

You Owe Me, My Love Novel Chapter 431

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Chapter 431 Trust Me Or Her

"I checked the surveillance camera. Xin's kidnapper was very careful. He wore a cap that hid his face, and the van they used had a fake car plate. They also used a route that did not have any surveillance cameras. We couldn't track them," said Gu Mingchen solemnly.

"Gu Mingchen, this is actually a no-brainer. You're just blinded by your concern. If I kidnapped Xin, I wouldn't hurt him. If Zhou Hailan was the one who kidnapped him, she wouldn't hurt her son either. Thus, Xin is definitely safe," analyzed Bai Rong out loud. She opened the pot and poured oil in.

Gu Mingchen remained silent.

Bai Rong dropped the fish into the pot. There was still water in it, which started to crackle and sent droplets of oil flying onto her hand.

Gu Mingchen put a lid over the pot and turned down the flame. He grabbed her hand and brought her over to the sink. "Are you angry because I didn't trust you?" he asked as he held her hand under the water.

Bai Rong's heart wrenched in regret when she saw how concerned and ashamed Gu Mingchen was.

He was right not to trust her because she did kidnap Xin. She knew that she was ruining his trust in her. But it doesn't matter as long as he stays safe.

"A little," answered Bai Rong. She was afraid that he would puzzle something out and quickly pulled her hand away to open the lid.

Gu Mingchen grabbed the spatula and blocked Bai Rong. "Be careful of the oil. Let me do it."

Bai Rong stood off to a side and murmured, "Don't worry. Xin will be fine."

"Okay. How should I cook this fish?" Gu Mingchen asked.

"There'll be chicken soup tonight. Just grill the fish. The oil won't spurt out anymore. Let me do it." Bai Rong picked up a bottle of cooking wine and poured it into the pot.

The content of the pot sizzled for a short while.

Gu Mingchen handed the spatula to Bai Rong, who then flipped the fish.

She had been preoccupied and forgot to add garlic and ginger, so she put them in along with soy sauce before placing the lid back on.

Right then, her phone started to ring, and the screen showed that the call was coming from Zhou Hailan. Without hesitation, she ended the call.

Gu Mingchen muttered, "Pick up the call."

Just as he spoke, Zhou Hailan called again. Bai Rong picked up the call and turned on the speaker.

"What do you want, Wu Nian?" Zhou Hailan demanded gruffly.

"What do you want?" asked Bai Rong.

"Xin is still so young. Why don't you target me directly? Leave the innocent out of this. I promise you that I won't meet with Gu Mingchen ever again. Xin will leave him alone too. Are you happy now?"

"Firstly, I don't care if you meet with Gu Mingchen or not. You're just an insect to me. Next, it's a fact that Xin is Gu Mingchen's son. Blood is always thicker than water, okay? Lastly, Gu Mingchen doesn't believe you. So, you don't need to waste any more time. We have a great relationship, and you will never be able to get between us. If there's nothing else, I'm hanging up now," hissed Bai Rong before she hung up.

She placed the phone on the bar and said, "I suspect that she knows you're here and put on a show on purpose. What do you think? Even if I really kidnapped Xin, it wouldn't be because I wanted her to leave. I just want to find out who's pulling the strings. You understand where I'm coming from?"

"I know. I'm sorry to put you through this," said Gu Mingchen apologetically.

Bai Rong's gaze darkened.

The more he trusted her, the more guilty she felt. "I'm going to cook. Get out of here. I can't do my thing with you in the kitchen. I'll be done in half an hour."

"Okay," replied Gu Mingchen as he turned to leave.

Bai Rong placed the rice inside the rice cooker and then tossed some beans and sliced meat into a pot.

At that moment, Zhou Hailan called again. Bai Rong checked the fire before answering the call and started the recording.

“Wu Nian, I won’t become your puppet just because you’ve kidnapped Xin. I won’t tell you the truth even if it costs me my life. I don’t care about him. I can always give birth to another child,” snapped Zhou Hailan viciously.

Bai Rong remained silent as she started to pity Xin.

Xin loved Zhou Hailan with all his heart. If someone tried to hurt her, he would not hesitate to avenge her with all the might he possessed. If Xin knew that Zhou Hailan felt this way about him, it would break his heart.

“Everyone makes their own choices. Your choices determine what the ending is. Although I don’t know why you’re framing me, I hope you won’t end up dooming yourself,” Bai Rong warned her before ending the call.

Another phone call from Zhou Hailan came in.

Bai Rong picked up.

“What do you mean?” Zhou Hailan screamed furiously.

Bai Rong chuckled. “From now on, I’m going to block you. You shouldn’t waste your time calling me again.”

Bai Rong hung up and immediately blocked Zhou Hailan. Then she continued cooking and served the food half an hour later.

Gu Mingchen’s brows were furrowed tightly. “Continue investigating. Check every nook and cranny. He can’t have disappeared just like that. Even if I have to search to the ends of the earth, I’ll do it,” ordered Gu Mingchen.

Bai Rong took a seat opposite him and started digging in.

Gu Mingchen gazed grimly at Bai Rong. “Rong, I know you want to find out who’s behind all this. However, I don’t want to sacrifice anyone in order to protect myself.”

Bai Rong made a sound of acknowledgment and went on eating.

Gu Mingchen raised an eyebrow but remained silent and started to eat as well.

The atmosphere became exceptionally quiet all of a sudden. The dogs picked up on the awkward silence and let out a few barks.

“Give me your phone,” said Bai Rong to Gu Mingchen.

Gu Mingchen did as she asked without hesitation.

Scrolling through his contacts, she stopped when she found Leng Xiao. She memorized the number and continued scrolling till she found Zhou Hailan's contact and proceeded to block her.

Gu Mingchen's brows drew even tighter together.

As Bai Rong looked at his deep frown, her heart ached. "You know Zhou Hailan's every move because your people are following her. I blocked her number, but you'll still be able to watch over her. However, if you insist on keeping her number, I can unblock her. I didn't delete her contact. Moreover, you should know that it won't be safe if you bring her here. I'll leave after we're done eating. I don't care if your people continue to follow me."

"You don't have to make such a big fuss." Gu Mingchen's frustration was evident.

"I just don't want the situation to worsen. I think we need a break to cool down. You know where to find me. Also..." Bai Rong paused and stared deeply at him. "You might not have noticed, but you trust Zhou Hailan more than you think. That's the reason why you started to suspect me after her calls. I think this is also the main reason why Xia He was wronged for so many years."

Bai Rong set down her chopsticks and stood up. "I'm done eating. You can take your time."

Gu Mingchen grabbed her hand. "I'm sorry."

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Chapter 432 They Are On Different Paths In Life

Bai Rong's heart wrenched in pain at Gu Mingchen's words as he had no reason to be sorry.

I'm the one who should be sorry for kidnapping Xin.

It's not his fault for not trusting me.

Her eyes started to well up with tears, but she forced herself to remain composed. She looked at him and said, "It's fine. I'm just in a bad mood."

"You're right. It isn't safe here anymore because I brought Zhou Hailan here. I was just anxious and failed to think things through. I'll find a new place to move to tomorrow."

"You don't need to do that. I want to spend a few days on my own to cool down," protested Bai Rong.

In fact, she truly had business to attend to, and it would be more convenient for her to leave. She knew where to go to prevent Gu Mingchen from finding her.

"What happens after you cool down? Will you break up with me? We've been through so much together. Are you really going to let this tear us apart? Although I trust Zhou Hailan more than Xia He, there's no one I trust more than you. There's no way I'll agree to break up. Anyway, I'll be at work while you're here, so I won't bother you, and you can take your time to think things through," said Gu Mingchen seriously.

The thought of breaking up made his heart ache. He felt as though it was about to shatter into a million pieces.

As Bai Rong lowered her gaze, her face was completely devoid of color. Her rational side and emotional side fought a hard battle before the former came out victorious.

