

You Owe Me, My Love Chapter 111

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On the way back from her shopping, Bai Rong had been wondering about this issue. If she were the head of Tangqian Village, who would she have reported the discovered treasure to?

It was not easy for a mere village head to meet up with the city mayor. At the most, he could only report this to the township governing their village, and let the town mayor report to his higher ups.

Cheng Bin's secretary should be aware of this case as well.

Coincidentally, based on the materials she found, the town mayor at that time was now the city mayor of Jinyang City. As for Cheng Bin's secretary, he was currently the governor of Jinyang County.

Bai Rong also found out that those two had known each other for a long time. Before the governor became Cheng Bin's secretary, he and the aforementioned town mayor were the town mayor and secretary general of another town respectively.

Her only guess was that the village head of Tangqian Village had reported this incident to the town mayor of their village, who then told the secretary and he passed it on to Cheng Bin.

If those three knew about this, all of them would be possible culprits of that genocide.

The girl was now checking the background of the city mayor of Jinyang City, Lu Liangcheng.

To climb the corporate ladder fast, she needed to achieve significant feats in her work.

Plus, these people were involved in a genocide just to keep the wealth all to themselves. Why should she allow such bastards to be freed from their well-deserved punishments?

She planned to make herself a name with these people's sins.

Knock! Knock!

Bai Rong turned off the webpage and opened the door.

Xing Jinnian stood with an arrogant stance while smiling evilly. "Dinner's ready. Don't say that we're being unkind."

"I'm sorry, I've taken dinner outside. If there's nothing else, don't come and disturb me. I need to study." Bai Rong replied coldly.

Her reply triggered Xing Jinnian as she stomped her feet angrily. "Bai Rong! Don't try to be funny. I'm already giving you face this time."

"My face is given by my parents, not by a mere loser like you." Bai Rong closed and locked the door.

Out of anger, Xing Jinnian decided to forgo her elegance and kicked the door madly. She had intended to show Bai Rong how loving she and Su Xuyan were at the dinner table, yet she was not even coming out for dinner!

"Dad! What's Bai Rong trying to do! I kindly invited her to join us for dinner but she just rejected me! You think she has any respect for you in this household?" Xing Jinnian complained to her father.

"Let her be. You don't have to call her for dinner next time." Xing Bachuan replied angrily.

Su Xuyan smiled instead. He glanced at Bai Rong's room and spoke, "From my understanding of her, she may be difficult and hard to please, but she's a kind girl. The only thing is that she tends to be very stubborn and radical in her behavior. She'll regret her actions later on though, just like a child. Uncle, don't need to be mad over such petty things."

Xing Jinnian was embarrassed by her boyfriend's assertion. "Xuyan, are you defending that woman?"

"I'm just stating the truth. After all, you'll meet her on a daily basis. I don't want you to be constantly mad over her. You'll not look nice if you're always so angry. I want you to stay pretty for me." Su Xuyan coaxed flirtatiously.

Xing Bachuan took a gulp of drink. "Xuyan's right. We cannot change anything about that. By the way, when are you two planning to get married?"

"Uncle, I've just divorced less than a month ago. If I were to get married so soon, I'm afraid that malicious rumors about Nian will arise."

Xing Jinnian's face went uglier with that statement as she muttered lowly, "I thought you said you never touched her before?"

"But the others out there don't not know about this. Gossip is a fearful thing; I don't want you to be hurt by it, Nian. Plus, I just resigned from my position and there are many eyes on me now. We can get married some time later. I'm free from my work now, so why not we go for a tour overseas?" Su Xuyan pulled Xing Jinnian into a hug.

Upon hearing about the overseas tour, the girl felt loads better and turned to her father. "Dad, it's not easy for Xuyan to start up his business. Can you directly tender that piece of land he's aiming for to him?"

Xing Bachuan nodded. "You still have to tender it through proper procedures, otherwise people will think I'm abusing my power."

"If that's the case, seems like being Governor Xing's son-in-law doesn't benefit me at all." Su Xuyan joked in reply.

"Dad, Xuyan will become your son-in-law sooner or later, and I'm the one who's going to marry him! Do you really want me to suffer with him?" Xing Jinnian pleaded cutely.

"You cannot avoid the proper procedures. But procedures are created by man, so there are bound to have some loopholes in it." Xing Bachuan coaxed his daughter and turned to Su Xuyan. "I won't join the auction, but I can tell you the lowest price the competing party is willing to offer. The party offering the most competitive price will win the bid."

"Isn't that still costly?" Xing Jinnian pouted in displeasure.

"The government has a lot of subsidies available for such projects. Xuyan can apply for one of those and decide on any amount he wants. The approval documents are signed by me anyway." Xing Bachuan explained.

Xing Jinnian finally smiled happily as she put her arms around her father's neck. "Dad always treats me best!"

"Yeah, I'm not nice to you." Su Xuyan followed Xing Jinnian's tone.

"If you don't treat me better, I'm going to dump you." The girl turned to hug Su Xuyan's arms while looking at her mother.

Chang Ruyan cleared her throat and spoke, "You're being too clingy, Nian. Xuyan, why don't you stay the night then? Since both of you are going to get married anyway. It's good to start testing out on your marriage life now."

Su Xuyan playfully pinched Xing Jinnian's nose. "You little devil! Once the tender is settled, we will go to Europe for a nice tour."

Xing Jinnian smiled happily while her eyes darted towards Bai Rong's room smugly. She was the daughter of a powerful politician, while Bai Rong was just her father's illegitimate daughter who had nothing to rival against her.

For the next two months, Bai Rong locked herself in her room and studied hard.

Throughout that time, she did not contact Liu Yan, nor did she try to check out on Gu Mingchen.

The girl had resigned from her position as a doctor. No one had begged her to stay or stopped her from leaving.

She only visited Bai Bing once in the month before.

As for Su Xuyan, the moment he won the tender, he and Xing Jinnian went on a holiday for a month.

Bai Rong did not bother about anything else other than her studies. To her, that was the only thing that mattered now.

Under such intensive studies, she had ranked first in the written test and also passed the face-to-face interview with flying colors.

On her first day of work at the CCDI in A City, she had specially put on some light make-up.

Since she hadn't received her official working attire, Bai Rong purposely dressed herself in a nice suit which brought out her curvaceous figure.

When Bai Rong came out of the room with her bag, she felt someone's hand snaking around her waist. She turned around and saw that it was Su Xuyan. The man met her eyes and dragged her into the toilet next door.

His glistening eyes continued to wander along Bai Rong's perfect figure. Without hiding his pleasant surprise, Su Xuyan landed his flirtatious gaze on her red moist lips. "You look so attractive, Bai Rong."

As usual, Bai Rong replied in her cold voice, "Let go."

"I miss you." Su Xuyan's voice was hoarse with lust as he took her hand and placed it on his erection. Then, his lips dived down to kiss her.

Before he managed to reach her lips, Bai Rong calmly took a photo with her phone.

That made Su Xuyan look at her on full alert.

The girl merely smiled. "Should I send this to Xing Jinnian?"

But Su Xuyan only leaned back on the door and crossed his arms lazily. "Up to you. Go ahead."

Seeing how unfazed he was by her threats, Bai Rong ran out of ideas on how to get rid of him. "Aren't you worried that Xing Jinnian will dump you out of disgust?"

"Well, I've been together with her for more than 3 months. I'm already tired of her and want to dump her myself. Do you want to help me with it?" Su Xuyan stroked the loose strands of hair on his ex-wife's forehead.

Annoyed, Bai Rong pushed her ex-husband away and went out. Su Xuyan followed suit and chased after her.

That view fell into the eyes of Xing Jinnian, who happened to be upstairs. The girl balled her fists out of anger when they left the house together.

Ever since Su Xuyan divorced Bai Rong, he had never touched her at all. Throughout the tour, the man's disinterest in Xing Jinnian was even more obvious. He never took the initiative to make love with her; she was the one who begged for it. Even so, Su Xuyan never managed to reach his peak whenever they made love. She had to do it orally or by hand in order to satisfy him.

For the past month, although Su Xuyan slept in the same room as her, he had no reaction at all no matter how hard she tried to seduce him.

The girl was extremely jealous as her blood boiled.

She couldn't just let it be.

Didn't Bai Rong love Gu Mingchen all these while?

The previous time, Xing Jinnian failed to let Bai Rong sleep with Gu Mingchen. With some careful planning, the next time round, she would definitely make it happen.

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The moment Bai Rong stepped out of the house, Su Xuyan immediately dragged her towards his car.

Out of frustration, the girl flung his hands away and yelled, "Su Xuyan! What do you think you're doing!"

"I should be the one asking you that! For the past two months, you've locked yourself in your room to study and even gave up your profession and career just to enter the CCDI. Who do you want to inspect huh?"

"What are you so scared of? I'm not going to inspect you anyway." Bai Rong's eyes were chilly as she answered.

"Don't tell me you want to inspect Su Zheng?"

Bai Rong turned her face away at his guess.

