Yan hated condescending men who thought they were high and mighty compared to others.

Irrked, she deliberately posed a question to Wu Nian, “Nian, when are you getting married to Mr. Aaron?”

Wu Nian knew it was an attempt to aggravate Gu Mingchen. She thought better than to play along and make things worse. Hence, she merely said, “It’s still too early to say.”

“What early? You’re not getting any younger. Just get married if you’ve found the one,” Liu Yan egged her on.

“Liu Yan, quit joking around,” Wu Nian warned her in a low voice. Noticing that she was getting angry, Liu Yan pouted and lowered her head, saying nothing.

An odd glint flashed across Gu Mingchen’s eyes as he gauged Wu Nian. To his impression, Liu Yan had always been a fearless woman, and especially so after

getting together with Shen Yiyan. Nobody could hold her wrath, except for Bai Rong.

He initially thought that Wu Nian was someone sent by Shen Yiyan. On second thought, if she were truly someone sent by the man, then she should have been all meek and submissive before Liu Yan. However, Wu Nian did not seem at all like Liu Yan's subordinate with her sharp gaze and domineering vibe. The weirdest part was that Liu Yan had not even attempted to fight back.

Could she really be Bai Rong?

His heart skipped a beat as he did a double-take at Wu Nian's eyes, nose, lips, and the contours of her face. She looks nothing like Bai Rong. How could she be Rong?

If according to Liu Yan, Rong should have been fully recovered by now.

Why isn't she coming

to see me, and has even gotten together with Aaron?

A storm raged in Gu Mingchen's heart as he tightened his fist. The man tried his best to hold

everything in as he sounded Wu Nian out. "Stephen is living on an island.

Does Ms. Wu have

any experience living on a deserted island?"

Wu Nian shook her head. "Coldbridge City is not close to the sea. I don't get the chance to

go to the beach often either, much less living on a deserted island."

"Ms. Wu, you're a local here at Coldbridge City, right? Why don't you sound at all like you're

from here though?" Gu Mingchen continued to probe.

"I grew up in an orphanage. We have kids from all over the country there. So I don't get

much chance to develop an accent," Wu Nian explained, cool as a cucumber.

The man regarded her with an icy cold gaze.

Zhang Xingyu had just reported to him that she was not from the orphanage, and she had

just appeared there a year before. I'm not buying this bald-faced lie.

"I've stayed at Coldbridge City for some time, and I gotta say I've developed quite an accent. What do you think about my accent right now?" Gu Mingchen asked. Wu Nian smirked. "You're missing a few inflections here and there." The man's gaze dimmed as she pinpointed the erroneous mistakes in his accent as a true Coldbridge person would do. "Alright, forget about it," the man said resignedly. "Well, it's not your accent, to begin with. Might as well move on from it." The undertones were apparent in her words. "I can forget about an accent that doesn't belong to me. But some people, my people especially, I cannot and will never forget," Gu Mingchen replied in a low voice. "Are you talking about your ex-wife, Mr. Gu?" Wu Nian asked with a straight face. "She's my only wife." Gu Mingchen corrected her. Wu Nian said nothing as she kept her gaze low. Aaron twitched his lips as he listened to the two. He held Wu Nian's hands and asked softly, "Do you and Mr. Gu know each other?" "I almost became his child's home tutor," Wu Nian replied truthfully. "Well, talk about fate," Aaron chimed. Wu Nian managed a thin smile and noticed that Gu Mingchen's gaze was transfixed on her face. She whispered to Aaron, "I want to eat an orange." Aaron smiled affectionately at her and took an orange from the fruit plate. He peeled the orange and brought a piece close to her mouth.

She opened her mouth and bit the piece coming her way. "Is it sweet?" Aaron asked as he was about to feed her another one. "Uh-uh," Wu Nian smiled as she replied. Aaron looked adoringly at the woman before him. He noticed that the woman was usually cold and distant but her smile was anything but that. It was beguiling. "I'll get you more when we get back if you like it."

“Sure.” She cocked her head to one side, leaned against Aaron’s shoulders, and closed her eyes.

Gu Mingchen was disquieted at the sight of her. He walked out of the living room and headed to the deck, setting his gaze afar.

Liu Yan put her hands to her back and made her way over to Gu Mingchen’s side smugly.

She traced his gaze into the distance and said, “Rong has found her happiness. I think it’s best that you get married soon too. Everyone is going to be happy then.” “She’s not Rong.”

“You’re right. So, Gu Mingchen, you need to stay away from her.” Liu Yan resonated with his statement with a hint of warning in her words.

Peeved, he looked at her, “What do you want, exactly?”

“Nothing.” Liu Yan shrugged and snickered, “Everything’s breezy.”

Noticing that she went along with his idea, Gu Mingchen was even more disturbed.

Liu Yan turned around to head into the living room, and he followed suit. Aaron pecked on Wu Nian’s forehead.

Gu Mingchen was stumped at the sight.

The woman did not open her eyes. Is she asleep, or is she giving her consent for him to do so?

His heart contorted inexplicably. It was as if poisonous vines were gripping onto his heart, wringing him dry as he suffered the excruciating pain till there was only a bitter void left.

Liu Yan wanted to give Aaron and Wu Nian some private space. She turned around and noticed Gu Mingchen who was just standing there. “Let’s chat some more.”

Gu Mingchen paid no heed to her and sat right opposite Aaron. In a frosty voice, he asked,

“How long have you two known each other?”

Wu Nian’s brows creased slightly. Is it going to be very obvious if I wake up right now and

ask Aaron to go to the deck with me?

Aaron seemed unfazed by his question. "It doesn't matter how long we've known each other.

People wouldn't have broken up with each other if the duration they've been together made even the slightest difference."

"How are you so sure that she's the one?" Gu Mingchen narrowed his eyes at the man before him.

"She appeared at the right time and place. Most importantly, we are together now. This is fate."

"It could be a well-planned lie," Gu Mingchen said in an attempt to dampen the atmosphere.

Aaron still wore a warm smile. "Even if it's a lie, it still doesn't change the fact that it's a beautiful encounter. I like the way it all unfolds. If that's the case, I am in fact glad to be lied to, and I pray that there's a turning point."

"What if the one for you is still waiting down the road?" Gu Mingchen's voice turned frosty.

"Have you only ever been in one relationship?" Aaron asked, puzzled.