After that, she nodded and walked over to Gu Mingchen to hug him, shutting her eyes and allowing the tears to flow out.

One day, he'll realize that he married a coward. I'm a coward who can't live without him.

"Eat more. You barely had anything," urged Gu Mingchen sweetly.

He had noticed her tears.

Gu Mingchen's heart ached to see her in such a state. "Nothing will happen between Zhou Hailan and me, I swear it. If I find out that she's working for the enemy, I'll send her to the authorities myself. Xin is my son, and I'm responsible for him."

Bai Rong murmured in acknowledgment as she sniffled and sat down in his seat, wiping her tears away.

Gu Mingchen set her bowl and utensils in front of her before sitting down next to her. With a faint smile, he asked, "Are you still jealous?"

Instead of replying, Bai Rong picked up a piece of fish and placed it in Gu Mingchen's bowl. "Eat this."

Knowing that Bai Rong was easily embarrassed, Gu Mingchen did not pursue the matter. He lowered his head and placed the piece of meat in her bowl. "You should eat it."

"Let's share it." Bai Rong gave half of the fish to Gu Mingchen, and they continued eating together.

Once they were done with their meal, they took a walk along the lake while holding hands. But neither of them spoke, and Bai Rong was lost in her thoughts.

"I won't be coming back for dinner tomorrow. I need to go back," said Gu Mingchen.

Bai Rong remembered Leng Xiao saying yesterday that Gu Mingchen's father was not feeling well. "Okay."

"Do you want to go with me?" Gu Mingchen asked gently.

Bai Rong shook her head. "Not for now. Given the complicated situation, it's better to stay low."

"Okay. I'll be back before midnight. Zhang Xingyu will take you to the new place tomorrow afternoon. Call me if you need anything," instructed Gu Mingchen.

Bai Rong nodded in acknowledgement.

Right then, Gu Mingchen's phone rang. It was a call from Leng Xiao.

"Chief, the boss released an order to bring Xia He in for interrogation. I didn't have time to report it officially," said Leng Xiao anxiously.

"Boss? Which boss?"

"The Military Council issued the order. Xia He will definitely say that the mission is fake in court. If I speak after her, I'll come off as an accomplice. That's why I'll only be able to save her if I speak first. What do we do now?"

"Tell Xia He not to say anything," growled Gu Mingchen.

"I'm more worried that someone will come after her before she steps foot in court tomorrow, or that she won't have the chance to speak again if she stays silent tomorrow."

"We need to ensure her safety. Stall them for an hour. I'll find someone to help." Gu Mingchen hung up the phone and made another call. "Shen Yihan, I need to talk to you about an urgent matter. It's about Xia He."

"I know. All the relevant parties, including the CCDI and I, received the notice about Leng Xiao's interrogation. He's been accused of withholding information and needs to be interrogated immediately. I'm afraid someone from the CCDI will come for her tonight," replied Shen Yihan.

"There's more to this matter. That mission was a fake, and there's no way Xia He is a spy. I participated in the mission too, which is why I'm now investigating the case. I'm trying to find out who's behind it," Gu Mingchen said

"It might have been fake, but many people died. It was the first time that a secret mission resulted in so many deaths. No matter what, Xia He is still a suspect because only you, Xia He, and Zhou Hailan survived. If she didn't do it, you and the disfigured Zhou Hailan are the only suspects left. Gu Mingchen, collateral damage is inevitable when we're playing the long game," Shen Yiyan replied.

"But the truth will be kept hidden forever. I've already approached Spaulnia's vice president. He admitted that he wasn't the one I saved."

"If so, who do you think is really behind all this? Your boss Cai Qingyun is already dead. Do you plan on pushing all the blame to him? Even so, Xia He will still be a suspect, and you'll even arouse suspicion. Moreover, there isn't a reasonable explanation for Cai Qingyun's actions. Gu Mingchen, sometimes the ending is more important than the truth. You'll only be able to achieve great things if you don't sweat the small things," urged Shen Yiyan.

"So you're saying that it doesn't matter whether the mission was fake and whether Xia He was the culprit. Either way, she'll be branded a spy, right?" hissed Gu Mingchen.

"It's for the big picture. This will keep our country's ties with Spaulnia intact. Xia He's sacrifice won't be for nothing."

"Screw that. If a country is full of unscrupulous people, it will be doomed sooner or later. Shen Yiyan, I know you disagree with me. You can throw the people you love the most under the bus for the sake of your duty, but I can't," snapped Gu Mingchen before he hung up.

Bai Rong lowered her gaze upon hearing that.

"I'm going out, Rong," muttered Gu Mingchen.

Bai Rong knew that Gu Mingchen was a responsible person. "Do what you have to do. I'll support you no matter what."

She watched Gu Mingchen leave before she returned to the room. After shutting the door, she called Leng Xiao. "You might be surprised by what I'm about to say. However, please remain calm and let me say my piece. You have to ensure that no one overhears our call because this is a matter of life and death for Gu Mingchen."

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Chapter 433 Who Are You

"Okay, speak," grunted Leng Xiao as he walked into his office.

"Do you want Gu Mingchen to become the commander-in-chief?" asked Bai Rong.

"Of course. I have faith that Chief will do a better job than Shen Yiyao. That has always been my wish because the only way to make something of myself and serve my country properly is to be on Chief's team," Leng Xiao replied enthusiastically.

"I'm going to send you a recording. It will prove that the mission was fake and that the culprit was Zhou Hailan. Gu Mingchen will not be affected. Also, I was the one who kidnapped Xin. I wanted to force Zhou Hailan to reveal the person pulling the strings. I swear that I would never hurt Xin. But, if I tell Gu Mingchen that Zhou Hailan doesn't care about Xin, he won't agree to use this method to find out who the real culprit is. Once this recording is revealed, Zhou Hailan will be in danger as the real culprit might try to kill her. This could be the chance to draw him out. Hence, you have to work on this secretly. Lastly, it's dangerous for Xin to return to Zhou Hailan now. I will return Xin to Gu Mingchen after everything is settled. As such, you don't need to look for Xin anymore," said Bai Rong.

Leng Xiao was stupefied. "Are you helping us?"

"Gu Mingchen is my husband. Do you think I would go against all of you?" retorted Bai Rong.

"I understand. Don't worry, I know what to do. Please entrust me with the recording," said Leng Xiao solemnly.

After hanging up, Bai Rong played the recording. Zhou Hailan's voice sounded. "They deserved to die! Wu Nian, stop spouting nonsense when you don't understand anything. If they didn't die back then, more people would have been sacrificed!"

"Killing people to save lives, huh? Don't you find it ironic? Numerous crime organizations go on massacres thinking that they are saviors. This is why you're destined to be alone for life. You will live a life more painful than death."

"I could kill you right now."

"I know that. You've killed so many in the past; what is one more on your list? But I'll have you know that if I die, neither you nor Gu Ruoxin will be able to live. You should know that Gu Mingchen's Shadow Samurais are constantly watching and protecting me."

"Wu Nian, what do you want?"

"Tell me the truth behind that operation."

"He'll come for me."

Bai Rong compiled these main parts and sent them to Leng Xiao. Lying on the bed, she placed her hands on her abdomen.

Soon, everyone will know that the recording originated from me. The mastermind behind all this will target me for sure.

Who cares. I hope Leng Xiao will be able to find out who the real culprit is. Otherwise, all my effort will be in vain.

Despite tossing and turning, sleep refused to claim her. Gu Mingchen had also not returned yet.

Hence, she got up, turned on the television, and watched a drama. However, she was unable to focus on it. Feeling uneasy, she took a glance at the time and realized that it was almost 1 a.m.

Right then, Zhang Xingyu called, and she immediately picked up.

“Something happened, Ms. Wu,” said Zhang Xingyu anxiously.

instantly, Bai Rong’s blood froze, and she leaped up from the bed. “What’s wrong?”