"Heh!" Su Xuyan scoffed while leaning lazily on his car. "What a great ambition you have, Bai Rong. But don't you know that's a hopelessly feeble effort? Su Zheng is one of the leaders within the CCDI. Just a word from him and you'll be done for. Plus, given his rank, you won't be able to inspect him with your current rank as a mere township officer. Don't be foolish; both Su Zheng and Gu Tianhang are the unmovable pillars within the Commission." Su Xuyan reminded her.

"I don't have to report to you whatever I'm thinking about or intending to do." When Bai Rong turned to leave, Su Xuyan wrapped his hands on the back of her head and pulled the girl closer to him. Once again, he dived down for her lips.

Infuriated, Bai Rong gave her ex-husband a hard slap.

"I'm telling you; I will definitely succeed." The girl replied confidently and walked away.

Su Xuyan rubbed the sides of his lips, his eyes squinting at the departing girl with a deep frown.

Although it was just a light brush on Bai Rong's lips, it was enough to ignite the strong feelings of yearning lust within the man.

He was desperate to sleep with her.

So now Bai Rong is the only one who can awaken the reaction of lust in me huh?

Bai Rong arrived at the CCDI and reapplied her lipstick in the toilet.

There were not many people in the office. The director introduced her to the staff and settled her entry procedures before swearing her in as a member of the Commission.

Once she was done, Bai Rong wasted no time and headed for the director's office.

"What's the matter?" The director looked at her curiously.

"I remember that the CCDI stipulates intercity and interprovincial inspection of the prosecutor's offices of other cities and provinces." Bai Rong inquired.

"Yes, there is indeed such a rule to prevent the local government officials from covering up for each other." The director nodded in agreement.

"I'd like to be posted to Jinyang City." Bai Rong requested resolutely.

The director eyed her judgmentally before asking in doubt, "You've got wind of anything there?"

Bai Rong nodded. "Yes, I do. If I manage to solve the case there, it'll contribute to your achievements, right?"

"I'm not the only one who can decide on where to dispatch you. I need to apply to the higher ups for that. Plus, assigning our officers to a specific city or province would require detailed reasons and explanations. Can you provide me with that?"

"Apply to whom? Su Zheng?" Bai Rong was unclear of such procedures.

"Oh, that's not necessary. I just have to apply from the officer in charge of assignments and postings within the CCDI."

"Does that mean that as long as that officer approves my application, I'll be able to go straight to Jin Yang City?" Bai Rong asked.

"That's the procedure according to the rules. But that officer is of the same rank as your father. I think he might not approve your request easily because of who your father is." The director had let it out that he was aware of the woman's identity.

"Let me make a call first." Bai Rong bowed slightly and went out of the office.

Last time, she had read a book about a young man whose way was blocked by a huge rock. No matter how hard he tried to push it, crush it or shove it, the rock remained rooted to the ground.

Finally, he ran out of ideas on moving it himself and asked for every passerby's help instead.

With the help of many, this rock was finally moved out of his way.

The moral of the story was to always ask for help whenever you couldn't solve a problem on your own. The person might or might not be of good help, but as long you asked for it, there would be hope in solving the problem.

Bai Rong decided to make a call to Song Xiyu. Back then, the woman offered to make it up to her, which the girl had rejected.

Sometimes, honor and dignity meant nothing in light of the harsh reality.

Song Xiyu was surprised to receive Bai Rong's call. After all, she had been missing for the past 2 months.

After some investigation, the woman found out that Bai Rong had been staying at Xing Bachuan's house. Only then did she know that the girl was the daughter of Xing Bachuan's ex-wife. Following that revelation, the woman decided to continue investigating Bai Rong's past.

"Hello." Song Xiyu greeted in her usual polite tone.

"You've told me before that I can ask for your help in the future. Does that still count now?" Bai Rong asked with uncertainty.

"If it's within my power." Song Xiyu promised.

"I'm now working at the CCDI and I want to be posted to Jin Yang City. However, it requires the approval of the officer in charge of assignments and postings within the CCDI. Can you help me with that?" Bai Rong requested flatly.

"Sure, no problem. Just a small matter for me. I'll give you a call once I'm done this evening." Song Xiyu agreed readily.

"Thank you." Bai Rong was about to hang up when she heard the voice from the other end.

"Did Mingchen contact you?" Song Xiyu asked immediately.

Bai Rong felt her heart aching at his name. The girl lowered her eyelids and replied calmly, "He will never contact me. Don't worry, Mrs. Gu."

"He must've known that we were the ones who kidnapped you. He has been refusing to talk to us and doesn't pick up our calls. He even refused to stay at home! Tianhang went all the way to the military base to look for him, yet he still refused to see him! I've heard that he embarked on another dangerous mission; he's trying to work himself to death!" Song Xiyu said in distress.

The soreness within Bai Rong deepened at her words. The girl could only close her eyes and allow her tears to flow down her face soundlessly.

If Gu Mingchen were to die before she became a strong figure, she would follow him to the underworld as well.

That man was her sole motivation to forgo everything and venture into a new realm.

"Mrs. Gu, I can't do anything about that." Bai Rong added in her usual flat tone that lacked warmth. "I've no idea what you are telling me this for."

"I'm sorry for losing my composure. I'll make a call now and contact you later." Bai Rong hung up immediately after Song Xiyu finished speaking.

The woman was taken aback by the girl's rudeness. Upon a moment's consideration though, the woman could understand why she did that. After all, she was the one who had harmed Bai Rong so severely, so what attitude could she expect from the traumatized girl?

Song Xiyu was a reliable person. Bai Rong received her call at 11 a.m..

"They've agreed. You can ask your director to apply now and you can get the posting confirmation by today. You can go straight to the prosecutor's office in Jinyang City tomorrow." Song Xiyu smiled as she informed.

"Thank you." Bai Rong answered with her icy tone, as usual. After hanging up, the girl immediately headed to meet her director.

"Director, the higher ups have agreed to my request. You can proceed with my application now." Bai Rong said in a declarative tone.

Being an experienced person in politics, the director was pretty sure that Xing Bachuan didn't have the capabilities to get things settled that fast. He believed that Bai Rong must be backed by a much stronger figure. With that in mind, the man knew he couldn't afford to offend this girl and applied immediately.

"I've contacted the director of our counterpart in Jinyang City. I'll let my subordinates book your air ticket and tomorrow the people from that side will meet you once you arrive. Report back immediately if you have any findings and I'll try my best to cooperate." The director said in a polite manner.

Bai Rong nodded and went out of the office coolly.

That was her second step to success.

From now onwards, every step she took would bring her closer to Gu Mingchen!

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The director had booked the 5.20 p.m. flight to Jinyang City.

After work, Bai Rong went back to the Xing's family home to pack her luggage. She did not have much to bring with her.

Xing Jinnian happened to be off duty today. The moment she saw Bai Rong coming out with her luggage, the girl immediately blocked her stepsister's way. "Where are you going?"

"I don't have to report to you. Get lost." Bai Rong replied in a frosty tone.

"Xuyan is flying to America today. Don't tell me you're going to America as well?" Xing Jinnian asked suspiciously as insecurity crept within her.

Bai Rong smiled instead. "Xing Jinnian, don't tell me you're feeling dubious now? Where's your confidence? Where's your charm? Are you afraid that a rich girl like you will lose to a woman who has nothing like me?"

"Lost my confidence? Are you kidding me? Xuyan just started up a new company for me. Now I'm the legal owner and the boss of his company that's worth at least a few millions. You think I'll lose to you?" Xing Jinnian continued sarcastically, "I just wanted to remind you to not overestimate yourself."

"Then just continue enjoying your happy life. Don't worry, as long you don't bother me, I've no interest in destroying your happy life." Bai Rong walked past her stepsister and climbed into the taxi.

Xing Jinnian was still worried. Out of insecurity, the girl decided to drive and follow Bai Rong to the airport.

Indeed, Su Xuyan had been very nice to her. He had given her his company and was more loving towards her.

But he no longer slept with her.

That was the reason why she began to suspect that Su Xuyan had another lover outside.

However, all her investigations showed that he did not have any affairs out there.

Hence, the only possible woman he might be meeting behind her back would be her stepsister.

A while later, Xing Jinnian arrived at the airport following Bai Rong. The girl then made a call to her boyfriend.

"Xuyan, have you reached the airport?"

"On the way. Will be reaching in 10 minutes time. Why? Miss me?" Su Xuyan curled his lips into his signature charming smile.

"I want to fly with you too." Xing Jinnian begged affectionately.

Her words caused a hint of frustration in his eyes.

Back then, Bai Rong would never ask about his whereabouts. He had always disliked being bugged or monitored by clingy women.

Anyway, he just needed to bear with her for a while longer and his plan would succeed.

"Sure. I'll send someone to fetch you." Su Xuyan looked out of the window in disinterest.

"Ok. Love you!" Xing Jinnian ended the call.

She bought herself a cap and a pair of sunglasses to hide her face while staring at Bai Rong from afar.

Bai Rong was flipping a book in the bookshop. It was a book on micro-expression psychology which she found interesting.

With that book in hand, Bai Rong went to the counter and paid for it. After that, she entered a coffee shop and ordered a cup of Jamaican Blue Mountain before sitting down to read.

Xing Jinnian noticed that her stepsister never picked up the phone at all. It would mean that Su Xuyan never called her.