Gu Mingchen turned his gaze onto Wu Nian. "I won't give up on someone who I think is the one, even if other women are admittedly better than her. I will live out the rest of my life alone in memories of her, never to marry again."

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Chapter 355 Uncontrollable

Bai Rong opened her eyes and locked gaze with Gu Mingchen. Her gaze was distant and cold.

"What if the woman does not like you? And she's married to someone else, and even bears a child for the other man?" Aaron pressed on.

"I believe that she will not give up on us either," Gu Mingchen said determinedly.

“Hah.” Aaron chuckled. “Mr. Gu is one of those half-cup-full people. Well, I hope all the best to you two.”

“Aaron,” Wu Nian called out, “Would you accompany me out on the deck?”

“Sure.”

Wu Nian set her gaze out into the distance, where the skyline and the sea met.

September’s wind felt breezy and brisk against her face, giving her a sense of tranquility.

Aaron regarded her silky smooth hair brushing against the wind and felt a tickle in his heart.

He lowered his head and pecked on her cheek.

Wu Nian looked at him and noticed Gu Mingchen who was eyeing them behind their backs.

She said nothing.

Aaron looked into her eyes and his lips curled into a smile. “Your eyes are so clear and pure, and are even more beautiful than the sea.”

“Don’t be deceived by looks. Beauty is just skin-deep. I’ve done a lot of things wrong, and I get the chills every time I listen to that,” Wu Nian retorted ruthlessly.

“You’re so special that you make me want to treasure you. I’m starting to worry that you might get snatched away,” Aaron said with his unwavering smile.

“What’s yours can never be taken away. It’s futile to try and hold on to things that don’t belong to you,” Wu Nian said dryly.

Aaron hooked her chin and lowered his head as he was about to plant a kiss on her lips.

A hint of disdain flashed across her face.

Aaron was a Ustranasion, and they were more liberal with physical contact. She could

accept that a peck on the cheek was a cultural thing. However, a kiss on the lips was too much.

However, she knew Gu Mingchen was watching.

Not only was Aaron going to be embarrassed if she had rejected him outright, but she also wouldn't be able to keep her story straight either. Begrudgingly, she closed her eyes as her chest heaved. She felt a warm sensation on her lips. Aaron pressed on, his tongue gently tracing her lips. Wu Nian did not like it. She retracted and turned around to face the sea. She did not wish for Gu Mingchen to notice her odd demeanor. "What's the matter?" Aaron was perplexed. He hadn't had enough. "I practice moderation in everything I do. That's how you don't get sick of something," Wu Nian mumbled an excuse. "Are you a love expert?" Aaron queried. "Do you wish that I'm one? Or not?" The woman regarded him. "I hope you are. I'll continue to improve myself to keep up with you. That way we'd never get sick of each other," Aaron chuckled.

"You really do offer a fresh perspective. You'll realize whether I am, or not, sometime down the road. How long till we get to Stephen's place?" Wu Nian steered the conversation in another direction. The man cast a glance at his wristwatch and said, "We have another two hours." "I think Gu Mingchen is also here to convince Stephen to help him out. What do you think Yan is going to offer so that he decides to help her out instead?" Wu Nian wanted to hear Aaron's opinion on the matter. "Stephen is a quirky man, and it's quite hard to grasp what's on his mind. That chap is an eccentric old man," Aaron commented. "Then how did you become best friends with him?" Wu Nian asked, puzzled. "Because he wants to be friends with me," Aaron explained. Wu Nian seemed to have gotten the gist of it.

It all depends on how Stephen sees Liu Yan and Gu Mingchen for him to decide on who to help.

“I need to use the restroom.” Wu Nian turned around. Gu Mingchen was no longer standing there.

Her gaze darkened upon the realization.

I think he should know that I’m not Bai Rong when he sees Aaron kissing me.

There is nothing left between us. We are going on our separate ways from now onward.

Wu Nian made her way to the restroom. Her arm was grabbed by someone before she managed to step inside.

She was startled. Lifting her head, she noticed that it was Gu Mingchen.

“What are you doing?”

Gu Mingchen’s lips pursed into a hard line as he dragged her into the restroom and locked the door behind them. He perched his right hand on her right side just above her head,

cornering her. He lasered in on her as he demanded, “Who are you?”

“What does it have anything to do with you?” Wu Nian furrowed her brows. Gu Mingchen looked terrifying right then.

Gu Mingchen pinched her two cheeks, his voice getting hoarse and stern. She could almost

feel his breath on her face as he gritted his teeth. “You act like you’re Bai Rong, and yet you say it has nothing to do with me? Now you’re playing hard to get? What is it that you want?

Don’t tell me that you have no ulterior motive in applying to become my child’s home tutor!”

Wu Nian glared at him. “What ulterior motive do you think I have then, Mr. Gu?”

“You are seducing me, and when I fall in love with you, you’re going to become a ticking time

bomb by my side, and in turn securing Shen Yiyan's status," the man growled in a low voice, gauging her every expression.

"Well, am I getting ahead of the game then?" Wu Nian retorted as her gaze turned sharp.

"That's impossible," Gu Mingchen snapped.

"Since that's impossible, then what are you afraid of? Even if I do go out of my way to seduce you, I wouldn't succeed anyway because you already had your mind set. There's no need to come and warn me, much less demand for my answer," Wu Nian spat out every word in a resolute tone.

For a split second, Gu Mingchen was in a daze. The way she talks, her tone, and her demeanor... are exactly like Bai Rong.

"So you're really seducing me?" Gu Mingchen narrowed his eyes at her with a cold, hard stare.

"You wouldn't have believed me even if I say that everything is just a coincidence." Wu Nian was trying to get away as she tried to sneak out from under his arms.

The man grabbed at her arm and immobilized her against the wall with his body. He looked down at her in a domineering manner. "My subordinate has done a background check on you. You did not grow up in an orphanage. You only appeared in the orphanage over a year ago."

Even your resume is fake. The school that you've gone to had someone named Wu Nian. But that is not you.

That means your real name isn't even Wu Nian. Shen Yiyan has given you a fake identity card. What else do you have to say?

"Yes." Wu Nian lifted her chin and looked straight into Gu Mingchen's eyes. "I'm sent by Shen

Yiyan, because my voice is similar to Bai Rong, and I look decent. And so, they've cultivated me to behave like her. The goal is simple. My job is to seduce you and make you fall in love with me. That way, I will be able to stay by your side and monitor your every move. Are you satisfied with the answer then?"