“They played your recording in court, and chaos broke out. They’re now split between two camps. One side believes that the mission was fake while the other thinks that the recording is fabricated.”

“Fabricated? Why don’t they send it for authentication? I didn’t tamper with it at all,” protested Bai Rong as she furrowed her brows.

“It has already been sent for authentication. However, there’s a debate that the conversation is full of loopholes. The president is on our side, so we will probably win, but the Chief and Mr. Gu are being detained. Chief Leng is afraid that the culprits will send out a kill order, but he can’t dispatch his men, and Mr. Gu can’t mobilize the Shadow Samurais,” explained Zhang Xingyu.

“Isn’t there anything you can do about it?”

“I’m only acquainted with my team, and they’re all busy,” said Zhang Xingyu apologetically.

“There’s no time to think this over. If Zhou Hailan is killed, it’ll be even more difficult to find out who’s behind all this. Assign the people in charge of my protection to Zhou Hailan,” ordered Bai Rong.

“I won’t be able to face Mr. Gu if something happens to you,” said Zhang Xingyu worriedly.

"Am I more important than Mr. Gu to you? Besides, I haven't offended anyone, so nothing will happen to me. For now, take Zhou Hailan somewhere safe first," ordered Bai Rong.

"Okay."

"Send me Zhou Hailan's address." Bai Rong hung up the call.

When she received the address from Zhang Xingyu, she sent it to the mercenaries, along with Zhou Hailan's picture. Then she called them and instructed, "Go to this address and protect this woman. Take her somewhere safe. It'll be best if you manage to catch the people who are trying to kill her."

"What about our fee? Doesn't this count as a mission?" asked the mercenary.

"You're an elite mercenary team. We'll have plenty of opportunities to work together in the future. Are you okay with a fee of one million per mission?" offered Bai Rong.

"There are five people in our team. Two hundred thousand each is too little."

"Two million per mission then. You have to take Zhou Hailan somewhere safe and catch whoever's trying to kill her. Remember to keep them alive. I'm asking two missions of you, which means you'll earn four million. This should be more than enough to buy a few hours of your time and skills. Don't forget that we'll be working together a lot in the future," negotiated Bai Rong.

If they ask for more, I'll be done for. I can't ask Aaron for the money!

"Fine, Transfer the money tomorrow." The mercenaries set off after ending the call.

Worried, Bai Rong drove over to Zhou Hailan's house.

Given that Zhou Hailan stayed in the city center, the real culprit would not be bringing a large gun-wielding squad.

After waiting for about half an hour, Bai Rong heard some banging noises and dashed into Zhou Hailan's house without a second thought.

At that moment, the door opened, and Zhou Hailan ran out. When she saw Bai Rong, she immediately looked toward the right.

Bai Rong followed her gaze and saw a masked assailant who was holding a gun that was pointed squarely at Zhou Hailan.

If Zhou Hailan dies, the clues will be gone as well. I can't let her die.

At that thought, Bai Rong jumped in front of Zhou Hailan.

The assailant froze instantly.

Zhou Hailan was momentarily stunned before she returned to the house.

Bai Rong stared at the assailant in shock.

Why didn't he shoot? Is he against harming the innocent?

But I'm not innocent. I'm the cause of this, and the mastermind should be targeting me.

The assailant ran into a stairwell. However, Bai Rong did not have time to think. At that moment, Zhou Hailan's safety was of the utmost importance.

She pushed open the door to see Zhou Hailan charging toward her with a knife. The knife was aimed at her neck and closing in rapidly.

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Chapter 434 Life Or Death

Bai Rong just stood there calmly as the blade stabbed toward her. She never expected to walk out alive from that place; hence, it was not important who her killer would be.

When the blade was one inch away from her, Zhang Xingyu kicked it away, and Zhou Hailan tumbled down.

Zhang Xingyu pointed at her in fury. "You ungrateful b*tch! Is this how you repay us after all we have done to save you? It's no wonder karma bit you in the *ss! I don't want to help you anymore."

"Calm down, Zhang Xingyu. Let's save her." Bai Rong took the bonsai on the rack and hurled it at the man in black, while Zhang Xingyu helped the mercenaries.

Zhou Hailan got up and darted toward the door, while Bai Rong followed her. At that moment, a group of ten men armed with machetes came out from the elevator, looking murderous.

"Get into the house." Bai Rong dragged Zhou Hailan back in and slammed the door shut before barricading it with a sofa.

The fight was getting intense in there. Bai Rong brought five mercenaries with her, while Zhang Xingyu brought four Shadow Samurais. There were twelve fighters on their side, while the enemy had fifteen very skillful fighters.

Bai Rong's men were in dire straits, as they were at a disadvantage. The situation worsened with the additional ten people outside banging on the door. If they didn't finish the fight soon, everyone would be wiped out once the group outside barges in.

"Open fire," Bai Rong commanded. The mercenaries quickly took their firearms and shot the enemy. Since it was a stealth mission, they didn't want to use any firearms to avoid making any noise. But if they did, that meant they were going for an all-or-nothing gamble.

The group outside opened fire too. Bai Rong hid behind the sofa and pushed it against the door with all her might. Once the mercenaries killed all the enemy, they took cover and stared at the door, waiting for the inevitable fight.

Bai Rong scanned the bodies scattered around the house and the thought that there would be ten more deaths later frustrated her. She grabbed Zhou Hailan's collar and growled, "You're still trying to defend him even when he's trying to assassinate you? Tell me who's behind this!" Bai Rong was tearing up.

"You wouldn't protect me anymore if I tell you who he is," Zhou Hailan refused.

"No. We still need you as our witness. Now tell me who the guy is," Bai Rong pressed on.

"Not now. I'll tell you after I get out of danger," Zhou Hailan insisted adamantly, but the look in her eyes had betrayed her—it was obvious that she was lying.

Infuriated, Bai Rong stood up and snatched one of the mercenaries' guns. Then, she went behind the wall and pointed it at Zhou Hailan. "Talk!" she demanded shrilly, "Or I'm going to shoot."

Zhou Hailan shook her head, smiling defiantly. "You won't. Killing me won't do you any good. And you wouldn't have defended me earlier if you wanted me dead."

"And that's proof that you've never loved someone, Zhou Hailan. You have no idea how panic someone would feel when their lover is in danger and what they are capable of doing just to save the person. I'll show you a taste of it!" Bai Rong roared, and she opened fire, but the bullet missed Zhou Hailan by the breadth of a hair.

Zhou Hailan was shocked that she had actually shot. "What are you doing?"

Bai Rong didn't answer. She gritted her teeth and fired three more shots at Zhou Hailan's leg. "Are you going to spill everything now? Or are you still keeping your lips sealed?"

Zhou Hailan held her bleeding leg down, glaring at Bai Rong hatefully. "Dream on. I will never tell you who he is."

"They're trying to kill you! Are you stupid, Zhou Hailan?" Bai Rong was nearly hysterical.

"What do you know? You came out of nowhere, you don't know me, but you have the nerve to talk sh*t about me. What do you mean I've never loved someone? You are so wrong. You don't know how much I've given up for him!" Zhou Hailan roared.

"This is how you love Gu Mingchen? This isn't love, Zhou Hailan. You are going to kill him."

"I never said Gu Mingchen is the one I love," Zhou Hailan replied coldly.

Bai Rong froze in shock. "He's not the one you love?"

"Of course not. I have stayed with another man, bore that man's child, and ruined my face just for him. Everything I did, I did for him. I'll never tell you anything even if I die."

"But he's trying to kill you!" Bai Rong argued.

Zhou Hailan didn't mind, for despair had eaten her soul up. "Because someone else has given him the order to do that. I would have died when I was twelve if not for him. So, I'm merely repaying my debt now."