By right, if Su Xuyan and Bai Rong really planned to fly off together, he would have called Bai Rong to tell her not to follow him after Xing Jinnian made the request to tag along.

Seemed like she was thinking too much.

“Why are you here?” Su Xuyan looked at the sneaky girl in surprise.

Upon hearing his voice, Xing Jinnian took off her sunglasses and smiled sweetly. “I want to surprise you!”

“Excuse me, this is definitely a bad surprise for me. I’ve already arranged for my subordinate to fetch you from home, so who is he going to fetch now that you’re already here?” Su Xuyan retorted in frustration, his tone full of displeasure as he made another call to his subordinate, “Don’t need to fetch her. She’s already here.”

From the side of his vision, the man saw Bai Rong sitting in the coffee shop.

It was a nicely decorated shop with a warm vibe. A warm yellow light shone on the girl’s delicate face while she enjoyed her coffee. Her shadow fell on the wall behind her, creating a peaceful image like that of an ink painting.

A hint of coldness flickered across Su Xuyan’s charming eyes. Now he knew why Xing Jinnian lied that she was at home when in fact she was already at the airport.

The girl was trying to test him.

Su Xuyan curled his lips coldly as he side-eyed his commoner-looking girlfriend. “Still want to travel to America?”

“Yes! I want to take care of you.” Xing Jinnian replied while clinging onto his arm.

Together, both of them went to the check-in counter. The man unconsciously turned to peek at Bai Rong.

The girl did not notice them though. She was totally engrossed in her book.

Looking at the peaceful sight, a mixture of feelings began to creep within Su Xuyan.

By the time Bai Rong touched down at Jinyang City, it was already 6.30 p.m..

The prosecutor's office of Jinyang City had sent a man and a woman to pick her up from the airport. They were holding a board which had Bai Rong's name written on it.

When Bai Rong spotted them, she walked over and greeted, "Hello, I am Bai Rong."

"Oh wow! I didn't expect Ms. Bai to be so gorgeous! Our director has arranged a welcome dinner for you, so we're going to fetch you there now. By the way, I'm Yang Li and this gentleman beside me is Yang Yan. You can just call us by our names." Yang Li introduced enthusiastically.

Bai Rong smiled in response. "Nice to meet you. Sorry for all the trouble."

"Oh no! It's not any trouble at all. It's part of our job. Since you took the trouble to fly all the way here, mind telling us who do you intend to check up on?" Yang Li smiled while trying to test Bai Rong.

"Nah, I'm just looking around to conduct some routine checkup. Just following the usual working procedures." Bai Rong answered while locking her firm gaze on Yang Li.

The young girl's eyes flickered momentarily. "I heard you were ordered to fly here at the last minute as all of us did not receive any prior notice of your arrival. That's why we guessed you must already have a target in mind."

"For the time being, no. Maybe I'll have one as I go." Bai Rong answered vaguely.

The trio climbed into the car and headed for the most iconic restaurant in Jinyang City, Restaurant del Luna.

"Restaurant del Luna is the oldest restaurant in Jin Yang City. It has a pair of Entwined Trees in which their roots were entangled and their trunks were entwined together like an inseparable couple. It's at least a few hundred years old and many young couples would go there to make their wishes of love. I heard it's pretty efficacious. Considering how young you

look, I'm safe to bet that Ms. Bai is not married yet, right? Why not give it a try later?" Yang Li asked enthusiastically.

Bai Rong averted the topic with a smile. "I'm more interested in the major cases your office has settled for the past few years."

"You're such a workaholic, Ms. Bai. Jin Yang City has been pretty peaceful for the past few years. The people are happy and enjoy their simple life. It's a rather slow-paced city. Oh yes, since you're new here, let me introduce a few famous streets and tourism spots around the city." Yang Li turned to introduce the scenery outside.

Bai Rong nodded, deciding to not press further.

Yang Li was an eloquent and alert girl. The way she spoke and worked was flawless enough to not let anything suspicious slip past her.

No wonder the prosecutor's office of Jinyang City would send this girl to welcome her.

However, Bai Rong could vaguely figure out some problems from the aversion of topics and avoidance of certain words and questions.

She was careful to not express her suspicions throughout the conversation. As the woman looked around the old and mysterious city, a mist of underlying darkness slowly clouded her eyes.

Half an hour later, the group arrived at Restaurant del Luna.

There were not many people in the private room, only 3 of them and all were from the prosecutor's office of Jin Yang City. They were Zhong Tong, the office's treasurer; Li Yu, the office's magistrate; and Zeng Shuying, the Head Commissioner.

Yang Li introduced every one of them to Bai Rong. Although not many from the office were present, these 3 here were all important leaders within the office of Jinyang City.

"Our director hasn't arrived yet?" Yang Li inquired while inviting Bai Rong to her seat.

"He has always been busy, not like you didn't know that. I bet it will take him another half an hour to arrive." Zeng Shuying explained with a smile.

"Then let me bring Ms. Bai to make a wish at the Entwined Trees." Yang Li smiled as she dragged Bai Rong towards the trees in the middle of the garden.

The branches of the Entwined Trees were hanged with wooden plates, in which a bell dangled under each of them.

A red color light shone from the left of the tree, while the streetlamps shone from the right, making the Entwined Trees a stunning view within the restaurant.

“Hey, the name of the person on this plate is the same as yours!” Yang Li said in excitement.

“I’m sorry, Bai Rong. From today onwards, let me protect you.” Yang Li read out the contents.

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Bai Rong’s heart trembled at the words as she looked at the plate.

There was no signage on the plate, but the handwriting was strong and sharply dynamic. One look at it and the woman immediately recognized it to be Gu Mingchen’s handwriting.

“It was written today!” Yang Li exclaimed in surprise.

A layer of tears moistened her eyes. Bai Rong lowered her eyes, trying to hide the glistening emotions within her.

“Ms. Bai, are you alright?” Yang Li inquired.

“Can I have a pen and a wooden plate? I would like to be alone for a moment.” Bai Rong uttered as calmly as she could.

“Oh, yes.” Yang Li took out the pen and wooden plate she had prepared beforehand and passed it to Bai Rong.

After taking the plate, the woman sat beneath the Entwined Trees and began to write her message on the plate: Try protecting me for as long as you wish, but I won’t forgive you.

She did not leave her signage nor the date of writing. After that, she hanged the plate right beside Gu Mingchen’s before staring at them.

Both plates touched each other as they swayed with the wind.

Never had she expected that he would also be in Jinyang City. Was he also here to investigate Lu Liangcheng?

By the time she returned to the private room, Director Jin of Jinyang City's prosecutor's office had arrived.

The man was around 50 years of age and looked pretty well built. He had put on a jovial smile as he extended his hands to her. "I would like to welcome the boss to inspect our work."

"Nah I'm not your boss. The higher ups want me here, so I'm just following their orders. I believe we will work well together." Bai Rong returned a polite smile.

"You look so young, Ms. Bai. How long have you been working as a prosecutor?" Director Jin inquired.

"Age doesn't matter in this line, as long I have great passion in my work." Bai Rong answered vaguely.

"That's right indeed! Ms. Bai is indeed a young and promising woman for achieving such a rank at a young age. Anyway, we will definitely give our utmost cooperation to make your work easier. Please have a seat." Director Jin invited with a smile.

Actually, Bai Rong's position was not that high. She was just a pawn, but just like the game of chess, she could check the King.

The woman might just be a regular staff member within the CCDI. However, upon being dispatched to another city, she would be treated like a queen by the prosecutor's office of that city.

To Jinyang City's prosecutor's office, the feedback of her inspection was very important to them.

Halfway through dinner, Director Jin received a phone call.

"All right. Sure, you must entertain him properly as he's the future son-in-law of Deputy Commander Su. It's good to acquaint such an important figure for our future ventures. Ok, ok I'll come over now."

Bai Rong tightened her grip on her wine glass upon hearing his words. Her nails were white with the sheer force of her grip.

"Erm, excuse me, I have to go over to have a toast next door." Director Jin explained while taking his glass.

Seeing the change in attitude, Yang Li also followed suit and took a wine bottle. "Director, let me accompany you. Two is better than one, especially if one of them is a girl."

"You, naughty girl with your sneaky ideas. Alright, let's go together." Director Jin took the lead and walked out.

"Is Deputy Commander Su's future son-in-law the son of Deputy Commander Gu?" Zhong Tong turned to ask Zeng Shuying.

"Yes, he's the one. I've seen him on TV before. He's an extremely good-looking man with perfect features. He is even better looking than the actors! Not just that, he also has a strong temperament compared to most men. His gaze alone could kill everyone on the spot." Zeng Shuying replied with great admiration.

"No wonder that little rascal Yang Li wants to go over and see him."

"Why don't we check him out too? Let's go together, Ms. Bai!" Zeng Shuying held up her wine glass and suggested.

Bai Rong's eyes were slightly reddened by now. "Oh, leave me out of this. I'm feeling a bit drunk now. I'd better rest earlier."

"Oh ok. Yang Yan, you didn't drink right? Please send Ms. Bai back then." Zeng Shuying instructed Yang Yan.

"No problem." Yang Yan stood up and took his coat.