Gu Mingchen furrowed his brows. "You're not even trying to seduce me. Why would you be in a relationship with another man, even kissing him right in front of me to seduce me? Did you do it on purpose?"

"Because I've realized that your personality is not compatible with me, and I don't want to sacrifice my whole life being together with you. I want to break free from Shen Yiyan's control!" Wu Nian snarled at him.

Gu Mingchen lowered his head and kissed her right on the lips right after.

You Owe Me, My Love Chapter 356

Chapter 356 I Am Bai Rong

Wu Nian jumped and stumbled backward, knocking her head against the wall.

Gu Mingchen did not hesitate and trapped her against the wall before pressing his lips forcibly against hers. His kiss was deep and desperate as if he were a wild beast.

Trying to resist, Wu Nian used all the strength that she had to push him away.

However, the harder she struggled, the closer he would press against her. Wu Nian felt like a

little boat on the brink of sinking in the treacherous stormy seas.

She panicked and bit Gu Mingchen's tongue.

A piercing sense of pain woke him up from his trance.

Staring at Wu Nian with bloodshot eyes, he seemed to be in agony.

What's with me?

Why did I just kiss her like that?

She's not Bai Rong!

As a devastating wave of regret overwhelmed his brain, he threw a heavy punch against the wall "Get the f*ck out," he snarled.

Wu Nian hastily wiped off the blood on her lips and hurried off into the living room.

Upon seeing Wu Nian's pale face, Liu Yan immediately came over. Kneeling before her, she asked, "Nian, are you okay?"

Wu Nian was still trembling uncontrollably. She was unsure if it was out of anger, fear, or something else. No matter how much she wanted to deny it, she felt a stinging numbness in her heart when she saw Gu Mingchen's despondent face.

"I'm fine. Yan, I don't have any more business with Gu Mingchen. Please don't arrange for us to meet or anything from now on," Wu Nian said softly with tears sparkling in her eyes.

"Oh... Okay, I understand. I'm sorry," Liu Yan replied.

Liu Yan also began to regret telling Gu Mingchen that Wu Nian was actually Bai Rong. She had hoped that his attitude toward her would change for the better after hearing the truth, but Gu Mingchen only seemed more provoked due to his distrust toward the two of them. In the end, Bai Rong was the one suffering the most.

"I won't get you involved with him ever again, I promise."

After the episode, Gu Mingchen did not enter the living room for the entire journey.

That came as a relief for Wu Nian. Staying in the same space as him would feel suffocating, stressful, and awkward.

When they alighted the steamship, there were two cars prepared by Stephen, which were on stand-by to pick them up. Wu Nian, Liu Yan, and Aaron boarded the same car.

It took roughly ten minutes to arrive at Stephen's villa.

The villa resembled a grandiose castle- robust high walls enclosed the majestic main

building, and the electric barbed wires on the fencing formed a strong barricade against unwanted personnel. Two security guards were stationed at each vantage point.

“Are artists usually this rich?” Liu Yan raised an eyebrow at Wu Nian. “Stephen’s family used to run a jewelry business, and he only became an artist to pursue his personal passions. After inheriting the family business, he promptly passed it down to his daughter. All in all, he owns sufficient assets to live such a lifestyle,” Aaron explained.

Nodding, Wu Nian said, “Oh, is that so. Well, that does sound like something an oddball like him would do.”

“He used to have a son too. Due to an unfortunate accident, his son drowned, and now his two daughters are sharing the family inheritance equally. However, Stephen doesn’t really care about all of that. He’s just really single-minded about painting, you know?” Aaron continued.

“Yan, try to criticize his art more. You may get a pleasant surprise,” Wu Nian suggested.

“Huh?” Liu Yan scratched her head. “O-okay. By the way, there seems to be a lot of people in there.”

Wu Nian had also noticed the considerable number of guests at the villa. A sense of unease began creeping up her spine. “I wonder if they are guests like us or residents of the island. They don’t look like residents to me.”

“Let me introduce my companions!” Aaron said, walking toward Stephen with a bright smile plastered on his face. “Stephen, this is my girlfriend, Wu Nian, and that is her friend, Liu Yan.”

Aaron gestured to the two of them, keeping his introduction concise. Stephen’s family members and in-laws were all present in the room. There was his eldest

daughter's family, including her husband and her children, as well as his second daughter with her friend, who took her boyfriend along. Stephen's butler also entered the room with Gu Mingchen.

Upon seeing Gu Mingchen, Stephen walked toward him with enthusiasm and extended his

hand. "Mr. Gu! You're really a seer! You promised that you would help me auction my work

for fifteen million, and as it turns out, it's at sixteen million already!"

Wu Nian and Liu Yan exchanged looks.

They finally wrapped their heads around what Gu Mingchen had meant by "all that glitters is not gold".

Su Xuyan's successful bid for "Dream Girl" actually worked in Gu Mingchen's favor.

Gu Mingchen had stricken a deal with Stephen all along.

So, what more can we do? Does it matter if we talk to Stephen at this point?

"Mr. Stephen, your meal is ready." A woman in a maid uniform walked into the room and bowed to him.

Wu Nian's eyes widened. "Xia He!" She spluttered.

The maid looked up at Wu Nian with a perplexed expression. "Do you know me?"

"We... we've met at the mall, don't you remember?" Wu Nian hastily explained.

Gu Mingchen narrowed his eyes. Pursing his lips, he fixed his deep gaze on Xia He with a dispassionate expression.

"Oh, I remember. You helped me pay last time, and that's when I told you my name. I'm so sorry. You didn't give me your phone number, so I haven't been able to return the money. I'll pass it to you later." Xia He smiled.

"Don't sweat it. It's nothing," Wu Nian replied, going with the flow.

"Oh, so you two are acquainted. Hah... It's really as they say... It's a small world, isn't it?"

Alright, since everyone is already here, let us have our meal first. I've got something to

announce!" Stephen seemed to be in a pleasant mood.

Xia He nodded and glanced at Wu Nian with smiley eyes. "Please follow me out for a bit."

With that, she turned around and disappeared after turning a corner, leaving Wu Nian

standing there, dumbfounded.

Didn't she see Gu Mingchen? Is she trying to make a run?

Wu Nian followed Xia He for five whole minutes until Xia He suddenly turned around sharply

and snatched her neck with claw-like fingers.

Glaring at Wu Nian intensely with a scathing gaze, Xia He growled, "Who in the world are

you? I've never seen you before. Only Gu Mingchen and my boss know my name."