When Bai Rong looked into her eyes and saw nothing but resolve, her arm slumped out of despair. She knew Zhou Hailan wouldn't tell her anything even if she saved her. "Gu Mingchen will die at this rate. He has never harmed you, and he's your child's father."

Zhou Hailan looked strangely guilty. "He's a nice guy, and he's been taking good care of me, but ultimately, he's not the one I love. You wouldn't have stood a chance if I had sex with him when I was dating him then. But I didn't want to do that. I have been waiting for him. Even if he had married someone else, even if he's a womanizer, and even if he's slowly controlling everything, I'd wait for him."

Suddenly, it hit Bai Rong who was the man Zhou Hailan truly loved. "So, the man you love is Su Xuyan?" she guessed, and she looked into Zhou Hailan's eyes for the answer.

Zhou Hailan froze, but then she composed herself. "I have no idea what you're talking about. Kill me if you want. I know you won't keep me safe any more. I'd rather die by your hands if I'm going to die."

She's evading the topic. Su Xuyan is the one she truly loves. Bai Rong was beyond shocked. She never expected Zhou Hailan to love Su Xuyan, since he'd probably slept around with more than a few dozen women.

She slowly hunkered down and faced Zhou Hailan, who looked like she was ready to face death. By now, Bai Rong had calmed down, her impulse to kill had been suppressed. "I won't kill you. That'd dirty my hands, but I'm going to tell you a secret before you die."

"What is it?" Zhou Hailan peered at Bai Rong as she was an enigma to her, and she knew nothing about the woman who just showed up out of nowhere.

Bai Rong held her chin and forced her to look up. She leaned ahead and whispered, "The woman Su Xuyan loves is me."

Zhou Hailan snorted mockingly at Bai Rong. "That's an illusion. I know him too well. The only one he loves is his ex-wife. Aside from her, he probably wouldn't fall for anyone else.

Bai Rong smirked. "Why do you think the assassin didn't shoot when I defended you? If I'm right, he must be Su Xuyan's lackey."

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Chapter 435 Let Her Go

You are thinking too much and overconfident. They just don't want to kill the wrong person."

"Maybe we can renegotiate. Tell me who's behind this, and I'll make Su Xuyan fall for you. At the very least, you get to bear his child and tie him down. Otherwise, he'll just kill you while I take away everything you care about," Bai Rong said coldly.

The group outside has wrecked the lock and tried to barge in. Behind the door, the Shadow Samurais were pushing the sofa back, keeping the enemies at bay to buy some time for Bai Rong to negotiate.

"I don't believe you. What makes you think you can do it?" Zhou Hailan didn't buy into it.

Bai Rong stood up and gazed at her. "Because I'm Bai Rong."

"that's impossible. Bai Rong is dead."

"Why do you think Gu Mingchen married me? You saw how much he trusts me. Of course, the choice is yours." Bai Rong raised her hand and commanded, "Let them in and don't shoot them. Their target is Zhou Hailan. They'll leave once she's dead."

Zhou Hailan looked at Bai Rong closely, Bai Rong just turned around and went into the room.

"Wait!" Zhou Hailan called out to her, and Bai Rong stopped. "Are you really Bai Rong?" she asked.

Bai Rong glanced back at her. "You asked me to take care of your son two years ago. You asked him to hurt his head on purpose to paint me in a bad light. Honestly, how did you convince that kid to do it? And that kid was stupid enough to follow through."

That was something that only Bai Rong, Gu Mingchen, Xin, and herself knew. Since Gu Mingchen and Xin wouldn't tell anyone, that meant the woman standing before her was the true Bai Rong. Zhou Hailan broke down when she realized the woman was indeed Bai Rong.

"Su Xuyan is a poor orphan. His father died because he was accused to be a spy. We endured special training on a remote island since we were kids. He is both very capable and cruel too, but he's nice to those people who grew up with him. He was already our leader at the age of twelve, and he has always been my boss. The only thing I know is that Cai Qingyun is his boss, but since his boss is dead, Su Xuyan took over the organization. I don't know anything more than that, but I know that mission is a carefully orchestrated massacre," Zhou Hailan said.

"A massacre? How so?" Bai Rong asked.

"Silver found the organization's name list by chance, and he gave it to Gold. Then, Gold told his comrade, and they went to their lieutenant. Their lieutenant went to the captain, and the captain went to see Mr. Cai, and then this mission happened," Zhou Hailan reminisced.

"What about Gu Mingchen and Xia He then? And all the deaths?" Bai Rong followed up.

"Gu Mingchen is Gu Tianhang's son. He's a credible man, so nobody would suspect anything amiss about the mission if he's the one to carry it out. They can't have everyone in the squad to be the ones who know the secret, or Silver and his comrades are going to suspect something. So they slid a few people who're out of the loop," Zhou Hailan explained.

"Is that face change planned too?" Bai Rong stared at the new face Zhou Hailan had gotten for herself.

"That's an accident. Silver noticed something off during the mission. She thought I'm a spy, so that fire happened."

I see. "Su Xuyan's mother is the former commander-in-chief's woman, so he should be working for the commander-in-chief, isn't he? If I may take a guess, that organization's name is Invisible, isn't it?"

"Invisible belongs to Shen Yiyao, so I'm sure Su Xuyan isn't really working for the commander-in-chief, but his identity is rather special. I've never found out who he really is even after so many years. Maybe he has never been true to me before, and he doesn't trust me. Maybe that's why he's killing me as per order," she answered in despondence.

Boom. Then, the door started to burn.

"You need to leave now, Ms. Wu!" Zhang Xingyu urged her.

Bai Rong looked at Zhou Hailan. She can even die for him. It's impossible for her to be a witness against him. In fact, getting her to say all that was almost a miracle.

Zhou Hailan was of no value to them anymore, but Bai Rong pitied her. She was reminded of a story where a woman was enthralled with love. She wouldn't let go even if it was killing her, for love was her everything. She could give everything up just for the man she loved.

"Take her with us, and keep her safe. I've promised her that," Bai Rong ordered.

Zhang Xingyu picked Zhou Hailan up and retreated into a room. Guns were still blasting outside, but Bai Rong knew they'd lose very soon if they don't get any support.

She went to the edge of the room and called Su Xuyan. "What is it?" he asked.

"Two things. One, I kidnapped Xin to threaten Zhou Hailan once, but she said nothing. You're more important to her than her son. To be precise, you're the most important thing in her life. Two, she told me the reason for the mission, and she doesn't know who your boss is, because all she knows is that you're the leader. She won't sell you out, nor does she know who your boss is. Just let her go."

"That's not for me to decide. She'll be paying the price for talking out of line. I'm not the one who wants her dead but my boss," refuse Su Xuyan.

"Let her go and I'll tell you where Bai Rong is," Bai Rong negotiated.

Su Xuyan fell silent. "Where is she right now?"

"Let her go." Bai Rong stared up into the night sky, her eyes gleaming. "Bai Rong told me about her marriage with you. She told me that you two weren't on the best of terms before you got married, but she looked forward to the nuptial night. She placed an apple on the cabinet and a boy's pants under the sheets because she thought she'd have a son and a daughter that way. It was a pity you didn't sleep with her that night. Furious and crestfallen, she smashed the glass and tossed the shards into the trashcan, along with the apple and the pants."

She paused for a moment. "When you found out about it, you pushed her head into the trashcan and told her, 'Do you think I'd sleep with you, you slut? You can dream about having two kids with me. I'd rather knock a hooker up.' Because you weren't careful, the shards slashed her face, but you didn't console her. Instead, you left in disgust. It's in the past now, but she's still feeling sad every time she thinks about them."

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Chapter 436 You Or Me

Su Xuyan didn't say anything for a while. Those memories hit him hard, and he believed that she knew where Bai Rong was the moment she talked about the details.

He didn't think he crossed the line before, and Bai Rong wouldn't complain about it. She'd just give him the cold shoulder and put up with all his sh*t quietly. It was like he was caught by a spell back then. The prouder and more nonchalant Bai Rong looked, the more he wanted her to suffer.