"Tend to her properly." Li Yu reminded him.

"Alright. Ms. Bai, let's go." Yang Yan led the way out.

Lowering her head, Bai Rong left the restaurant.

She had no idea how she should react upon seeing Gu Mingchen. The woman was afraid of hurting him, and even more afraid of hurting herself.

Yang Yan escorted Bai Rong to the best 6-star hotel in Jinyang City.

"Wow, the staff accomodation looks really luxurious!" Bai Rong exclaimed in surprise upon getting down the car.

"No, it's not. It's just that you came over so suddenly and we ran out of empty rooms in the hostel. We can't just ask anyone to move out of their rooms with such short notice, so we have to settle you here. This 6-star

hotel had a deal with us, so the room fees are not expensive.” Yang Yan explained.

Bai Rong was feeling very tired, hence she did not reject the offer and followed Yang Yan to the lobby.

The man took out his identification pass and lowered his voice at the counter. “I’m from the prosecutor’s office. Please give me a presidential suite. Don’t need to register and I’m booking it for a month.”

“Alright.” The receptionist produced a room card and passed it to Yang Yan respectfully. “Please go to the 18th floor, room 1829.”

“Alright, Ms. Bai. This way please.” Yang Yan took the lead and brought the woman up to the 18th floor.

The room manager of that floor was already waiting beside the lift to welcome them.

“Room 1829.” Yang Yan informed him.

“This way please.” The room manager replied with a smile and led Bai Rong to her room before opening the door for her.

“If you need anything, please call the internal phone line 1800. We provide 24 hours service to suit your needs. On the nightstand we have a list of services available, but if you have any other requests other than those listed, don’t hesitate to tell us as well.” The room manager explained cordially. His voice was nice and refreshing like the first breeze of spring.

“Thank you.” Bai Rong replied.

“Then I shall not disturb your rest. Tomorrow I’ll fetch you to work at 8 a.m..” Yang Yan informed with a smile.

Bai Rong nodded in gratitude. “Thank you.”

Yang Yan left with a smile and closed the door for her.

The woman scanned through the interior of the presidential suite.

The suite had 3 rooms, a living room, and an outdoor garden. One of the rooms was the bedroom and next to it was the bathroom, while the last one was the gym loaded with some gym equipment.

The living room contained a huge sofa and across it was a 72-inch-high-definition TV. Right next to the TV was a Hi-fi set with

loudspeakers. The set also came with a touchscreen that allowed guests to pick and play their favorite songs.

Behind the sofa was a liquor cabinet loaded with famous brands of expensive liquor.

The flowers in the room were all freshly plucked this morning, giving the room a fresh vibe.

There was a computer in the bedroom and toiletries were laid on the nightstand. At the side was a huge cabinet for clothes.

At that moment, only did she realize that the bedroom was connected directly to the bathroom as well.

The bathtub was designed as a two-by-two spa tub equipped with water massage features. Chanel-branded toiletries and make-up sets lined the sink counter neatly.

All these were luxurious items to Bai Rong, but now it was part of her basic necessities.

The girl removed her clothes and entered the bathtub. She decided to relax herself and chose a mist bath together with a water massage.

The misty vapors soon filled the bathroom and the girl was concealed within the white mist.

The water massage hitting on her body was very comfortable and greatly relaxed the girl.

Bai Rong could finally understand why the wealthy and rich always liked to stay in a presidential suite of a 6-star hotel.

It was a luxurious enjoyment indeed.

From the way the people at Jinyang City's prosecutor's office were behaving towards her, she had a feeling that they must be hiding something big from her.

Bai Rong closed her eyes and relaxed fully. In a daze, she suddenly heard the sound of a door closing and opened her eyes in alarm.

The bathroom door was pushed open.

Gu Mingchen stared at the beautiful girl in the bathtub, his face slightly shocked at her existence. Then, an undecipherable emotion flickered in his dark eyes as he called out with uncertainty, "Bai Rong?"

The poor girl was greatly shocked by the intrusion. "Gu Mingchen! Why are you here?"

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After confirming that the woman in the tub was indeed Bai Rong, Gu Mingchen's eyes clouded with deep yearning as the mist from the bath blurred his features.

How long had it been since he last saw her?

It had been 65 days.

So many days had passed without her. They had first met in summer, but who would've thought that their next meeting would be in the middle of autumn.

"How have you been?" Gu Mingchen's hoarse voice squeezed through his tight throat.

Bai Rong unconsciously glanced at his broken pinky and her eyes moistened further.

She couldn't hide the waves of emotions in front of him, hence she turned away from the man and replied coldly, "I don't think this is the right time to reminisce about the old days. Don't fall into the trap of others."

"I'm already inside the trap. There's no escaping now." Gu Mingchen sat beside the tub, his gaze lingering on the girl with no intention to leave. "You're skinnier now."

"I thought skinny beauty is the trend now?"

"I think you look better with more flesh." Gu Mingchen replied.

Bai Rong lowered her head in embarrassment. Chatting while being naked with him was extremely awkward for her.

For their current relationship, they were not even supposed to chat with each other, let alone doing so while being naked.

"I'm coming out." Bai Rong replied, her eyes flickered around embarrassingly.

"I'll wait outside." Gu Mingchen turned to leave.

As he left, the girl could smell the strong odor of liquor on him.

She had thought that she would be the only occupant of this room, hence she did not bring in her new clothes after removing her worn ones outside the bathroom.

The girl stood up to reach for the towel when Gu Mingchen entered the bathroom once again with her luggage. His deep-set eyes lingered broodingly at the embarrassing view.

The poor girl froze mid motion at his sudden intrusion.

Gu Mingchen was the first one to regain his composure and averted his eyes.

Despite being taken aback by the embarrassing encounter, Bai Rong did not lose her calmness and did not cry out in shock.

After all, this man had already seen everything of her.

Bai Rong swiftly covered herself with a towel.

With his eyes still away from her, Gu Mingchen spoke while placing her luggage inside the bathroom. "I realized you did not take your clothes in with you. Sorry for the intrusion."

"Mmm." Bai Rong hummed in reply while Gu Mingchen closed the door for her.

By the time she was out, Gu Mingchen was standing beside the large window. The window portrayed his handsome reflection and his raw feelings of sorrow within his eyes.

At the same time, the man saw her through the reflection on the window. However, by the time he turned around, the raw sadness previously shown in his eyes were now well hidden.

"I just called the reception. Turned out that this room was booked by the prosecutor's office but was not registered. It so happened that the receptionist was changed to someone else who didn't know about that arrangement, so they're changing me to room 1827, which is just beside yours." Gu Mingchen explained.

"Ok." Bai Rong lowered her eyelids, looking like a quiet and distant goddess.

The man's dark eyes continued to stare at her, his Adam's apple moving as he gulped bitterly. "How on earth did you end up as a prosecutor? Did something happen to you when you were a doctor?"

Bai Rong lifted her head and landed her eyes on his dashing face before replying philosophically, "I just need a change. A change from my work, a change from my mood, a change for a new environment and a change for a different life."

"Did Xing Bachuan treat you well?" Gu Mingchen asked worriedly. He had so much to say to her, but now all of them were stuck in his throat.

"Yea, he's nice to me. It's all thanks to him that I got to be a prosecutor and dispatched here for work while enjoying the luxurious stay and boot-licking of others." Bai Rong clarified shortly, her lips curling slightly upwards.

She just didn't want him to be worried for her.

"Are you here to investigate Lu Liangcheng?" Gu Mingchen asked straightforwardly.

"Yes." Bai Rong admitted directly. "I think he was one of the murderers behind the genocide."

"Do you know why you get to stay in such a luxurious room?"

"They're trying to frame me. I know that I've landed myself in a rather difficult situation." Bai Rong guessed. The woman proceeded to pour a cup of water. She then noticed some honey on the table and added some into the drink before passing to Gu Mingchen.

"You've consumed liquor. Don't take tea now; it's bad for your health. Some honey in plain water will ease your headache." Bai Rong explained.

The man took the cup from her and took a sip. Then, he stared quietly at the beautiful girl before replying in a heavy tone, "Since you know it's a difficult situation, then how are you going to save yourself out of it? I think this is too dangerous for you. I can arrange to let you stay overseas for further studies and come back 2 years later. By that time, I should've settled everything."

"Settle what thing?" Bai Rong poured herself another cup of water and took a mouthful.

Two years later, she would still be an ordinary doctor. She didn't think Gu Mingchen's family would be able to accept her.

At that time, there would be more ladies like Su Wanning who would be forced onto him by his family.

"You know what I meant." Gu Mingchen stared into her with his scorching gaze.

However, Bai Rong avoided his gaze. Her eyes were cool and void of emotions, but her tone was firm. "I am clearer with the type of life I want. Chief Gu, you're overstepping your boundaries."

"Am I no longer part of your plans in life?" Gu Mingchen asked deeply.

Bai Rong felt her heart tightened as his sorrowful words pricked her.

The woman avoided his question and walked to the main door. Then, she opened it and said resolutely, "I'm going to sleep. Please don't feed the suspicions of others. I've paid the price with my pinky. I cannot afford to bear more serious consequences arising from such suspicions."