Wu Nian was choking and could barely make a sound.

Upon seeing Wu Nian's furrowed brows, Xia He realized that she might have been too violent

with her attack. She immediately loosened her grip by a little but still kept Wu Nian under her

restraint.

"Xia He... Xia He... I'm Bai Rong. I underwent plastic surgery. We've met at Tangqian Village,

do you remember? You helped Tang Xiaojiu kill Governor Cheng, and when I found out that

you have a basement in your room, you tied me to the table in your basement." Wu Nian

recounted the details of the past.

Xia He was dazed. She knew very well that only Bai Rong, Gu Mingchen, and herself knew

about the incidents in Tangqian Village. She finally let go of Wu Nian.

"How did you end up like this?"

"Long story. Anyways, please keep my identity a secret. Gu Mingchen mustn't know that I'm

Bai Rong," Wu Nian pleaded.

“Why? Did you undergo plastic surgery just to hide from him?” Xia He asked.

“I have my own reasons. There’s another thing I need to tell you. Do you know why Gu

Mingchen suspected you of being a spy? It’s because you two were the only survivors of

that incident. Zhou Hailan has returned, and Gu Mingchen knows that one of you has to be

the spy. You should make your identity clear to Gu Mingchen. Prove it to him that Zhou

Hailan is the spy, and you won’t have to live your life like a fugitive,” Wu Nian said earnestly.

Xia He’s eyes widened. “Zhou Hailan isn’t dead?”

Wu Nian sighed. “That’s just my take on the matter. I’m not getting involved in this,” she said,

walking off to the living room.

In a dark corner behind her, Gu Mingchen stood there with his fists clenched so tightly that

blood was seeping down from his hands.

You Owe Me, My Love Chapter 357

Chapter 357 Who Is Sleeping With Who

When Liu Yan told him that she was Bai Rong, he simply ignored her words.

He had no trust in them. Even if Wu Nian were acquainted with Xia He, it would not

necessarily mean that she was indeed Bai Rong, or so he had thought.

However, the facts laid out before him were cruel but absolute. Only Bai Rong, Xia He, and

himself knew about what happened at Tangqian Village.

No one but the three of them would know about the incident to such fine details.

Unless the two of them conspired all of this in advance and purposely played out that scene

in front of me.

Gu Mingchen quickly dismissed that thought. There’s no way that they knew I’d be hiding in the dark listening to them.

Before Xia He could walk off, Gu Mingchen jumped out from the darkness and blocked her way.

Xia He frowned. "Gu Mingchen, are you really going to doubt on me like this when Zhou Hailan isn't dead? Why would I still be hiding here and working as a maid if I really were the spy? I would have been having the time of my life abroad! Zhou Hailan has betrayed us!"

"I'm not going to jump to conclusions just because of this. Neither you nor Zhou Hailan can be trusted. Even if I were to do one-on-one interrogations, I wouldn't arrive at an answer that

I would be satisfied with." Gu Mingchen walked a little closer to Xia He.

"I have a task for you. Should you do it well, I'll leave you alone as long as you stay on this island," he said in a low voice.

"What do you want from me?" Xia He asked.

"Ask Wu Nian this question. Are the oranges in Tangqian Village sweet or sour?" Gu

Mingchen said.

"Why?" Xia He blinked.

"There's no need for you to know. Just ask her the question as it is. And one more thing..."

Gu Mingchen looked down, a spark flashing across his eyes. "Ask her about her habits in bed. Her habits in bed when she's with me."

"You're trying to test her? Are you trying to figure out her true identity?"

Xia He saw right through him.

"Just do as I say. And don't mention anything about our conversation here," Gu Mingchen

said coldly. Before Xia He could say anything else, he turned around and strode off.

Xia He could feel the corners of her mouth twitching. "Hmph. Gu Mingchen, you've made me

suffer for too many years. Do you want to know who she really is? I'm not going to let you."

Back at the main hall with all the guests, dinner had finally begun.

Stephen prepared a large round table, and a total of twelve people were sat around it.

“Oh, by the way, my butler informed me that it would be a little difficult to arrange individual rooms for everyone, with the bedrooms for the housemaids excluded. You guys will probably have to share rooms amongst yourselves. So, who’s sleeping with who?”

“I’ll sleep with my husband, and the kids can sleep with you,” Stephen’s eldest daughter said to him.

“Alright, alright. There are three more rooms. How do you guys want to share them?”

Stephen turned to Gu Mingchen.

“My friend and her boyfriend can stay in a room. As for the rest, the ladies can take one room, and the gentlemen here can take the last. How does that sound?”

Stephen’s second daughter suggested.

“I’m not used to sleeping with others. There is a bedroom on the steamship. I can sleep there for the night,” Gu Mingchen said quietly.

“Great! And since Wu Nian and Aaron are a couple, they can share a room too,” Liu Yan quickly added.

Upon hearing those words, Gu Mingchen’s expression instantly darkened. He glared at Liu

Yan and then stared at Aaron intently. “I remember that there are two bedrooms on the steamship.”

“I don’t think I can sleep on the ship. I’ll get seasick,” Aaron replied curtly.

Gu Mingchen narrowed his eyes. “Hmph. I think you’re right. In that case, I’ll just make do with sharing a room with you for the night.”

“Mr. Gu, Aaron and Wu Nian are a couple. Wouldn’t it be more appropriate for them to have a

room together? On that note, this living room sofa seems perfect for you.” Liu Yan looked really grumpy.

“Well, I think it wouldn’t be good to let my special guest sleep in the living room! Okay, how about I get them to set up a bed in the study? My eldest daughter and her husband can sleep there instead,” Stephen said merrily.

On the other hand, his eldest daughter did not seem to like the idea.

“Why must I sleep in the study? Can’t Lisa sleep there?”

“Hey! I’m sleeping with the guests. How can you let the guests sleep in the study with me?”

Lisa, Stephen’s second daughter, retorted.

“Aren’t you sleeping alone? Do the math! Mr. Gu is sleeping with Aaron.

The two ladies over

there are sleeping together. And you’re going to be sleeping alone...

alone in the study!” The

authoritative side of an elder sister was truly showing through her tone.

Turning to Wu Nian, Lisa asked, “Hey, are you sleeping with your boyfriend or your friend?”

Wu Nian could easily tell that Stephen’s daughters were not on good terms with each other.