After listening to Wu Nian's description, even he thought he was a real piece of sh*t back then. No wonder Bai Rong would rather die than date me again. "I'll let her go, but you'd better hold up your end of the bargain, or I'll hunt you down too," Su Xuyan warned her and hung up.

The sounds of gunshots stopped not long after, and silence fell upon everyone. Su Xuyan's men backed out of the house and took the corpses away.

Bai Rong looked at Zhou Hailan, "You're safe now. Since he said he'd let you live, he'll find a way to convince his boss. He's certainly capable of doing that. Xin will come back too, so don't worry about it."

Zhou Hailan looked despondent. She mumbled, "Say, I could give my life up for him out of love, but he still wouldn't let me live. All you said was you'd tell him where Bai Rong is, and he stopped his hunt."

Bai Rong noticed the sadness in her, and she was affected by it too. That was the tragedy of a love triangle. Someone was bound to be hurt in the end. The more they struggled, the deeper they'd sink into darkness, and in the end, they'd get depression. My mother is a perfect example.

"It'll be fine once you get over it. Su Xuyan has never loved you, but that's his business. That doesn't mean you can't love him. You're devastated because you think he should reciprocate your love, but that mindset itself is mental. Nobody's going to do anything for you just because you love them. He has the right to not

do anything for you. The important thing here is to know what you're doing," Bai Rong said calmly.

"Haven't you ever wished Gu Mingchen would love you? No, you're a lucky one. The man you love loves you, and even the man you don't love loves you too. That's just how things are." Zhou Hailan was getting paler as she lost more blood.

The ladies handled matters very differently. Bai Rong said nothing when all Gu Mingchen cared about was Zhou Hailan. She didn't even tell him anything. Even though they dated for a short while, she was the only one putting in the emotional labor. After that, the tie was cut off when she went overseas.

Bai Rong would wish for love, but she wouldn't force someone to love her, because that was a one-way ticket to Noloveville. "Take her to the hospital, Zhang Xingyu. She has bled a lot," Bai Rong told him. Then, Su Xuyan called her.

"Will you tell him who you really are?" Zhou Hailan asked, feeling worried.

"No."

"Don't forget what you promised me. I won't ask for his love, because he will never give me that. All I want is his baby so I can have someone around," Zhou Hailan choked.

"What about Xin? What will you do after having Su Xuyan's child?" Bai Rong probed.

"That's an unwanted child. They forced me into it."

A question suddenly struck Bai Rong. "Gu Mingchen's sperm came from the time he assaulted me. Has Su Xuyan been planning everything since the beginning?"

"I am not sure about that. He didn't want to marry you in the first place. All he wanted was for you to suffer then. Maybe it was General Cai as he is worried that Su Xuyan might turn his back on him. After all, Su Xuyan's mother has a good relationship with the former commander-in-chief. I think Gu Mingchen is just someone to keep Su Xuyan in check," Zhou Hailan guessed.

An eerie chill ran down Bai Rong's spine. She wasn't afraid of ghosts or demons, but she was terrified of humans for there were two reasons for it. One, humans could be scarier than demons; and two, she had never come across demons or ghosts.

"What about my child then? Who took it away?" Bai Rong asked.

"It's definitely not Su Xuyan because he doesn't know where your child went. Not General Cai either, since he'd want you to have your kid so Gu Mingchen and Su Xuyan would keep on fighting. And he wouldn't send the child back when Gu Mingchen is in the gutters. I think the culprit is someone from Gu Mingchen's side. They did this to avoid any unnecessary problems for Gu Mingchen."

"So do you know I'm the one Gu Mingchen was supposed to assault?" Bai Rong stared at Zhou Hailan.

Zhou Hailan shook her head. "All they told me was to keep Gu Mingchen in check after giving birth to his child, but I didn't want to use sex for that, so I came up with another plan."

Bai Rong's phone rang again after a while, and she took the call.

"Alright, I did what you asked. Now tell me where Bai Rong is," Su Xuyan cut to the chase.

"She told me she's going to Antarctica, but I don't know anything about the details," Bai Rong lied. Once she got used to lying, she wouldn't feel guilty doing it again. This was because her guilty conscience had already been torn up into a bloody mess.

"You're taking me for a fool, Wu Nian!" Su Xuyan roared.

"You should know how much she wanted to travel to Antarctica if you know her enough," Bai Rong answered calmly.

"Don't forget that I can kill you easily if I find out you're lying to me." Su Xuyan hung up after that.

Zhou Hailan left with Zhang Xingyu after she was done listening to the phone call. The moment Bai Rong came out, the mercenaries and Shadow Samurais were all waiting for her.

She told the mercenaries, "This might have been one mission, but it's a precarious one, so you'll get three million from me. Please let the child go right now and leave while Gu Mingchen is still trapped."

She turned to the Shadow Samurais. "Somebody go with them to retrieve the child. Anyone else is free to do what they want."

The Shadow Samurais looked at one another and saw Bai Rong off. Once Bai Rong got into the car, she took the voice recorder out and listened to the gunfight and conversations a few times, but she couldn't think straight. Her head was heavy from the lack of sleep and the cold.

She closed her eyes and leaned back, then fell asleep very soon.

A City was a city that never slept. Its residents were starting to work at six in the morning. Some were making breakfast for the family, some just got off of their shift, some were preparing to go to school, some were preparing for work, while some just came out of the internet café. When she smelled the aroma of coffee, Bai Rong opened her eyes, and she had a splitting headache. Her throat hurt from the dryness, and everything tasted bitter.

She got out of the car and shivered when the cold breeze blew past her. Bai Rong pulled her clothes tighter before going for breakfast. On the way to the café, she went past a group of police officers, then a group of armed policemen.

After ordering a bowl of mushroom soup and some garlic bread, she received a call from Gu Mingchen. Bai Rong took a deep breath before taking it.

"Where are you?" Gu Mingchen asked coldly.

Bai Rong had a bad feeling about it. "I'm having breakfast."

"You want me to pick you up, or are you going to come back yourself?" Gu Mingchen still sounded cold.

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Chapter 437 Take It Slow

"I'll go back after I have my breakfast. It'll probably take two hours," she said softly.

Gu Mingchen hung up without saying another word. The Shadow Samurais probably told him what happened, so he should be angry since I kidnapped Xin and lied to him.

She munched on her garlic bread but realized that her appetite was ruined. She was in a small café, and there were two men sitting at the table in front of her.

"So do you know what happened?" A skinny middle-aged man asked the elderly man beside him.

"No. I thought someone was playing with firecrackers, and I yelled at them. At first, I thought it's just some sickos pulling stupid sh*t in the middle of the night, but I realized something was off. Did you saw the policemen just now? Even the Armed Police came."

"Yeah. I heard that the woman's a mistress, and the wife found out, so she was almost murdered," the thin man replied.

"Oh, I see. No wonder she can hire a family physician, housemaid, and sends her kid to the best school despite not having a job. I heard her sugar daddy is the boss of Gu Group," a woman interjected.

"You're kidding. The boss of Gu Group doesn't have a wife."

"But my son works at Gu Group, and he told me that. He said his boss is the father of the woman's son and they look alike," the woman added.

"That makes sense. She's just an unemployed woman. There's no way she would have offended anyone. There's no need for a gunfight when a bullet through her head would have done the job. It's probably Mr. Gu's enemy trying to assassinate him," the elderly man said.

Bai Rong's appetite was completely ruined the more she listened to their conversation. That's one heck of a preposterous rumor, but well, that's just how rumors are. There are no rhymes nor reasons. It spreads according to the people's interests; thus, it's normal for a rumor to be exaggerated.

She stood up.

"You're all wrong." A shorty came over and looked around mischievously. "I live on the first floor, and I went out to see what was going on. Then, I heard a guy making a phone call."