Gu Mingchen furrowed his brows and walked out of her room. He might look calm on the outside, but his fists were tightly clenched as he left the room.

Bai Rong closed the door with mixed feelings.

The man had just asked her to let go of everything and would arrange for her to study overseas. He had just asked her to wait for him for two years.

She could understand the underlying meaning behind his words.

Touched by his words, Bai Rong smiled in content, yet tears began to trickle down her face.

"Gu Mingchen, two years is nothing for me. Even if you ask me to wait for 20 years, I'll wait for you willingly."

Throughout the night, the woman spent her time studying the history of Jin Yang City.

Turned out that Jinyang City was an ancient city that had been the capital to many royal monarchs of ancient times. Underneath the ancient city hid generations of ancient history unknown to the public. In layman terms, the ground beneath the city was buried with countless relics of the ancient times.

The city was a well-known tourism spot famous for its ancient buildings and rich history. The whole place exuded an ancient vibe that had drawn tourists from many places.

Under the help of the archaeologists, historians and geologists, Jinyang City was now officially declared as the cultural heritage site of the country. Under the law, construction and development were not allowed within the area of a cultural heritage site.

But outside of it, development of economic activities was definitely allowed.

Bai Rong had a hunch that things were not as simple as that.

After more in-depth research, she realized that this hotel she resided in belonged to the Jinyang City Municipal Government.

They were just a mere Municipal Government, yet they had the money to let government officials stay in such a luxurious hotel for free. Imagined the financial expenditure needed for this purpose!

Could this place be the culprits' base then?

If that was the case, then this time she really ran herself into trouble. The woman had to carefully plan her next move now.

The mere thought brought a headache to Bai Rong and she decided to go out for a walk in the outdoor garden.

The moon was hanging full and bright in the night sky. The night was quite chilly, as the cold breeze blew past her clothes and kissed her skin, which greatly cleared her muddled mind.

From the side of her vision, something suddenly moved.

The girl turned to her right at the sudden movement.

Seemingly just awake, a man struggled to pull himself up the ground. His body was covered in blood and his chest was stabbed with a knife as he tried to walk towards her. "Save me!"

Bai Rong shrieked out of shock, thinking it might be a prank.

The man collapsed right in front of her, his hands on the girl's feet.

The doctor knelt and checked for his breath; it was now gone.

Upon hearing her shrieks, Gu Mingchen rushed towards the outdoor garden. Forgetting he was high up on the 18th floor, the man just climbed across the balcony to her side without considering how dangerous it was.

He would be dead if he were to lose his footing!

However, the man only had eyes for Bai Rong as he pulled the shivering girl into a tight embrace...

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No matter how rational Bai Rong was, it did not change the fact of how sudden this occurred.

"How could there be someone who dies here so suddenly?" She clutched Gu Mingchen's hands, shaking in fear.

Gu Mingchen's eyes narrowed and hastily muttered "Someone is trying to harm you."

Ping! Ping! Ping! The doors outside burst open.

"Gu Mingchen, you better leave quickly. Otherwise, they will suspect that that person found out about our adulterous relationship. If it comes to that, we will be trapped and no amount of explaining will save us." Bai Rong said, clearly distressed.

"Rong, do you trust me?" Gu Mingchen asked coldly.

"I do." Bai Rong replied without hesitation.

The hotel security came barging in at that moment, making a beeline for the sky garden.

"Reporting to the chief, a dead body was found in the sky garden. The culprit is nowhere to be seen." The security captain barked into his radio communications.

He proceeded to scan the room, a frown adorning his face. "Search the room." He gruffly instructed his subordinates.

"What are you doing here?" Gu Mingchen's sharp voice accompanied him as he entered the room.

"There was a murder here, so irrelevant parties should leave." The security captain replied rudely.

Gu Mingchen narrowed his eyes as his hands gripped firmly around the security captain's neck while forcing him against the door.

The security captain did not bother putting up a fight.

"Who do you think you are that you can raise your voice at me? If there's really a murder here, it will not be up to the likes of you to handle it any ways." Gu Mingchen's tone cleanly sliced through the air.

The guard turned pale.

Gu Mingchen released him. He dialed a number and commanded the recipient, "Call Jinyang City's police department. There was a murder at the Jinyang Hotel, room 1829. Tell them they have three minutes to arrive here."

The security captain's face discolored further after hearing the contents of the call.

"Reporting to the captain, the guest of this room is nowhere to be found." His subordinate reported curtly.

He furrowed his brow. "Leave the room for now." He instructed his subordinates.

Gu Mingchen stood ramrod straight at the entryway. "It would be best to wait for the police to arrive and provide a detailed account then."

Ten minutes later, Bai Rong appeared, her hair was noticeably wet as she stepped out of the elevator and made her way over to the door. "What are you doing in my room?" She questioned, confused.

Upon seeing Bai Rong, the security captain's eyes widened as his gaze swung between her and the sky garden. His pupils flashed before he slowly bowed his head.

"What happened here?" The security chief joined the group at this moment.

"Chief, a dead body was found in Room 1829 but so far, neither culprit nor murder weapon have been found. This is rather unusual." The captain reported.

The security chief glanced at Bai Rong before giving the order, "Check the surveillance tapes."

Gu Mingchen's eyes narrowed once again, his icy gaze surveying the security chief. "The police will naturally attend to these matters."

The security chief immediately agreed in a low voice.

Half an hour later, Jinyang City's police chief, detective team, the hotel's managers, security chief and captain as well as Gu Mingchen and Bai Rong were all gathered in the surveillance room.

While checking the surveillance tapes, they noted that Bai Rong had entered the room at 8.12 p.m. while Gu Mingchen had entered at 8.20 p.m. but left 10 minutes later.

The tapes were empty between 9.10 p.m. to 9.40 p.m. It was at 9.41 p.m. that the security team had burst into the room and discovered the corpse.

At 9.51 p.m., Bai Rong returned to the room.

"Ms. Bai Rong, what were you doing between 9.10 p.m. and 9.40 p.m.?" The police questioned her.

"After Mr. Gu left, I went online and surfed the internet. I came to Jinyang City as a prosecutor, hence I wanted to gain a better understanding of the city's culture. You are welcome to check my browser history. At around 9.30 p.m., I got tired and saw that the hotel website mentioned a swimming pool in the hotel garden, so I headed down there." Bai Rong explained, unfazed.

"The surveillance camera near the swimming pool should be isolated, right?" The police asked the security chief.

"Yes, it is" He replied, adjusting the footage.

Bai Rong appeared at the pool at 9.42 p.m. but left after circling it twice.

"Why did you only walk around it twice?" The police asked her.

"The water was dirtier than expected. Sir, you have to find out who did this. How could this have happened in my sky garden? It is too peculiar." Bai Rong replied.

"We will follow up on the details soon." The policeman's face displayed slight disconcertion.

The security chief's expression mirrored that of the policeman, exclaiming, "How could something like this happen?"

"Did you not notice that the surveillance cameras were off for half an hour?" The policeman inquired of the security chief.

"One of our men was celebrating his birthday today, thus he had used my identification to book Room 1729 to hold a party. I had called the guy on shift to eat a slice of cake before returning to his post." The security chief explained.

"By the way, when we were in Room 1729, we did hear a woman's scream coming from Room 1829 so I sent someone over immediately who charged into the room." The security captain offered the piece of information up stoically.

"What time did you hear the noise?" The policeman asked, his instincts that had been honed after years on the force kicked in.

"I remember checking my watch, so I'm certain it was at 9.30 p.m.. Moreover, I am certain that it was a woman's voice and anyone in the room at that time can attest to it." The security captain continued as he cast Bai Rong an odd look.

Bai Rong turned to the security captain and challenged, "Are you trying to imply that it was I who killed that man?"

"Sir, let us suppose that the man came looking for Ms. Bai at 9.10 p.m., she would have finished him off in 20 minutes then screamed at 9.30 p.m.. We rushed in at 9.41 p.m., meaning she could have bolted to the pool at 9.30 p.m. in order to create her alibi."

Bai Rong chuckled, "Please, that man was as strong as an ox. You actually believe that I could have done the deed? I don't even know who he is, or why he came to find me, so why would I kill him?"

"What about if you have drugged him prior? It is possible that you could have stabbed him afterwards." The security captain retorted confidently.

Gu Mingchen drew his brows together, a glint flashing across his eyes.

The door opened and a member of the forensics team stepped in and faced the police chief while giving his report, "We found a bottle of xxxx in the room and will be going back to perform the autopsy to study if the cause of death is the stab wound or poison."

"See, I told you." The security captain jumped up in excitement.

"So, you meant she killed him, then attracted your attention by screaming?" Gu Mingchen coldly shot at him.

"She did it to deliberately fabricate an alibi." The security captain replied with certainty.

"If she has the time to create an alibi, why leave the poison behind? Furthermore, the noise I heard was at 9.39 p.m., not at 9.30 p.m. like you have said. Additionally, only about 1 to 2 minutes after I heard the scream did the sounds of you knocking on the door begin. Why did you lie? Could it be that you are the killer?" Gu Mingchen addressed the security captain pointedly.

The security captain's face turned white as he fumbled for an excuse. "Perhaps my watch is defective."