She felt a little awkward picking a side to stand with, but in her heart, she knew that she did

not want to sleep in the same room as Aaron. “I’ll just sleep with Yan in the study. I’m so

sorry for all the inconveniences caused for coming on such short notice.”

Lisa clucked her tongue.

Stephen quickly spoke and tried to uplift the atmosphere once more.

“Okay, all’s settled

then! Let us enjoy our meal! Dig in! Dig in!” Smiling, he glanced at Wu Nian, then at Aaron.

Aaron put an arm around Wu Nian’s shoulder to pull her closer. “Hah...

Did I just get

rejected?” He whispered.

“I... I’m worried about Yan sleeping with some stranger,” Wu Nian explained.

Pursing his lips, Aaron sighed. "But you seem completely fine about me sleeping with a stranger?"

"Both of you are guys. There's no reason to worry."

Aaron grinned and brushed a finger against Wu Nian's nose. "Oh... I guess I have no choice then... Hehe... Dig in! You've lost so much weight since the first time I met you."

Wu Nian smiled back at him but did not speak. She could feel a piercing gaze fixated on her.

Without any doubt, it was from Gu Mingchen.

She feigned ignorance, and lowered her head to eat.

"Mr. Gu! Here's a toast to you!" Stephen raised his glass of red wine.

Gu Mingchen followed suit, and the two clinked their glasses. Gu Mingchen drank all the wine in his glass in one shot.

"Daddy, didn't you say that you want to make an announcement?" Lisa asked.

"Let us enjoy our meal first. I'll do it after."

"Huh? Say it now! How can I enjoy my meal if you keep me waiting like this?" Evidently, Lisa was not a very patient person.

"Okay, okay. So, the thing is, I've actually sold this island to Mr. Gu. I will also be leaving for A City, and I'll be staying there for quite a while. I won't be returning here in the short-term,"

Stephen said, looking at everyone at the table.

The room fell into silence. Everyone at the table simply exchanged perplexed looks.

"Hold on, Daddy, whatever are you doing in A City?" Lisa whined.

"What Mr. Gu had told me was right. My artworks do seem perfect with the harmonious

imagery portrayed, but they lack the dynamic feeling of life! I need to take a trip alone and journey through various places to truly feel the spiritual aspects of people and their lives. I

want to incorporate such things into my works," Stephen replied with a serious face.

“Daddy, have you really thought this through? Sure, you can go on a trip elsewhere, but why have you sold the island?” Stephen’s eldest daughter seemed flabbergasted.

“Mr. Gu told me that his wife really enjoys life here, and I was touched by their genuine love for the place. I have no emotional attachments to the place, and I can’t wait to live somewhere more refreshing,” Stephen explained matter-of-factly. His daughters exchanged displeased looks with each other but did not try to question their father any longer.

All of a sudden, Xia He came bursting into the room with a panicked expression. “Mr.

Stephen! Did you dispatch your steamship?”

“No, what’s wrong?”

Xia He glanced at Gu Mingchen with a stern look and said, “The steamship is gone!”

Just as she said those words, a loud buzz, followed by a popping sound echoed in the room,

and the entire living room sank into darkness.

You Owe Me, My Love Chapter 358

Chapter 358 Among Us

The ladies in the room let out screams of horror, and an unnerving enshrouded the room.

Some at the table stood up by reflex, while some instinctively squatted down. The creaking

sounds of chairs being dragged filled the room.

Wu Nian felt that her heart was at her throat.

The mysterious disappearance of the steamship and the sudden electrical outage seemed

to be linked in an eerie way. They felt like incidents leading up to a murder, not to mention

that they were on an isolated, independently-managed island.

“Yan!” Wu Nian called out worriedly.

In the darkness, a warm hand suddenly grabbed her waist from behind.

Bai Rong tensed up but was immediately pulled into a comforting embrace. “It’s okay.” Gu

Mingchen's deep voice echoed in her ears.
Wu Nian's heart raced. For a moment, she felt as if she had traveled back in time- his familiar baritone voice, his familiar touch, and his gentleness pulled at her heartstrings.
"I'm not scared." Wu Nian tried to push his hand away.

Someone at the table had found their phone and turned on the flashlight function.
"Argh!" Someone let out a panicked scream.
Wu Nian unconsciously grabbed the hem of Gu Mingchen's shirt. Gu Mingchen lowered his head and peered at her face. The dim light carved out a blurred outline of her side profile. She looked like a goddess in abstract artwork. He blinked. If not for her face, he would whole-heartedly believe that he was holding Bai Rong in his arms at that moment.
Calm, resilient, cold, but intrinsically cute. That was how Bai Rong had always been.
She had kept away her sorrowful secrets to herself and refused to rely on others in the name of independence for too long. Moments where she would show her vulnerable side always hit the soft spot in his heart.
One such instance was when she rescued a pregnant woman who was held hostage during a mission. Though he was impressed with how she remained strong and courageous throughout the mission, he could never forget how she cried in his arms.
"Rong, is this you?" Gu Mingchen asked softly.
Wu Nian trembled. Panicking, she let go of Gu Mingchen's shirt and tried to move a little further from him.
The darkness seemed to have kept her flustered expression well hidden.
"I'm not. Mr. Gu, you've got the wrong person. I just happen to have a similar voice as your ex-wife."
Gu Mingchen grabbed her hands.
Wu Nian struggled and quickly broke free.

“I’ve brought candles. Phew. We’re lucky to have some spares. I’ll get someone to check on the electricity generator later,” the butler reported to Stephen, holding a lit candle as he walked into the living room.

“Daddy? What’s going on?” Lisa asked in annoyance, though her face was visibly pale under the dim light of the candle.

“I’m not sure. Maybe the electricity generator malfunctioned.” Stephen tried his best to comfort everyone.

“And what about the steamship?” Lisa continued.

Stephen caught sight of Xia He in the corner and moved toward her.

“Are you sure that the steamship is not at the dock?”

“I’m very sure!” Xia He nodded profusely, glancing at Gu Mingchen with a subtle look of guilt.

Upon meeting his piercing gaze, she looked away instinctively.

She knew that Gu Mingchen must have seen through her scheme of running away.

With him in the know of her plans, there was no way that she could escape the island, nor could she hide the truth from him.

“Ollie... Ollie? Ollie!” The screams of Kyle for his wife suddenly resounded in the room.