Bai Rong pulled some tissue papers and sat back down, pretending to eat her breakfast.

"What's the call about?" the gaunt man urged.

"I think the man said something along the lines of something was not for him to decide, and something about she must pay the price. I think he also mentioned something about his boss making the kill order. Sounds like the girl's hunted down because of something she said."

Bai Rong froze. That's what Su Xuyan told me.

"What next?" the people beside him urged.

"Then, he asked the whereabouts of a woman, I think. He said he'd let the woman go, but he wants the person who called him to hold up the end of the bargain. He even said he'd kill both the woman and the caller otherwise," the shorty added.

"That's a lot to process. I have no idea what they're talking about," the gaunt man answered.

"The man made another call after hanging up. He told his men to stop shooting, and that he'd explain everything to Mr. Sheng. I guess the mastermind behind this is that Mr. Sheng guy," the shorty said.

Bai Rong was reminded of Sheng Dongcheng. When she was sharing a meal with Leng Xiao before that, he told her the five possible candidates for the position of commander-in-chief were Shen Yiyang, Su Zheng, Lin Shutong, Zuo Qunyi, and Sheng Dongcheng. Since Cai Qingyun was already a general, only someone of a

higher rank could command him. Su Xuyan was about the same rank, and he didn't even think of Gu Mingchen as his match. This mastermind is powerful.

The civilians were still gossiping, while she had gone back to her car and called Leng Xiao. "I think I know who the mastermind is, but I'm not a hundred percent sure."

"Who is it?" Leng Xiao asked.

"Sheng Dongcheng. Someone heard Su Xuyan call a guy called Mr. Sheng. I want to know everything about Sheng Dongcheng," Bai Rong requested.

"Hm, that's possible. His grandpa, Sheng Li, was a firearms dealer overseas and was good friends with Shen Yiyang's grandpa. After Shen Yiyang's grandpa became the commander-in-chief, he asked Sheng Li to come back, so Sheng Li invested in a few projects here and had his son enter politics."

He took a deep breath. "But Shen Yiyang's grandpa only became commander-in-chief for four years before Zuo Qunyi's father took over, and Sheng Li died the same year. His son, Sheng Dongcheng's father progressed normally since he had his family's help, but then, the Gu family showed a meteoric rise."

He paused for a moment. When Shen Yiyang's father was elected, he helped Sheng Dongcheng's father a lot, and that's how he got Sheng Dongcheng into politics. The Sheng family's business in A City boomed, while Gu Group expanded overseas. This might be a coincidence, but everyone covets the position of commander-in-chief, but Shen Yiyang's father took the position. And three years ago, Sheng Dongcheng's father died of a sudden illness."

Leng Xiao heaved a sigh. "Sheng Dongcheng took over his father's spot as the finance minister, and he was a favorite to be commander-in-chief two years ago," Leng Xiao said.

"That's probably why Su Xuyan listens to the former commander-in-chief before this. Since Sheng Dongcheng's father worked with Shen Yiyang's when the latter's dad was alive, it's normal for Su Xuyan to work for the commander-in-chief, but they did their own stuff too. The moment Sheng Dongcheng's father died, the relationship changed for the worse," Bai Rong analyzed.

"Nice. We don't have to worry about any traps or conspiracies then. No wonder the chief likes you," Leng Xiao thanked her genuinely.

"But the thing is, we don't know if Sheng Dongcheng is really behind this, since it's just a guess. They have an organization that eliminates any opposition for them. The mission back then started out because Silver found out about the list of names, and everyone who knew about that died. It's not enough to prove they're involved in Yanny's murder."

Bai Rong paused for a moment. "Shen Yanyi, Su Zheng, Lin Shutong, and Zuo Qunyi could be the murderer too, but Sheng Dongcheng is more likely to be the one," she reminded him.

"I'll keep an eye on everyone who heard the call." Leng Xiao noticed the danger.

"Don't bother. We have no evidence, since he didn't record it. Only Su Xuyan's testimony can work right now, and we still need evidence for it. No wonder Shen Yiyao doesn't want to get into this. He's only commander-in-chief for two years now, and he hasn't consolidated his power yet. He'd stand to lose a lot if Sheng Dongcheng were to fall."

Bai Rong mused over it. "He's frenemies with Sheng Dongcheng, so at this rate, he wouldn't do anything against Sheng Dongcheng before he could stabilize his hold on the position.

"We can't do anything to him, and Su Xuyan wouldn't help us. That means we know who's behind it, but we can't make any move." Leng Xiao sounded disappointed.

"What will you do if a staff is wrapped in poison ivy?" Bai Rong asked.

"You're saying..."

Bai Rong's eyes gleamed sharply, coldly. "You pluck them off one by one, and then you hand that staff of power safely to Gu Mingchen's hands."

Leng Xiao gave her a salute, though she couldn't see it. "I am yours to command."

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Chapter 438 What Use Is There Is there any meaning to it?

Gu Mingchen was at the doorstep when she came back to the villa. He watched her every step ever since she came back, but he didn't look happy, and his lips were pursed. The light shone on his face, but no warmth radiated from him.

Bai Rong knew he was furious, so she smiled sycophantically. "Have you been waiting long? You should sleep in. Have you had breakfast? I'll make it for you right away."

"You were the one who abducted Xin," Gu Mingchen said coldly.

Bai Rong knew the Shadow Samurais would tell him. She didn't want him to know, but since he and Leng Xiao were controlled, she had to do something. If she didn't Zhou Hailan would die, and no one wouldn't have known about the truth.

"We found out that Sheng Dongcheng might be behind this, and he has an organization. Su Xuyan's his subordinate. Silver and the gang died because they found out about the name list," she explained.

Gu Mingchen looked at her sharply, tensely. He raised his voice, "You're not answering my question. Did you or did you not kidnap Xin?"

"I know you'd act out that way if you found out what I did, so I kept it from you. Since Zhou Hailan is safe now, I'll get someone to send Xin back to her," she whispered, her eyes teary.

"And you think that makes it okay?"

"What?"

"Did you not understand what I said when I told you to stay out of this? They'll hunt Zhou Hailan down if you expose her, and Xin will die if he's around her. Yeah, you may know who's the mastermind, but does that help?" Gu Mingchen questioned, his chest heaving.

"At least we can keep our guard up against him. And they'd start looking into the mission after we found out about the truth. That'll also keep Xia He safe." Bai Rong was at the verge of tears.

"So I should thank you, huh? Well, thank you for kidnapping my son, threatening his mother, and put them all in danger!" Gu Mingchen roared.

Bai Rong sniffled, trying hard to keep her tears from falling. "Su Xuyan promised he'd let her off the hook, so she's safe now. Don't worry about it. You can bring them over here if you are still concerned."

"Su Xuyan?" Gu Mingchen's rage flared. He held her chin and growled, "What did you agree this time? You just have to make this complicated, don't you?"

Bai Rong just looked into his hate-filled eyes calmly. She didn't mind sacrificing herself if it meant her loved ones could be saved. If they could be saved, she would pay the price, even if it was death.

However, her heart ached when he accused her. "I told him where Bai Rong is, but all I said was that she's in Antarctica, so he won't know I'm lying. At least until sometime later."

Gu Mingchen let her go. "The one I love is the old you. You're not her. You lie, cheat, kill, and threw away your moral compass at the drop of a hat. The old you wouldn't have known how to do that."

That finally broke her. She wanted to cry, for she felt that she had been wronged, but even so, she couldn't retort.

She remembered seeing a piece of news about a great relationship shared between a baby and a dog, so the dog's master let their baby play around with the pooch all the time.

And then, when he came home one day, what he saw was a house of carnage, and his dog came out of the room, covered in blood. Thinking that the dog might have harmed his baby, its master shot it. But when he went to the bedroom, he saw his baby, alive and safe, while a dead python lying beside him. It was then he realized that his dog was injured during the fight with the python to protect the baby.