Gu Mingchen caught the security captain's wrist and checked the time shown on the watch. "Unfortunately, your watch is working fine." His tone was bitingly cold.

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"I did not lie. I did not." The security captain's eyes widened as he worked to assure the police.

He swung to face Gu Mingchen and accusingly declared, "I know why you want to drag me into this. It must be because you are having an affair with Ms. Bai but were accidentally caught by that man, so the both of you had no choice but to kill him off to protect your secret."

"Are you some sort of rabid dog? You seem to be acting like one right now, trying to bite anyone." Bai Rong rebutted angrily.

Gu Mingchen had been silent for some time but chimed in at this point.

"Please think about this logically. If this occurred out of impulse, there would have been no need for poison. Given my abilities, I could have handled him cleanly. Do you really think there would have been any evidence left for you to find?" Gu Mingchen said sarcastically.

"I got it. The both of you must have drugged him first, then stabbed him while he was still alive. Ms. Bai, who was the more timid one, then screamed in fear."

"After hearing her scream, it should only have taken you a minute to get here from the 17th floor. Yet, you took 11 minutes. Can I ask what you were doing during all that time? Also, besides me and the people in Room 1729, is there anyone staying near Room 1829?" Gu Mingchen shot back.

"I will check." The hotel manager quipped.

"Let three police officers follow you, and bring back anyone nearby so we can question them." Gu Mingchen suggested solemnly.

He looked at the security captain with a shrewd gleam in his eyes, cornering him. "Please open up an interrogation room. I think the killer has been revealed." He ordered the police chief.

"I am not the killer. Even if you hold great authority, you can't frame me as you please." The security captain countered defiantly.

The security chief's face was as white as a sheet. "Just confess everything you know. Stop trying to harm the innocent like Ms. Bai. Many people will be hurt because of you."

Gu Mingchen wrinkled his brow. His bony fingers rapped on the table as he turned his gaze towards the security chief. The corners of his mouth slowly curved upwards.

The security chief felt a chill go up his spine and his hands began to tremble.

Could it be?

The policeman brought the guests staying in Rooms 1727 and 1731 along with him.

"I cannot recall the exact time, but I did hear a woman's scream followed by the sounds of knocking on a door. There could not have been more than a 2-minute interval between both sounds." The guest from Room 1727 recounted.

"I remember, the knocking happened at around 9.41 p.m. and I've looked at my watch to confirm that. I heard the woman scream as well, but that happened at around 9.39 p.m.." The guest from Room 1731 added.

The security captain slumped in his chair; his head hung low. "Stop with the questions. I killed him. He was the curator of the cultural museum and I owed him two hundred thousand in gambling debts. We had arranged to meet in Room 1929 and when he had almost reached the hotel, I convinced the chief to call those working in the surveillance room over to have cake.

I took the opportunity to leave and delete the footage. I first fed him poison but to seal the deal, stabbed him as well just to be sure. Afterward, I tied him up and lowered the body to Room 1829 then went to restore the surveillance footage before returning to the party. I had only just returned to Room 1729 when the scream came, so I brought a few men up to barge into the room, intending to push the blame onto the guests of Room 1829. While my colleagues went to find out what happened, I stashed the bottle of poison in the wine cabinet.”

“What a seemingly flawless scheme. Bring him away.” Gu Mingchen called out.

“Chief Gu, that was amazing. You cracked that impeccable and well-executed plan within the hour!” The police chief congratulated him heartily.

Gu Mingchen pressed his lips together, the deep abyss of his gaze surged with darkness.

The case was still unsolved. The security captain was merely a puppet. The mastermind was still at large.

“Ms. Bai, I still have some questions for you. Please follow me.” Gu Mingchen ordered scathingly, heading for the door. His cold demeanor clearly meant that strangers were not welcomed.

Bai Rong trailed behind him; head lowered as she entered his Hummer.

Once they got into the car, Gu Mingchen anxiously urged, “Rong, this place is too dangerous for you.”

“I am not afraid of danger.”

“Do you still not see it? This trap today had been set for you. Both the security captain and chief were involved. We still have no clue who is behind all this! If I have not been present today, you would have been saddled with a murder charge.” Gu Mingchen’s eyes turned red with worry.

Looking back, Bai Rong admitted that she did feel a bit afraid.

It was lucky that Gu Mingchen had led her away from the sky garden and used a rope to lower her down.

If she had been caught at the scene of the crime, with the poison as evidence, her guilt would have been sealed.

"I will be extra careful in the future so as to not give them any chance to succeed." Bai Rong promised.

"Prevention is better than cure." Gu Mingchen shifted closer to Bai Rong and supported himself with one hand beside her head. She could feel every breath he drew as he held her gaze steadily.

"Tell me, Bai Rong, what is it that you desire? I will acquire it for you then you can leave. Whether it is continuing being a doctor or leaving the country, as long as you are safe, I no longer have to worry." Gu Mingchen implored her.

The air between them was heavy and the pressure made it impossible for her to reject him.

"Will you really be able to give me what I want, no matter what it is?" Bai Rong's response was laced with bitter hatred, as her eyes locked upon his intensely.

"Even if it costs me my life." Gu Mingchen calmly promised.

It was as though his words had pierced through her like a swift arrow, instantly dispersing the thick fog of buzzing negativity that had been building. Her heart gave a pang, and her chest started to throb painfully.

She did not want his life. She wanted him.

She planned to initially play her part as a prosecutor.

With Xing Bachuan and Song Xiyu backing her, all she had to do was accumulate any achievements she could and her position would rise exponentially.

She had to bet her life on it.

She wanted to gain entrance into the inner sanctum, wanted to gain immeasurable power.

It was only then that she could stand by his side without fear.

Even if she was not fit to be his wife, she had to at least attempt to narrow down that distance between them.

She knew such a day was still far off and that she would only get there after shedding immense blood, sweat, and tears.

It was going to be an extreme struggle, but it beat doing nothing.

She could go overseas, there she would be able to escape all her troubles, leaving him to clear up the mess after her.

If she was lucky, she could let him ride into the battlefield alone, and marry him afterwards, enjoying the fruits of his hard-earned rewards.

Alas, Bai Rong knew she was not the type to let that happen, and that such a person was not worth his affections.

If odds were not in their favor, he would fail, and fate would wrench them apart.

At that point, they would not even be able to meet, and watching over him from afar would be nothing but mere wishful thinking.

Regardless of what the future held, she knew she had to give it her all, lay it all out there so she would not have any regrets on her deathbed.

She could not let his affections go to waste.

“To live, whether with success or not, is fine as long as I am doing the right thing. Cowardice is not part of my vocabulary. If I were to die in the hands of those people, I ask that you avenge me using the law.” Bai Rong choked out, tears streaming down her cheeks as she pushed the door open.

Gu Mingchen clasped her hands in his and pulled her into a tight embrace.

When their eyes met, Bai Rong could see his anguish and concern.

He, who was always cold, collected, and impenetrable actually had such a soft side, and she was the only one he exposed it to.

“Bai Rong, do you still have feelings for me?” Gu Mingchen asked as a sob escaped him.

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Bai Rong looked at him with tears brimming, reflecting the beauty of the man before her.

It was not mere affection. She loved him.

She had never felt this way about anyone before, to the point where she was willing to do anything as long as she could be together with him.

“Regardless of how I feel, it does not change our situation.” Bai Rong replied rationally.

“So Rong, that means that you do have feelings for me, right?” Gu Mingchen pressed for an answer while clutching her hands tightly.

Her answer was more than just important to him. It was the only shred of hope in his otherwise miserable existence.

Bai Rong’s eyes shone, but she remained silent.

In the spur of the moment, Gu Mingchen lunged over and pressed his lips to hers.

The kiss was deep and almost violent, and it seemed to engulf both of them. It was rough but emanated with all their unspoken feelings.

He tilted her chin upwards and continued to pepper kisses onto her.

She knew she was supposed to push him away, to strictly follow the plan she had laid out so meticulously.

Yet, she could not help but feel her heart soften.

Such desires were completely out of her control.

Bai Rong gripped his hands even tighter and let her eyes fall shut, but did not kiss him back.

However, she did not push him away either, feeling the full force of his passion on her face.

It was fierce yet gentle.

She really, truly, liked him so outrageously much.

She liked how he favored her, liked his note for her on the wood, and even liked his kisses.

Unknowingly, her hands drifted over to the space left by his missing finger.

For some reason, it felt as though something had suddenly stabbed her heart. It hurt greatly.

She knew she could not let herself fall any further so she mustered up all her strength to push him away, and said to his alluring gaze that pulled at her very being, "I have to go in now."

"Will you still stay?" Gu Mingchen drew his brows together again while looking at her.

"Gu Mingchen, what kind of person is the Bai Rong whom you like?" Bai Rong asked, tears cascading down her cheeks.

He lowered his head in answer and kissed each pearly, salty tear.

He pressed her forehead against his.

Three years ago, he had met her, dug up information on her and understood her past.

His heart had broken for her and ever since then, she had remained etched on his heart.

Three years later, she had abruptly come to his mind.

She must be happy with her husband now.

She was so perfect, so strong, so independent and with intelligence to boot.