Everyone turned in the direction of his voice and was greeted by the sight of Stephen’s

eldest daughter, Ollie, sitting on her chair with her head rolled back and her hands falling limply by her sides.

“Ollie, did you faint from the blackout? What a scaredy-cat!” Lisa broke the silence.

As Kyle tried to carry Ollie to the sofa, he spotted a splash of red on her neck and the glint of

metal – a dagger had been stabbed into the back of her neck. “Ollie! Ollie!” He screeched, putting a finger below her nose.

His face instantly turned a deathly white. Turning his head shakily to look at Stephen, he stammered, "She... she... is... dead... dead."
"Dead? How is that possible?" Stephen hurried over.
Wu Nian observed the area punctured by the blade of the dagger, frowned, and looked to Xia He.

Xia He immediately shook her head.
"Don't touch her. Call the police!" Wu Nian said in concern.
She grabbed her bag, which was hung on the chair, and dug for her phone.
"Huh? There's no signal!" Lisa's friend shrieked, looking rather distressed.
"Nian, there's no signal for me too. What's going on?" Liu Yan was also starting to freak out, and she moved a little closer to Wu Nian.
Staring at the screen of her own phone, Wu Nian was hit by the same plight.
"Can we run a check on our signal transmitter? What is going on?" Stephen thundered.
"Got it." The butler promptly got on his way.
"It's best for everyone to stay in the living room," Wu Nian suggested.
"Why?" Lisa seemed to be on the brink of tears. "My sister just died here! I'm scared!"
"The signal and electricity have been cut. The steamship is also gone. Whoever planned this out must be after more than one of us." Wu Nian gave her analysis.
Gu Mingchen's gaze on Wu Nian intensified.
Of course, it would be possible for personality traits to be imitated and for behavior patterns to be copied. However, having the exact combination of both on another person seemed too much of a stretch. It would be too difficult to test the individual's learning abilities and intuitive prowess in analyzing situations.
The fact that Wu Nian could point out the main point of concern so quickly could only mean

two things – Wu Nian was smart enough to put up the perfect disguise, or she was actually Bai Rong. Just the possibility of Wu Nian being Bai Rong made Gu Mingchen’s heart race. His breaths also became more hectic as he stared at the woman standing before him. The flickering candle flames reflected in his eyes made it seem like he was in a frenetic trance.

“Who else is the killer after?” Lisa felt a crippling sense of fear creep up her spine. As she turned to look at Ollie, she felt goosebumps all over. She shakily covered her face.

“I’m not so sure about that for now, but...” Wu Nian paused and looked down.

“But what?” Lisa asked.

After a moment of hesitation, Wu Nian met gazes with Lisa.

If she were to say it, the sense of panic and fear in the room would be exacerbated. But it’ll

help them keep their guards up... or would they start second-guessing each other’s behavior?

Or maybe, it’ll somehow intimidate the killer.

“The killer is among us,” Wu Nian said.

“What?” Lisa stumbled backward and recoiled against the wall, glancing at the rest of the people in the room nervously.

“Ms. Wu, are you sure?” Stephen was beginning to feel afraid too. After all, his own daughter had just died in that very room.

“In the ten seconds between the blackout and the appearance of the flashlight from the phone, the living room remained sealed off from outside, meaning that the killer had enough time to come in and murder Ollie but insufficient time to leave the scene after doing the deed. Therefore, the killer must be among us. There’s no time for him or her to run,” Wu Nian

explained calmly.

“Could it be suicide? I’ve seen a friend who stabbed a needle into his temples in a similar fashion as everything that has transpired so far.” Gu Mingchen’s deep voice could be heard from behind her.

Of course, he knew that it was not a suicide. He just wanted to test Wu Nian.

The incident that he mentioned was analyzed and resolved by Bai Rong herself. She would be more familiar with it than him.

“It’s possible for one to stab one’s temples, but not quite possible for one to stab a dagger precisely through one’s spine. Ollie died from a hemorrhage caused by an incision into her spine. It couldn’t have been suicide,” Wu Nian replied.

“So, the killer is indeed among us!” Stephen’s eyes widened as he looked at his guests. He seemed to be getting increasingly displeased and was keen on chasing his guests out of his house.

You Owe Me, My Love Chapter 359

Chapter 359 She Has To Be Bai Rong

“Mr. Stephen!” One of Stephen’s security guards entered the room with a plastic bag in hand.

“Someone scraped off the insulation cover on the wires of the electricity generator and then poured water all over it, causing the entire generator to break down.”

“Mr. Stephen!” His butler also came rushing back into the room. “The signal transmitter was immersed in water when I found it. It can’t be fixed!” He said, holding up the plastic bag containing the broken device.

“So... the killer has two accomplices... There’s three of them at the very least?” Lisa’s face was turning paler by the second.

“Can I take a look on site?” Wu Nian asked.

“I’ll go with you,” Gu Mingchen immediately added.

“Me too!” Liu Yan said, glaring at Gu Mingchen.
I’m not letting you stay alone with Wu Nian!
“I think crowding around her would affect her focus. You two stay here.
I’ll go.” Aaron smiled
and held Wu Nian’s hand.
Wu Nian nodded and left for the electricity generator room with him
and Stephen’s security
guard, ignoring Gu Mingchen’s burning gaze.

She swiftly swept her eyes across the room. The floor was full of messy
footprints. “You
guys don’t come to the electricity generator room often, do you? But
look at these
footprints. They look like they had just been made. Did you notice
anyone going into this
room today?”

“Miss Lisa came here this morning. She brought two of her friends to
tour around the villa,”
the security guard replied.

“And where did you find the plastic bag? How did it look like when you
initially discovered
it?”

“Well, it was hung on the wires and was filled with water when I first
saw it. Oh, I wonder
who did this! It can’t be Miss Lisa, can it? Miss Lisa has never really
gotten along well with
her sister.” The security guard expressed his thoughts earnestly.

Wu Nian narrowed her eyes as she looked at the water droplets dripping
from a tube above
the place where the plastic bag was supposedly hung at. “Do you have a
ladder?”

“Yes.” The security guard swiftly grabbed the ladder and set it up for her.
Wu Nian climbed up toward the tube and found an ice cube within it,
along with thin ropes
all tangled within the tube.

Carefully, she took the items out.

“How could there be an ice cube up there? Did the condensation freeze
up? In this weather?”

The security guard seemed rather baffled.

“Let’s go,” Wu Nian said quietly.

“Who do you think the killer is?” Aaron finally spoke.