She was just like that dog at that moment, abandoned by Gu Mingchen because of the murders she committed. "So what are you suggesting?"

"We should stay away from each other for some time to calm down. I need to think this through. You're nothing but a terrifying woman to me now," he said coldly.

I'm just a terrifying woman? Bai Rong stared down, her vision blurred by her tears, but she nodded quietly and turned around.

Gu Mingchen clenched his fists, the veins bulging on them. His heart ached as he saw her off, and even his temples bulged. Bai Rong was so frail and weak, and he wanted to hug her, but he stopped himself. Then, he went into the house and closed the door.

Bai Rong stopped in her tracks and turned around to stare at the closed door. And a moment later, she cried her heart out. There was nothing she could rely on, so she squatted, her tears streaming down to the earth.

"I don't understand why you're so cruel to Ms. Wu, Mr. Gu. Yeah, she might be in the wrong, but she did it for you. She almost died in order to keep Zhou Hailan safe, and Zhou Hailan tried to kill her. Yes, she might have kidnapped the young master, but he's unharmed. It's all a ploy. She's been working hard for you," Zhang Xingyu defended Bai Rong.

"Stay out of this," Gu Mingchen spat, and he hurled the ashtray away.

Zhang Xingyu trembled, but he puffed his chest. "I know you're going to yell at me for this, but I'm still going to say it. Honestly, we wouldn't kidnap the young master even if we knew Zhou Hailan was involved. But Ms. Wu did it because of you. If it weren't for her, Xia He would have been sentenced to death for treason, and our comrades would have died for nothing. You're defending Zhou Hailan too much, don't you think? And that's unfair to Ms. Wu. All you've thought about is Ms. Zhou's safety, but what about Ms. Xia? She could have died!"

Zhang Xingyu heaved a sigh. "And that goes for Ms. Wu too. I saw her taking a bullet for Zhou Hailan. You shouldn't have done that to her, sir."

"What should I do then? She won't listen to me no matter what I say! She's trying to get herself killed!" Gu Mingcheng snapped back. A frown creased his forehead and a single drop of tear flowed down from his left eye.

Zhang Xingyu paused as something hit him, and he became even more confused. "But why is she doing that? That's foolish. I think she still loves you a lot."

Gu Mingchen looked away, regretting the fact that he agreed to her request. She asked him to take care of their child and realize her dreams after she died, and he said yes.

But when he asked the same thing from her, she didn't answer. That was why she was risking her life in everything she did. Bai Rong had crossed the line of insanity, throwing her own life away. Unbeknownst to her, Gu Mingchen couldn't possibly live on alone if she died.

"Get out," Gu Mingchen ordered. He needed some time to calm down.

"Should we still keep an eye on Ms. Wu then?" Zhang Xingyu asked.

"Yes. Double the number, but keep it a secret from her. If she finds out about this, you can consider yourself fired."

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[/ You Owe Me, My Love](#)

Chapter 439 Pregnant

Bai Rong cried for a long, long time. Her tears eventually dried up, and she stared dumbly at the ground, then she slowly looked at the villa, but the door was still closed. Why am I still here? There is no use to hang around here anymore.

She stood up and almost blacked out from her low sugar level. Bai Rong wobbled and hunkered back down. She shook her head in an attempt to stay conscious. I can't pass out here. She took out a piece of chocolate and stuffed it in her mouth, and she closed her eyes to calm down.

But her head was still spinning, and the world spun with it. Bai Rong could feel herself fainting, but she forced herself to stand up. "Shen Yiyao, I need you to locate me and get someone to pick me up," she called Shen Yiyao.

"It's unusual for you to call me." Shen Yiyao was confused.

"I'll tell you when we meet up." Bai Rong hung up and trudged ahead, forcing herself to stay awake. Eventually, she exited Gu Mingchen's manor, but everything was already spinning at top speed. She was going to faint soon, but

Bai Rong hung on to her last threads of consciousness and leaned against a tree. There should be a bench nearby. She clenched her fists, dragging herself closer to the bench, and the moment she touched it, she let herself go and passed out.

A long, long time later, she opened her eyes, and the sky was overcast. It's probably six now. She sat up and looked around, but she found herself in an unfamiliar room. I remember calling Shen Yiyao before I pass out. Did he bring me here or did Gu Mingchen do it?

Her heart skipped some beats at the thought of Gu Mingchen. Bai Rong got out of the room and saw Shen Yiyao reading the newspaper on the sofa.

He was wearing a black suit, looking absolutely elegant, there was an air of regality around him. When he flipped the newspaper over, Shen Yiyao noticed she was awake, and he smiled, but his gaze was calm, like a dark abyss.

Bai Rong stared back into his eyes. She had known him as someone who could make hard decisions quickly. At the same time, he was very ruthless and decisive. Moreover, he was also a control freak who always had things under control. Thanks to that rare personality, he was chosen among countless candidates.

"Breakfast will be ready in fifteen minutes. Have a seat." Shen Yiyao looked at the seat across from him.

Breakfast? Wait, so it's morning already? Wow, I have slept for quite some time. She sat before him, though she stared down in silence.

Shen Yiyao chuckled and put his newspaper down. "I thought you're very capable when I first met you. After all, you did make Gu Mingchen fall for you. A woman like you must be quite smart."

"As if. I wouldn't have been thrown out if I were smart. And now I have to beg for your help," Bai Rong answered coolly.

Shen Yiyao frowned. "That's odd. You have proved Xia He's innocence, and I don't think Gu Mingchen's harmed anyway. Su Xuyao will listen to you no matter what, so Gu Mingchen has no reason to chase you away."

"Don't you think I'm terrifying?" Bai Rong still sounded cold.

Shen Yiyao leaned back, looking interested. "What should I be terrified about?"

"Someone set Gu Mingchen up the moment Liu Yan was exposed. You should know why." Bai Rong squinted.

"You think I did it? I need Gu Mingchen to keep everyone else in check. There's no need to kill him when he's still useful," Shen Yiyao retorted.

The corner of Bai Rong's lips twitched. "I'm not saying that. What I'm trying to say is someone started this early because they're eyeing your position. Who do you think it could be?"

"Wait, don't tell me you're suspecting Sheng Dongcheng," Shen Yiyao asked solemnly.

"I am not sure, but there's one thing that caught my attention. Right after Xia He's arrest, Su Xuyan warned me that I'd regret helping Gu Mingchen. From what he told me, I think he knew that Xia He's set up. Of course, he might have gotten the news before us, but I think it's more likely that he orchestrated it."

Shen Yiyao pursed his lips in silence.

Bai Rong couldn't read him from his expression anymore, and she arched her eyebrow. "If Sheng Dongcheng told you about it, then I'll be in a dangerous situation right now. But if he didn't, then it's proof that he's trying to usurp your position."

"You should know that friends and foes are just arbitrary, Bai Rong. Profit is the thing that binds us together. Tell me what you want."

"You saw through me. Right. I'll clear the obstacles for you, while you make sure the ones I love lead peaceful lives."

Shen Yiyao gazed into her eyes and tapped his leg. Since Bai Rong was a pro in psychology, she knew that movement meant he was making a difficult choice, and he was weighing the pros and cons. Then, he stopped tapping his leg and sat up straight. "What do you need me to do?" he asked.

"I need a conspicuous position that can attract their eyes. Preferably one in the cabinet," Bai Rong said calmly.

"That's a perfect place for women, so you'd fit right in, but even someone like my wife struggles in the cabinet. You sure you can handle it?" Shen Yiyao asked.

"That's my business. All you have to do is to get me a spot in there. You don't want to be bogged down your whole life, don't you?"

"I have another condition. Tell me where Liu Yan is right now," he asked.

"She thinks I sold her out. What makes you think she'd tell me her location? She's gone off the grid, and that's a good thing for her. At least she won't get herself into any danger anymore. Nor will she be blackmailed either." Bai Rong looked crestfallen. I don't think I can see her ever again.

