

## Chapter 161

Bai Rong noted that Gu Mingchen seemed to have changed significantly. He did not use to be so...direct.

They were both intelligent, grown adults but the innuendo was apparent.

Between them, the sparks of romance danced.

Bai Rong was shy, so she pretended not to hear him, trying to change the subject. "We were talking about dinner. Let us go now."

She quickly changed clothes and left the room briskly, failing to catch Gu Mingchen's smirk as she left.

He appeared to be in a rather good mood.

Bai Rong had just sat down at a table when Gu Mingchen's phone rang.

His face subtly shifted when he picked up. "Got it. I will be there as soon as possible."

"Is everything okay?" Bai Rong asked knowingly.

"Something came up back at the base and I need to rush back now." Gu Mingchen said, his voice low.

Bai Rong looked at the table of dishes before them. "Are you not eating dinner then?"

“There is no time. You have my number so call me if you need.” Gu Mingchen said matter-of-factly as he turned to leave.

Lieutenant Song opened the door and the chief strode out.

Bai Rong sent him as far as the door.

Several soldiers stood at attention, waiting by the car as Gu Mingchen grimly glided in.

He was gone before she knew it.

Something serious must have happened back at the base.

She had never been privy to his thoughts nor did he tell her what was going on in his life.

In the past, she was in no position to probe, much less now.

She knew Gu Mingchen was a good and righteous soldier, to the point that he neglected dinner for military duties.

Without him there, the villa seemed vacant and lonely.

She had always hated being alone and decided to take medicine for her nerves before she went to bed.

The sun was already high in the sky when she woke up.

Her routine was unchanged.

She got out of her bed to brush her teeth, wash up, change into a fresh outfit and left for the hospital.

In the car, she considered getting her own vehicle as it would surely make her commute more convenient.

She made a beeline for the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department and sat down to wait after taking a number.

A woman stepped out of the gynecologist's room, clearly distraught.

Although it had been three years, Bai Rong immediately recognized the woman as Su Wanning.

If memory served her well, Su Wanning should still be working at the military base. But she herself was a doctor so what was she doing here?

Bai Rong's turn came next.

The doctor was an old colleague of hers and she greeted her cheerily.

Ying looked up and a smile spread across her face when she saw it was Bai Rong. "Bai Rong, what brings you here?"

Bai Rong waved the sheet in her hand. "I came to fill my prescription and check out who is on duty while I am at it."

"Oh, I see. Let me settle this for you so you do not have to wait. I heard you became a prosecutor. You sure are gutsy, abandoning the job of deputy head of the department and completely switching fields. You are the only one I admire in the hospital." Ying joked as she handed Bai Rong's form back to her.

"That only lasted for half a year. After that, I went abroad to broaden my horizons and am now a psychologist at a research institute. I am thinking about opening my own clinic in the future." Bai Rong explained.

"My goodness! You have no idea how much I admire you! You even managed to become a psychologist?! It is a popular career now, given that it comes with high salary but minimum effort. That is a far cry from us here at the hospital, working to the bone every day. The frequent overtime and complaints from patients are enough to drive anyone up the wall. I know a doctor who was just fired from the other hospital. I'm feeling so depressed that I'm about to enter menopause earlier..." Ying lamented.

"You are so kind and beautiful. If you are about to enter menopause, what hope is there for the rest of us?" Bai Rong chuckled lightly, trying to comfort her.

"Thanks for trying to look out for an old lady's feelings. I still have some work to finish up. Let's go for a meal when we're all free?"

"No problem. It will be my treat. What happened to the woman who was just in here? She had a terrible expression on her face when she left." Bai Rong tested, trying to sound casual.

“She was careless. Not only did she contract gynecological diseases, she even got syphilis. It is already in the second stage so it is pretty serious.” Ying replied while shaking her head.

Bai Rong paled at the news and her jaw dropped.

Su Wanning was Gu Mingchen’s fiancée and she herself had been involved with the man before.

A bad feeling washed over her. “Ying, I want to get a checkup as well.”

“Are you okay?” Ying asked nosily as her eyes widened at the sudden request.

Bai Rong tried to brush her off with a smile. “Better to be safe than sorry.”

Half an hour later, Bai Rong had her IUD implanted and was reading her medical report.

Thankfully, she was as healthy as ever.

She had better start using condoms with Gu Mingchen just in case.

What if he had already been infected?

Could he have been the one that passed it to Su Wanning in the first place?

That couldn't be. Gu Mingchen was notoriously hygienic and kept everything around him as clean as possible. If he was committed to Su Wanning, the infection could not have started from him.

Could he be cheating on Su Wanning?

Or, maybe Su Wanning had other men.

Bai Rong was lost in her thoughts as she made her way back to the research institute.

The more she thought about it, the deeper the fear set in.

Gu Mingchen liked it rough and despised condoms. She was afraid that she would not be able to go against him

Maybe he would go for it if she cited safety concerns.