“Let’s talk about this in the living room,” Wu Nian said, walking in front of him.

Aaron wrapped his arms around her waist gently and stared at her. “I only knew about how

you were trained in the medical sciences and psychology. Who would have thought that

you’re such an expert detective too.”

“I was...” Wu Nian paused. “I used to read a lot of mystery novels on solving crimes. I’m

really interested in such things.”

“You never cease to surprise, do you? Oh, I think I might fall head over heels for you soon,”

Aaron lamented.

“Don’t worry. You have discovered all of my good qualities. All that’s left is the bad and the

ugly. Prepare to be disappointed,” Wu Nian said.

When they returned to the living room, Stephen hurried over and asked,

“Any findings in the electricity generator room?”

“Yes. The killer fixed a plastic bag filled with water onto the wires. In the tube directly above

it, the killer inserted an ice cube. Since there is no airflow within the tube, so the water from

the melted ice will drip right into the plastic bag.” Wu Nian held up the items in her hand.

“Due to the increase in mass of the water contained within the plastic bag, it eventually

broke, and large amounts of water were splashed over the wires, resulting in short circuits

and melted wires.”

Looking at Stephen with a serious expression, Wu Nian explained, “It’s difficult to obtain

fingerprints from the ropes or the plastic bag. However, since your machinery is

manufactured in Danontand, there is a black box with five hundred megabytes of storage

located within the generator. As long as that hasn't been tampered with, we can extract it and connect it to a computer to obtain the surveillance footage. That way, we'll know for sure who hung the plastic bag on the wires."

"A black box? I wasn't the one who installed the black box, so I don't really know about the inner components. Where exactly is the black box?" Stephen seemed slightly confused.

"I know where it is. Please take some tools and follow me," Wu Nian said.

Smiling affectionately at Wu Nian, Aaron seemed rather impressed.

"Wow, you know about mechanics too?"

"I grew up at an orphanage and had to do many things by myself. There was an electricity generator that was donated to us. It had the same brand as the one Stephen owns. Once,

the electricity generator broke down, and we had to use the black box within it to find out why. It turned out that a naughty kid had thrown a stone inside," Wu Nian explained.

"So, the black box can capture the footage of the perpetrator?" Lisa asked.

Nodding, Wu Nian replied, "Yes, but there's a limited storage space of five hundred megabytes. The footage would not be complete."

"Okay, okay. Quick! Follow her and get the black box," Stephen said to the butler.

"Understood." The butler led the way.

Suddenly, a shadow flashed before Wu Nian and grasped the dagger that had been hidden in a flower pot in the living room.

"Stop her!" Wu Nian yelled.

Gu Mingchen immediately sprang into action.

However, he was about a second too slow. The next thing he knew, Lisa's friend, Casey, was

slashing the sharp blade of her dagger across Lisa's neck in one clean sweep.
"Argh!" Lisa covered her neck with her hands, but blood was gushing out from her neck uncontrollably. She stared at Casey, wide-eyed, and eventually collapsed against the wall behind her with a terror-stricken expression.
Gu Mingchen immediately seized her limbs and put her under restraint. The bloody dagger fell to the ground with a clinking sound.
Wu Nian also rushed over. Kneeling before Lisa, she applied pressure against her wound and shouted at Stephen, "Her carotid arteries have been cut! She'll die within a minute if we don't do something about it! I need ice, gauze, painkillers, anti-inflammatory drugs, a needle and syringe, antiseptic and sufficient light! Now!"
Upon seeing his daughter lying lifelessly against the wall, Stephen froze. "Quick! Quick! Give it to her! Give it to her now!"
The butler sprinted to get the first aid kit while Liu Yan went to get the ice.

Lisa's body was twitching in a disturbing fashion, and her eyelids were closing gradually.
However, she still seemed to be staring at Casey in disbelief.
Meanwhile, Casey had begun wailing. Her cries were high-pitched and raspy as if she was the one suffering the most.
Liu Yan swiftly came back with the ice. Wu Nian grabbed some pressed it against the wound. "Yan, we got to work together. Once the gauze comes, we will wrap the ice with it and press it against this spot, got it?"
"Okay, I know what to do," Liu Yan answered.
"Lisa, don't be scared, okay? As long as we control the blood loss, you will be fine. Please try your best to calm down. I'll sew up your wound, and you'll be fine, okay?" As Wu Nian

worked on doing first-aid, she continued to say reassuring words to comfort Lisa.

“Why are you saving her? You shouldn’t be saving someone like her!”

Casey snarled with a thundering voice.

“It’s one thing for you to commit murder and another for me to save a life. Shut your mouth,”

Wu Nian responded coldly.

Just then, the butler returned with the first-aid kit. “We have quite some resources prepared.

There is anesthesia too. Will it be of use?”

Wu Nian deftly took out the bottle of anesthesia, wrung the cover open, and inserted a syringe to extract it.

Gu Mingchen stood quietly behind her, staring at her with his gaze deep as a bottomless

ocean, dotted with a distinct spark of light as if he had recalled something.

When he had met Bai Rong for the second time, they were faced with a pregnant woman

who refused to undergo surgery at all costs. Bai Rong stayed calm and insisted on having

her do surgery.

He could roughly remember what she had said back then. This is my responsibility as a

doctor. You can file a case any day you want as long as you let me help you.

Even back then, her expression was full of conviction and might. She remained focused on

her work and exuded a powerful sense of justice.

She has to be Bai Rong! She has to be!

You Owe Me, My Love Chapter 360

Chapter 360 Let Go Of The Past

“I’m telling you not to save her! She’s a murderer! Five years ago, these two vicious sisters

plotted the death of Michael!” Casey cried, staring daggers at Lisa.

Casey’s outburst seemed to have triggered something within Lisa, and she could no longer

keep her composure. Her pupils dilated, and she began panting profusely.

“Nian! The blood. The blood! She’s too agitated. The bleeding can’t be stopped!” Liu Yan said.

“Lisa, calm down. You need to calm down.” Wu Nian turned back to look at Lisa.

It would be almost impossible to help her sew up her wound with her being so emotionally unstable and without the help of professional equipment.

Lisa let her emotions get the better of her. Her body began twitching uncontrollably for another three seconds before her entire body fell limply to the ground, with her eyes still wide open. Eventually, she stopped breathing.

Liu Yan and Wu Nian looked at each other, and the entire room turned silent. “Stephen, she’s... she’s dead,” Wu Nian said to Stephen with a pained expression on her face.