It was only a few months ago when he received the call for additional manpower from the armed forces.

They were not clear on the details, and he had thought that the hostage was Bai Rong, which led him to make a personal appearance.

It was only after arriving he realized that the hostage was not her but her husband's mistress.

He felt like Bai Rong was his responsibility. If her husband was treating her any less than she deserved, then he would gladly take his place.

The more they interacted, the harder he fell.

He never expected that his feelings would cause her another kind of trouble.

He wanted to become even stronger, so unquestionably mighty that he would be able to protect her against anything that came her way.

"You do not have to do anything. I want to become the kind of person you would like." Gu Mingchen said as his voice trembled with emotion.

Bai Rong looked at him tearfully saying, "Go and do what you have to, spare no thought for me. It is the only way that I would have the space to struggle."

"You will wait for me, right?" Gu Mingchen asked cautiously.

He was always so confident, overbearing and astute, except when it came to his feelings for her.

He feared that she would give up easily.

"Time does not stop here. Even if you get married, you can still get divorced. The only everlasting confession is life. Do not make promises so easily, for I will not." Bai Rong said as she exited the car.

Gu Mingchen slammed his fist into the car door.

Time does not stop here. Even if you get married, you can still get divorced. The only everlasting confession is life.

Was she hinting at something?

Bai Rong returned to Room 1829.

Shying away from the situation was not an option.

If these people wanted to come after her, they would find a way to do so even if she changed rooms.

She needed this room to serve as a reminder for her to stay vigilant.

She needed to learn to protect herself.

It was obvious that someone meant to do her harm, that there was someone here that wanted to get rid of her, and that they could be colluding with people from the prosecutor's office.

Bai Rong's phone sounded with a text message alert.

She opened it and saw that it came from Gu Mingchen.

He texted: Tomorrow I will assign people to protect and assist you under the name of B City's Discipline Inspection Office.

This text message smashed into her heart like a heavy boulder.

She felt her heart begin to tremble vehemently.

After sending the text, Gu Mingchen made his way to the bathroom.

Since she was so adamant on staying, then all he could do was to support her to his greatest ability.

Gu Mingchen walked into the bathroom but heard a rustle from behind and spun around, then briskly changing course to the sky garden instead.

Bai Rong had just climbed over.

His eyes shone at the sight of her and he was rendered speechless for a moment before uttering, "Rong."

Bai Rong threw herself into Gu Mingchen's embrace as she wrapped her arms around his waist and started to heave with tears.

His text had torn down all the walls she had just spent the last two months building.

She actually really, really missed him.

Gu Mingchen returned her hug, squeezing her tightly as his eyes clouded over, pupils dilated.

The bedside lamp glowed dimly, shrouding the pair in a cloak of warmth and melancholia.

Gu Mingchen peppered kisses onto Bai Rong's body as she circled her arms around his waist, drawing him nearer to her.

When he entered her, she felt the pain pricking, and could not help but frown slightly.

His breaths became heavier as he lifted her chin and admired her in the light, continuing his assault on her lips.

It was a very effective balm.

She became more ardent, like an exquisite morning rose that had bloomed under his mindful care.

Afterwards, she remained in his arms, enjoying the afterglow. "Why are you here? Is it for business or for personal reasons? Where are Lieutenant Shang and the others?"

Gu Mingchen's hands rested on her stomach, patiently explaining, "I have business in the neighboring city but came here for personal reasons. I think Tangqian Village's massacre is connected to Lu Liangcheng. He used to be the town mayor and since that incident, he has been quickly moving up the ranks. There must be some unsavory tradeoffs happening behind the scenes. Director Chen of the armed forces here used to serve together with me so I asked him to help investigate. Hence, we had a meal at Restaurant del Luna. I never thought I would run into you."

Bai Rong turned to look at him, her eyes twinkling. "Were you planning on forgetting me?"

Gu Mingchen smiled as he looked at her amidst the light. "There were many times when I wanted to go and find you, but you said that you would not forgive me right? If I went to look for you, I was afraid of putting your life in danger. The best way I could keep you safe was to let you go."

"So, we should never see each other for the rest of our lives, right?" Bai Rong choked out as she turned away from him, tears flowing freely down her cheeks.

Gu Mingchen held her tightly, spooning her. "Bai Rong, I have already thought of a solution. Trust me, in less than two years, I will make you my one and only lawfully wedded wife."

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"Ok." Bai Rong replied softly.

After resting for a while, she returned to her room.

People were nosy. Gossip about them would be sure to arise soon given the recent attention they drew to themselves. It was best to stay wary.

Her back had only just hit the bed before another text came in.

She saw that it was from Gu Mingchen. He texted: What are you doing?

A smile played on Bai Rong's lips, the first real one in two months.

Bai Rong: Preparing to sleep, you?

Gu Mingchen: Same. Together.

Bai Rong fell asleep with her phone in hand.

When she opened her eyes, the sun had already risen.

She looked at the time. It was already 10 a.m., which meant that she was late.

She jumped out of bed and rushed through brushing her teeth, slapped on some makeup and changed her clothes before dashing out the door.

As she passed by Room 1827, she noticed that the door was shut tight.

He must have already left.

When she arrived at the lobby, Yang Yan was already waiting.

Bai Rong apologized profusely. "I am so sorry. I accidentally woke up late and made you wait for me."

"No worries. I heard about the murder in your room last night. I was shocked to hear that the hotel's security captain turned out to be such a person and that you almost went down for it." Yang Yan said coolly.

"The innocent will always be proven as so. Let's leave now." Bai Rong murmured, walking ahead.

When they entered the car, Yang Yan switched on the radio and the traffic news filled the air.

Bai Rong stared out the window.

"Ms. Bai, how long do you plan on staying here?" Yang Yan asked, testing her.

"I am not sure, but it probably will not be for long. After all, my family is in A City." Bai Rong replied, trying to ease their guard.

"There is something that has become the talk of the entire prosecutor's office. When you hear it later, please do not take it to heart." Yang Yan urged.

"What is it regarding?" Bai Rong asked, curious.

Yang Yan hesitated before answering, choosing each word carefully. "They are saying that you got in the CCDI using your connections, and are backed by someone with great power."

"I topped the written exam and with my image, I should not have had any issues passing the interview either. As for my endorsement, it was indeed by someone with sizable power." Bai Rong cryptically replied.

The color drained slightly from Yang Yan's face. "Nowadays, connections are everything. Without it, you would be condemned to be a bottom feeder for the entire of your life."

Bai Rong did not answer.

She used to think that Su Xuyan had only managed to clinch the position of Deputy Director in the Ministry of Health because of his capabilities; but now she knew it was due to his connection to the commander-in-chief.

If Gu Mingchen had not exposed him, Su Xuyan would have been able to continue climbing the ranks as planned and would have quickly become Minister.

Following that it would have been the vice mayor, then city mayor, vice governor, governor until he finally sat on the coveted seat as the aide of the commander-in-chief.

The car traveled for half an hour before arriving at the prosecutor's office.

Jinyang City's prosecutor's office was 27-storey high, and appeared to be glamorously modern.

"Is the prosecutor's office building newly built?" Bai Rong enquired as she followed Yang Yan in.

"Yes, it was previously in the old city district and we only moved here last year." Yang Yan replied while glancing at his watch.

"Shall we go and introduce you to your fellow colleagues first? After that, it should be just about lunchtime. I heard that a prosecutor from B City will be arriving here today. Looks like our city has finally made it onto the map."

"There is no need for you to be nervous. It is merely some routine work." Bai Rong trailed behind Yang Yan as they entered the office and met the rest of their colleagues.

"What cases are you working on now?" Bai Rong asked, trying to strike up a conversation.

Her colleagues, afraid of saying something wrong, threw silent looks at each other for someone to make the first move.

"Prosecutor Bai, you sure are focused and responsible, diving into work the moment you arrive. It is almost time to eat and Yang Li went to fetch the prosecutor from B City. How about you join us for lunch and we can talk more then?" Yang Yan said placatively.

"That sounds good. Work is important but one cannot miss meals for it. That said, today cannot go by unproductively, else I would not be able to report to my superiors. I am guessing that my performance yesterday was not up to standard and that prompted them to send someone from B City today." Bai Rong jokingly teased.

Yang Yan looked disturbed as he probed further. "I guess this means you already have a target?"

"Indeed. Let's go for lunch first. We can discuss more later in the afternoon." Bai Rong retorted with the same placative tone.

At lunch, she met the prosecutor from B City, Zhou Min.

She had dark skin, short hair and was petite. However, her eyes were sharp as a knife.

She was also a woman of few words. Even when she did speak, it was always direct and concise.

Bai Rong guessed that she was a member of the Special Forces whom Gu Mingchen had sent to protect her.

During lunch, there were more than a few slices of awkward pauses.

After the meal, Zhou Min said sternly to the director, "I came with the purpose of accomplishing my task. I hope to receive cooperation from all of you."

"Yes, yes of course. But what is your task?" The director asked with a smile plastered on his face.

"The superiors want someone apprehended. I am not able to disclose any details but all you need to know is to do as I say and provide any information I ask of you." Zhou Min replied coldly.

"Got it. Since the superiors are after someone, we will definitely do all we can to cooperate." The director nodded in promise.