She quickly typed this out in a text to Gu Mingchen, "Remember to wear condoms from now on to protect against any infections."

His reply was immediate. "Are you sick?"

His response irked her. "If anyone is sick, it would be you. I suggest you get yourself checked out."

Just as she hit send, his call came in.

“What was that supposed to mean?” His voice was low and she could tell he was fuming. ready to bite her head off at any second. Bai Rong was not surprised given his bad temper.

“I am fine and have the medical report to prove it.” She quickly added, trying to quench his anger.

“That is good to hear.” She felt the tension in Gu Mingchen’s voice dissipate.

His choice of words bothered her.

“I saw many women with such illnesses. Today’s society is filled with too many temptations and people are weak. You are holding a powerful position so all the more you need to be careful.” Bai Rong tried to explain delicately, hoping he got her message.

Gu Mingchen realized what she was getting at and his bad mood that had only just lifted came flying back. “As long as you are not sick, neither will I be. That is all.”

He hung up without waiting for her reply.

Was he trying to provoke her? Curse her? Or could it be...

She could feel her heart banging at breakneck speed.

Was he hinting that she was the only woman in his life?

Bai Rong gulped and stared out the window, trying to calm her racing heart.

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When she arrived at the research institute, Bai Rong was still deep in thought.

If it was true that she was the only woman Gu Mingchen had, how could Su Wanning have contracted gynecological diseases as well as syphilis?

Did she really have other men in her life?

“Miss, we have arrived.” The driver’s thundering voice rang out.

It snapped Bai Rong out of her trance.

She paid her fare and climbed out of the car.

What was she thinking?

Even if Su Wanning was really cheating on Gu Mingchen, it had nothing to do with her.

That said, things sure changed more than she could have ever anticipated in a mere three years.

Mu Xiaosheng was on a rampage when Bai Rong stepped into the research institute.



“How the hell did the lot of you graduate? You love boasting when there’s nothing to do; but when push comes to shove, suddenly you’re all mute.”

“Isn’t there some industry genius who just joined us? Only she has the chance of getting this done.” Someone piped up bravely.

“What’s the point of keeping you here if we push all the work to her? All of you might as well pack your shit and leave now.” Mu Xiaosheng roared back, even more incensed now.

Bai Rong rapped on the meeting room door.

Mu Xiaosheng swiveled to look at her, a monstrous scowl that practically disfigured him plastered on his face.

Bai Rong smiled. “I’ll do it.”

Mu Xiaosheng clung to his last hope. “You’re the only one I can count on in times like these. Come with me to my office.”

In his office, Mu Xiaosheng tossed a few photos to Bai Rong.

She saw one miniature European style castle. It was made with a type of limestone that was no longer in use and its walls were overgrown with ivies. It was ancient and appeared to have been abandoned for some time, which gave it a creepy vibe.

The other photo showed a dead man in the middle of the room. He was lying in a fetal position and his fists were clenched tightly with a tortured expression marring his face.

“The man is Xiong Jinping, the brother of Xiong Daini and was the mayor of Pingyan City before his death, which happened in this castle. It was a locked room murder and his body had no external traces of foul play. It was only during the autopsy that they found out his brain had excessive internal bleeding, leading to his death. Besides, no poison was found in his system and he was not known to be taking any drugs either.” Mu Xiaosheng slowly explained.

The last photo showed another dead man in a room. his hands closed over his own neck, eyes bloodshot. His death was just as gruesome.

“This is Xiong Zhiqing, a lieutenant and military instructor at the Special Forces military base. As you can see, his death was just as horrific as the previous one. Both deaths occurred yesterday and the bosses are putting some serious pressure for this to be resolved within the week. We had no choice but to take the case.” Mu Xiaosheng sighed in exasperation.

Bai Rong nodded in understanding. “Great power comes with great responsibility. The more reputable we become, the more important image becomes as well, which inevitably brings pressure along with it. This research institute is one of the tops in the nation after all, so it should be expected.”

“Stop rubbing salt into my wound. I’ll leave this to you. Whatever expenses you require will be provided, so feel free to stay in the presidential suite, and an additional one thousand will be topped up for your efforts. Money is no issue as long as you can crack the case.” Mu Xiaosheng firmly declared.

“Do I head over now with the police?” Bai Rong asked, jumping into work mode.

“The police are placing this at the top of their priority list and have paid good money to hire an expert to assist with the case. His name is Leng Qiuzun, nicknamed the Lord,

and he will be bringing an assistant with him. Furthermore, the police will be assigning two officers to the team, making it a total of five people. The Lord will take lead on this.”

“His fame precedes him. I heard that he is basically a hermit and barely comes out for anything other than cases. This will be a good chance for me to get a glimpse at this so-called legend.” Bai Rong joked.

“Perhaps you might be the lady whom he’s seeking? Your reputation is comparable to his.” Mu Xiaosheng retorted, jabbing her.

She silently turned and left to pack, before making her way to the police station.