Stephen stumbled a few steps back, with his bloodshot eyes fixated on Casey. “What did you just say? My two daughters murdered my son five years ago? How did you know about it? Who are you?”

“I was Michael’s girlfriend five years ago. At that time, he had already proposed to me. I had always thought that he drowned in an unfortunate incident. For the past few years, I have never stopped dreaming of him. He would come to me, all bloody in my dreams!”

Casey wiped a tear from her eyes.

“Three years ago, Lisa visited the massage parlor I worked at. After finding out that she was Michael’s sister, I treated her well. I let her enjoy the services free of charge and even introduced her to men she might be interested in. Even after she hurt my friend, I continued

to help her in various ways, simply because she is Michael's sister." Feeling all the painful memories stirring up within her heart, Casey gulped and paused for a moment.

"But this morning, I overheard her conversation with her sister. As it turns out, those monsters murdered Michael together, fearing that you would give him part of the inheritance. Ollie must have deliberately provoked Michael such that he would go surfing further into the oceans. Before he left, Lisa drugged him with a spiked beer. Just as they had planned, Michael ultimately drowned in the treacherous oceans, and his body had already begun to rot when we found it floating on the waters!" Casey sobbed.

"But that's all in the past, isn't it. Now that I have sought revenge against those devils, it's time for me to keep him company in heaven."

Without any warning, Casey threw herself toward the wall. However, she had underestimated Gu Mingchen's strength. Even though she was somewhat trained for combat, she could not escape his grip and could only struggle like a lunatic.

Standing up, Wu Nian said solemnly, "I know that you're all about taking revenge, but have you ever tried thinking about what Michael would really want? Even if you kill yourself like this, Michael wouldn't necessarily want to see you."

"What do you even mean?" Wu Nian demanded.

"Michael proposed to you because he loved you. He would want you to live a happy, peaceful life, and yet, you've strayed too far on the path of revenge. As you probably know, Michael is Stephen's only son. Taking care of his old father was his responsibility. And now, you've killed the two remaining family members who could have continued to take care of Stephen." Wu Nian made every word she said crisp and clear.

“No... Those two witches wouldn’t have taken care of Stephen anyways! They came today thinking that Stephen would be splitting the inheritance between them. When they talked about who would live with Stephen in the future, both of them simply rambled on and on about how living with an old weirdo would be a nightmare! Those ungrateful witches don’t deserve to live!” Casey howled.

“And how about you? You’ve just killed two people. Ending your life now would be the easy way out, but death will not cleanse you of your sins. If you feel so strongly about committing suicide, use that energy to give back to society. If Michael were still alive, he wouldn’t want you to die like this.” Wu Nian’s voice was cold, but her words had an inherent sense of warmth to them.

Casey pursed her lips and seemed to have calmed down a little. “I... I don’t know what to do anymore.”

“I think you do. Don’t become someone like Lisa and Ollie. You can do better. Start by admitting your own mistakes,” Wu Nian said firmly.

“Mr. Gu, here’s the rope.” Xia He appeared abruptly and handed a rope to Gu Mingchen.

Gu Mingchen skilfully tied Casey up.

Sniffing a little, Casey said, “The methods I used were almost exactly the same as what Ms.

Wu described. As for the missing steamship, I stole Stephen’s phone and sent the crewmen a text to pick someone up. No one’s waiting for them, so they’ll probably return by tomorrow morning.”

Wu Nian walked up even closer to Casey. Wiping her tears and snot gently, she said, “The dead cannot come back to life. You’ve done all of this for the sake of Michael in return for his love for you, but in reality, he would have wanted you to live a happy life. There’s no point

in dwelling on the past.”

“But I love him.” Casey was crying a river.

“Then, you should respect his wishes all the more. That’s what love is about, isn’t it? It’s all about wanting the best for each other.” Those were her heartfelt words. “Ms. Wu, have you ever deeply loved someone?”

“Yes, I have. You can only set your souls free if you let go of the past, no matter how painful it might be.” Wu Nian let out a smile.

The golden rays of light from the candle flame seemed to enshroud Wu Nian’s body in a glistening warmth that looked soothing and comforting.

“Let go of the past and set my soul free...” Casey repeated her words.

“Let go of the past and set my soul free.”

“Ms. Wu, are we still taking the black box?” The butler asked.

Shaking her head, Wu Nian said, “There’s no need. I lied about the black box.”

Casey looked up at her.

Knowing exactly what Casey was thinking, Wu Nian said, “I’m sorry, but I don’t regret what I did. I believe that it was the right thing to do.”

Casey looked down at her feet and sank into thought.

The atmosphere of the room became oddly tranquil.

The two corpses in the living room gave off an icy chill.

“Mr. Gu.” Stephen broke the silence. “I don’t think I can sell the island to you anymore. If I

were to let you have it, I fear that my dear children would get lost on their way home. I can’t

travel to A City with you either. I need to stay here and protect them.

Regarding Mo Xue, I’ll

help you explain the situation to her, and I’ll come up with another painting for her.”

“If there’s anything you need, please tell me. I’ll help you the best I can,”

Gu Mingchen

replied.

Stephen shook his head weakly. “Please let me take care of my children first. Five days. I’ll

visit Mo Xue in five days.”
“My condolences, Stephen.”
Wu Nian turned to look at Liu Yan.

She shrugged at her. “It turns out that coming here was no use. Stephen’s bond with Gu Mingchen seems deep. Our efforts wouldn’t affect it at all. Oh, this must be fate,” she whispered softly.
Wu Nian felt her heart throb a little upon seeing Liu Yan’s saddened face. Holding Liu Yan’s hands, she said, “I’m sorry.”
Liu Yan smiled at her. “There’s no need to be sorry. It’s not your fault. We simply didn’t know that Gu Mingchen and Stephen had already struck a deal. I guess he’s simply more experienced than us, huh?”
“Our chance will come one day.” Wu Nian smiled back at her.
“I hope so.” Liu Yan was definitely not feeling that way in her heart.
“Wu Nian!” All of a sudden, Gu Mingchen called out her name in full. Wu Nian jumped. Shouldn’t it be Ms. Wu instead?
Somehow, it felt weird for the two of them to call each other by their names.
“I have something I want to tell you, alone. Come here,” Gu Mingchen said. He was as overbearing as ever and did not give her the option of rejecting him as he strode off.