Zhou Min turned her attention towards Bai Rong. "You must be the prosecutor sent by A City, right? I heard that you are currently staying in a suite at a six-star hotel. I will be moving over to stay there as well and look forward to working with you in the future."

The people around them paled in unison.

Seemed like their every move was being watched by these so-called superiors.

They would take note to ensure not to step even a toe out of line.

Yang Yan and Yang Li accompanied Zhou Min and Bai Rong back to the hotel.

Yang Li was enthusiastic and cheery on their ride back while Bai Rong occasionally responded with a smile or casual banter.

Meanwhile, Zhou Min stared at Yang Li with pursed lips, watching her like a hawk.

"Do the both of you share the same superiors?" Yang Li asked, grinning.

"Be serious. Both Ms. Bai and I were sent from the prosecutor's office and have tasks to complete. We are not aware if we have the same superiors and you should not be so nosy. If you are not careful, the first target might be you." Zhou Min chastised.

Yang Li's good mood instantly evaporated and she assumed stony silence for the rest of the ride and did not even exit the car when they arrived.

Yang Yan gave a dry smile. "Yang Li is still young and she can be quite chatty sometimes. I hope you can be understanding towards her."

"It is fine to be talkative unless it is brainless chatter." Zhou Min harshly spat out as she walked into her room.

"Don't worry. Ms. Zhou is just strict." Bai Rong patted Yang Yan's shoulders in comfort.

"I know. Please rest well and I will be back at 2.30 p.m. to fetch the both of you." Yang Yan nodded as he left.

Bai Rong entered Room 1829 and shut the door behind her.

Zhou Min fished an iPad from her luggage and turned it on.

It beeped to life and the screen displayed six glaring alerts.

Bai Rong frowned.

With the press of a button, Zhou Min changed the red alerts to green ones.

She set the iPad down and bowed respectfully to Bai Rong. "I am Agent 1666 from the Special Forces who's here to protect you and heed your every instruction. This room has been fitted with surveillance cameras and recording devices. Would you like me to get rid of them now?" Zhou Min asked expressionlessly.

"Oh, sure. Go ahead." Bai Rong replied, stunned.

Bai Rong's phone started to ring at that moment. She picked up immediately when she saw Gu Mingchen's name.

"Have you met her yet? Agent 1666."

Hearing Gu Mingchen's voice settled her nerves and she felt at ease.

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"Yes, I have, she is very stoic." Bai Rong responded, looking at Zhou Min.

Zhou Min combed the room meticulously and expertly, removing each surveillance device and replacing it with a new one. She had also installed counter surveillance equipment at the same time.

"Don't worry, Agent 1666 is extremely capable and will be able to take care of anything that you ask of her." Gu Mingchen gently replied.

"Yes, I know." Bai Rong responded, walking towards the sky garden.

"Do not approach anyone from the prosecutor's office to help you in your investigation because I suspect there is a mole amongst them." Gu Mingchen warned.

"I have the same suspicions. Yang Li and Yang Yan were rather nosy the whole trip back."

"It is normal for them to be curious. After all, both of your arrivals were abrupt and it is natural for them to be worried for themselves. On the contrary, I find the director to be the most suspicious. I have arranged a team for you and all you have to do is instruct Zhou Min and she will contact them to get any jobs you need done."

Bai Rong's heart warmed at these words.

On the wooden piece, he had carved his promise to take care of her and she could genuinely feel his presence every step of the way.

"Where are you now?" Bai Rong asked softly.

"I am in the neighboring city. I have already contacted Director Chen and he has agreed to lend you his strength in any way he can, so go ahead and move forward boldly. I will be here for you through it all."

"You should be careful too. Your mother mentioned that you are starting a dangerous mission again and I am worried about you."

"Please, it barely counts as dangerous, just some routine exercises. Do you still remember that soldier who lost his leg?" Gu Mingchen asked.

"I do. He is the one whose wife wanted to divorce him."

"He was injured during a military drill and although many others were injured as well, his injuries were the most severe. I have been looking into it for some time and have found the supplier for the weapons used during the exercise."

It was even more dangerous than what Bai Rong had anticipated. "Please be careful. I cannot live without you."

Gu Mingchen smiled. "With you here, I will never let anything happen to myself."

A blush spread across Bai Rong's cheeks.

They were both working hard towards their individual goals. It felt good. "I have to go back to work now. Good luck."

"Good luck to you too. I will see you in two days." Gu Mingchen's voice softened as he addressed her.

"You'd better not. It wouldn't be pleasant if your parents or Su Wanning finds out. I can wait two years." As Bai Rong worried for the both of them, the area where her pinky used to be started to throb with a dull ache.

If they were being found out again, the consequence would not be as simple as losing a finger.

Gu Mingchen's stormy gaze darkened as he ended the call.

"Chief." Lieutenant Shang exclaimed.

Gu Mingchen closed his eyes and responded, "Carry on."

The special effects makeup artist continued sticking on the fake beard on his face.

Bai Rong and Zhou Min returned to the prosecutor's office in the afternoon.

She flipped through the case files handled by the office in recent years.

They mostly consisted of financial disputes.

They targeted several state-owned enterprises and caught a couple of people each year in order to meet their quota.

These cases were of no help to them.

"Where are the complaint letters? Show me the ones from this year." Bai Rong looked towards the Head Commissioner, Zeng Shuying.

Zeng Shuying's assistant carried a large pile of letters over and dropped it in front of them after which Bai Rong and Zhou Min immediately dived in.

Those were mostly trivial matters, ranging from someone stealing their neighbor's cable to someone stealing their best friend's boyfriend to even someone complaining about their boss making them work overtime.

Bai Rong scanned the pile in two hours then turned towards Zeng Shuying and asked, frustrated, "Are these all?"

"Yes. It is rather peaceful here in Jinyang City and there are no major issues such as corruption." Zeng Shuying replied, smiling.

"Stop treating this so lightly." Zhou Min growled.

Zeng Shuying's face fell and she wilted on the spot.

Bai Rong smiled, trying to diffuse the tension. "Having no major problems is a good thing. You have quotas to meet but so do we. What I'm worried

about is that the people might have grievances but are afraid to voice them. How about this, Commissioner, let's start placing anonymous complaint boxes around the city from tomorrow onwards."

"That does not seem like a good idea. It might make people anxious." Zeng Shuying opposed.

"Enough nonsense, just do as you are told. We are doing this for the sake of the community so who cares about causing anxiety. If you are unwilling to cooperate, could it be that you are the culprit?" Zhou Min stared down Zeng Shuying as she dared her to object.

The latter was successfully intimidated. "Okay, we shall proceed as you said."

Bai Rong was worried that the prosecutor's office might prevent the citizens from submitting complaints.

She visited each town herself and supervised them as they put up the posters. She had also arranged for people to guard the areas near each complaint box.

Each complaint was personally collected.

After a day, over a thousand letters were received.

Bai Rong and Zhou Min went through each page, sorting through and placing aside any of interest.

"Ms. Bai, take a look at this. Someone is accusing the mayor of Jinyang City of colluding with real estate developers to try and force the villages to give up their valuables." Zhou Min pointed out.

Bai Rong took the letter from Zhou Min and her eyes lit up in eureka.

"We have finally found it. Lu Liangcheng is indeed dirty. The only reason he wanted to be mayor was so that he could steal artifacts and sell them or store them in his private collection. Murdering the curator of the cultural museum might have something to do with him as well."

"Do we head to Lu Liangcheng's home now to look through his things?" Zhou Min awaited further instruction.

"He would never leave the valuables at home. A complaint letter is hardly enough evidence for us to rummage through the mayor's home. Not only will we end up empty handed, we might even put him on alert. We should keep digging and secure more proof before moving forward."

Someone started knocking at the door and Zhou Min went to open it.

Yang Li carried two cups of milk tea in and beamed at Bai Rong. "Do you need my help?"

"No need. Return to your work." Zhou Min interjected, preparing to close the door.

"Please enjoy the milk tea that I specially brought you." Yang Li chimed as she placed the drinks on the table and gave the table a once over.

Zhou Min shut the door and threw the milk teas into the trash. "That was such an obvious tactic."

"Zhou Min, what do you think about targeting the antique store first?" Bai Rong enquired.

"Sure."

"We are already being watched, so we cannot leave. Let one of your teammates help." Bai Rong instructed.

"Understood."

After a busy five days of digging through the seemingly endless wave of complaint letters, Bai Rong made a mind map based on the information they had gathered from the letters.

It turned out that Lu Liangcheng had a team of antique experts who analyzed Jinyang City's history to search for possible locations of where treasures might be.

Xingzheng Construction Company was a construction company working closely with Lu Liangcheng.

Lu Liangcheng sold the possible locations of valuables to this company under the disguise of regular business transactions.

This company appeared to be developers but were actually treasure hunters.

Could Tangqian Village's hidden treasure map be in Jinyang City?

Bai Rong's head buzzed with questions as she headed back to the hotel while Zhou Min went shopping.

The moment she stepped into the room, a strong hand grabbed her from behind.

Before she could react, Gu Mingchen caught her in a tight embrace and planted his lips on hers.