Shen Yiyao looked dark, and he stood up. "Let's go for breakfast. Getting you into the cabinet isn't a problem, but you're pregnant now. Do you want to reconsider?"

“What?” Bai Rong froze, then she stared at Shen Yiyao.

“You don’t know you’re pregnant?” Shen Yiyao asked.

Bai Rong felt dizzy at the revelation. I’m pregnant? But the doctor said my ovulation’s between fifth and tenth. This is too soon. Wait, could it have happened back at Xyperia?

“Yep, that reaction’s telling me you know nothing about it. I see. Gu Mingchen wouldn’t have done this if he knew you’re pregnant, so none of you guys know about this. Want to talk with him before coming to a decision?” Shen Yiyao asked again.

“No. This is my business and my decision. Please proceed with the arrangement. I’m fine with it.” Bai Rong resolved herself.

“Very well then. This’ll take a week, more or less, so wait for my notification. I need your cooperation during that period too,” Shen Yiyao explained.

Bai Rong caressed her stomach, still feeling incredulous. She treasured the baby because of how hard it was for her to get pregnant, but it came at the wrong time.

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Chapter 440 What If I Am Pregnant

Apart from that, she had also been sick with a high fever in the past few days. It was unlikely that they could keep the baby.

The thought of losing yet another child caused her heart to seize in pain.

She would accept her fate, but it didn’t really make much sense. After all, she had been in the hospital for about a week but the doctor hadn’t told her she was pregnant. She was only with Gu Mingchen for a few days after she left the hospital, so she couldn’t have gotten pregnant that early on.

She planned to go for a check-up at the hospital once she could leave this place.

Bai Rong had breakfast at Shen Yiyao’s place.

He would glance over at her once in awhile with an unreadable look in his eyes. It seemed like he wanted to say something, but stopped himself and just focused on eating.

Bai Rong wasn't looking directly at him but she could still sense his every action.

Since he wasn't saying anything, she decided not to ask. After all, their relationship was quite strange.

She was a friend of the woman he loved; he saved her life, and they had both hurt the woman they cared about. Despite that, she was also working with him for personal reasons.

After they finished breakfast, Bai Rong looked at Shen Yiyao. "If Su Xuyan asks about me again, I'll tell him that I'm with you now. Please don't blow my cover."

"Are you already trying to mess up my relationship with Sheng Dongcheng?" Shen Yiyao asked as he leaned against the chair lazily.

"Don't you want to give Sheng Dongcheng a warning at least? Besides, you can just say no if he asks. Su Xuyan isn't stupid. He's the middleman between you two, after all, so he knows what he should and shouldn't talk about. Also, Su Xuyan has many more issues with Gu Mingchen than he has with you. Instead of worrying about the issue with trust, you should start worrying about how this might affect you. Someone as smart as Su Xuyan isn't going to do something that he won't benefit from," Bai Rong said.

"I'm starting to doubt keeping you a member of the cabinet. With your smarts and skills, it'd be a waste not to make you a diplomat."

Bai Rong suddenly thought about what the guru had said. He said that she was a witty, diplomatic person who would gain great things through the power of her words but would also be tangled up in bloodshed.

That's all pretty accurate.

The guru had also said that she was meant to be involved in bloodshed, but if she didn't deal with it properly, she would end up losing herself.

It seemed as if different people may have different understandings and interpretations of fortune telling.

Bai Rong smiled. "I could always be a diplomat in the cabinet. After all, it might seem even more plausible to have a diplomat working in the cabinet, no?"

Shen Yiyao smiled as he tapped the table. "I could actually make that happen."

"Call me once you are done with that. I should get going," Bai Rong got up and started to leave.

Shen Yiyao stood up as well and frowned slightly. "Do you really have no idea where Liu Yan is staying right now?"

Bai Rong stopped in her tracks and looked at the large tree bathed in sunlight outside the window. The light spilled through the gaps in the leaves and created little dancing spots of sunlight on the floor beneath them.

It is truly hard to decipher the world, Bai Rong marveled inwardly.

"If you two are fated, then no one will be able to keep you apart for long. If it isn't meant to be, then you can't change your fate even if you insisted on it," Bai Rong said meaningfully.

Shen Yiyao looked at Bai Rong's retreating figure in deep thought.

If he looked for Liu Yan now, it would most likely end up killing her. Just two years, he told himself. Two more years.

Bai Rong walked out of Shen Yiyao's house.

His house was quite secluded. There were trees everywhere and it was barely populated, so the air was full of the fresh scent of soil and leaves rather than pollution. Bai Rong took a deep breath, feeling relaxed immediately.

She hadn't forgotten about what she had to check at the hospital, but she was worried that there might be Shadow Samurais following her.

She looked around instinctively and didn't notice anyone suspicious.

Before she could walk out of the gates, a car pulled up in front of her.

The driver got off and opened the car door for her. "Mr. Shen told me to send you off."

"Thank you," Bai Rong said as she got into the car. "Please send me to the hospital."

Through her check-up, she discovered that she had high levels of HCG but regular levels of progesterone which meant she was not pregnant.

The doctor told her that her numbers might have been messed up by all the steroids she had taken these last two years.

Next, Bai Rong took a taxi to A City's International Hotel and booked a room.

As she lay on the bed staring at the ceiling, she thought about the things she had to get from Gu Mingchen's place. Apart from her luggage, she had to pick up Qing too. But she was so busy, she might not have time to take care of Qing after that. What should I do?

Someone started knocking on her door.

She got up and looked out of the peephole only to see Su Xuyan.

She had already expected him to come knocking, literally.

Bai Rong opened the door and Su Xuyan walked into her room.

She closed the door behind her calmly.

"Tell me everything you know." Su Xuyan didn't beat around the bush.

"Do you want some wine?" Bai Rong walked over to the wine cabinet and opened a bottle.

Su Xuyan frowned slightly but took the bottle and started pouring some wine into two wine glasses nonetheless. "I want to know everything you know about Bai Rong. She's still alive, isn't she? All of my experiments failed so how did she make it out alive?"

Bai Rong sipped from the wine glass that Su Xuyan handed to her and replied, "Shen Yiyan saved Bai Rong. He kidnapped the scientists inside your lab and also recruited professionals from overseas so he managed to save her. Both Bai Rong and Liu Yan have fled now."

"What about you? What do you have to do with all this?" Su Xuyan asked with narrowed eyes.

Bai Rong smiled. "I'm with Shen Yiyan. Why do you think he asked for me?"

"That's impossible. You were the one who revealed everything and that only served to benefit Gu Mingchen. It didn't benefit anybody else," Su Xuyan said disbelievingly. His gaze sharpened and became slightly murderous once he sensed that Bai Rong was lying to him.

Bai Rong sipped some wine again and swallowed it slowly. She leaned against the bar and swirled her glass leisurely. "Why is that impossible? What did Sheng Dongcheng do after Shen Yiyan and Liu Yan's news were revealed? You plotted against Gu Mingchen behind Shen Yiyan's back and told Leng Xiao where Xia He was headed to so he could get rid of Gu Mingchen. Why did he get rid of Gu Mingchen without Shen Yiyan's permission? He obviously wants to become commander-in-chief as well. What I did will suppress Sheng Dongcheng's efforts and even get Gu Mingchen's help. What's wrong with that? It won't affect Shen Yiyan and Sheng Dongcheng's relationship either."

"You're wrong. Sheng Dongcheng wasn't the one who plotted against Gu Mingchen, it was Su Zheng," Su Xuyan said in a low voice.

Bai Rong looked at Su Xuyan as something akin to surprise flashed across her gaze.

There really isn't such a thing as eternal friends or enemies, huh? She thought. The Su family and Gu family were on such good terms back then, but now Su Zheng is willing to put Gu Mingchen in harm's way in order to get where he wants.