She did not tell Gu Mingchen that she was about to embark on a business trip.

Anyway, she was not obligated to report every detail of her life to him.

However, she did inform Liu Yan, “Babe, I need to leave for a business trip and won’t be able to meet up for a while.”

“Wow, your job sure is intense. You’ve only just returned and you’re already jetting off again. That Mu Xiaosheng sure is mean.” Liu Yan whined.

“That’s the job. I’ll call you when I get back.” Bai Rong said comfortingly.

“Fine. By the way, something happened at the military base last night. An officer was murdered at the same time as another officer was found dead in Pingyan City. The craziest thing was that the latter was not even on leave, meaning that he went against military rules and left without permission. The chief was furious. This never happens in the Special Forces military base after all. It could be a sign that the security system has

been compromised and there might even be a mole. Such a serious problem had to crop up right when the Chief is running for commander-in-chief. For now, the information is supposed to remain classified. I've got to lay low for a while. Got to go, talk to you soon." Liu Yan hurriedly hung up the call.

Bai Rong slipped her phone back into her pocket and sat back, as she recalled Gu Mingchen's troubled expression when he left the restaurant last night.

Could Xiong Zhiqing's death have something to do with that dead officer?

If she could get to the bottom of the matter, it should be of big help to Gu Mingchen.

She packed up her luggage and headed for the police station.

Leng Qiuzun was already waiting in the car.

She was the latest of the group to arrive.

On the bus, she finally saw the legendary Leng Qiuzun.

He seemed to be around thirty-five years old and was wearing a black windbreaker. He was tall and skinny and had a hat perched atop his head. His sharp jaw and single eyelids made him look even more intimidating, reinforced by that piercing gaze of his that could turn any self-respecting girl's legs to jelly.

Bai Rong was at a loss as to how to approach him, so she decided to spare the greetings and chose a seat instead.

“Bai Rong.” Leng Qiuzun called out, his voice unusually deep and clear.

She immediately turned to him and flashed a smile. “Mr. Leng was leaving the airport in a hurry and accidentally bumped into a young girl drinking milk tea. Her mother was outraged and branded you the weird one, even threatening to call the police on you so you brought them along to the police station with you out of anger.”

Leng Qiuzun was silent and only looked fixedly at Bai Rong, his dark pupils reflecting her shiny ones.

Leng Qiuzun’s assistant could not stand it and burst out, “how did you know all that?”

“When I was storing my luggage, I saw Mr. Leng’s luggage tag which states that his arrival time at A City was 11 a.m.. But it is only 12.30 p.m. now. It takes one hour to arrive here, indicating your rush. Also, he failed to clean off some of the milk tea from his clothes. From the position of the stain, I estimate that it should have been caused by a little girl. When I arrived, I saw a middle-aged woman complaining as she led her daughter out, talking about some pervert. I also caught Mr. Leng’s irritation in his eyes when I boarded.” Bai Rong explained concisely.

“Are you trying to show off?” Leng Qiuzun unceremoniously rebutted.

His comment had no effect on Bai Rong, who continued, “When you called my name, there was uncertainty in your voice. So I figured that you were trying to feel me out to see what I can do. I was only trying to fulfill that wish.”

Leng Qiuzun did not say anything else.

Bai Rong’s phone rang.

It was a text from Gu Mingchen.

His short message read, GXXX, come to Carriage 12. I'm here.

Bai Rong was speechless.

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GXXX, come to Carriage 12. I'm here.

The line swam around Bai Rong's mind.

How did Gu Mingchen know she was going to Pingyan City?

"Ms. Bai, Ms. Bai." Leng Qiuzun's assistant nudged her out of her musings.

"What happened?" Bai Rong asked.

"My boss would like to have a word with you." Leng Qiuzun's assistant reminded her.

Bai Rong looked at the man in question.

Leng Qiuzun was in a particularly bad mood. His long face, gloomy countenance, and murderous glares were a displeasing sight to behold. "You are more impudent than people say." He commented sarcastically.

“I just become absorbed when I’m thinking.” Bai Rong quickly explained.

Whether or not that explanation was believable to him did not matter to her.

Leng Qiuzun turned away from her, signaling the end of that interaction.

Now who was the impudent one?

Leng Qiuzun’s assistant laughed dryly. “Boss was just talking about how Xiong Zhiqing had never been to Pingyan City and appears to have no links to Xiong Jinping whatsoever. The only possible connection we found is this adult website they both visited. What are your thoughts on this?”

“I am not sure yet. I haven’t had much time to analyze the case.” Bai Rong said as she downcast her eyes.

Since this might have something to do with the Special Forces Military Base, she did not want to speculate unnecessarily in case it brought about negative consequences.

“What a scam.” Leng Qiuzun spat, his lips turned upwards in a nasty smirk.

She looked at him but he refused to meet her gaze.

Bai Rong feigned a smile. “According to studies relating to psychology, a sharp tongue is a sign of either an inferiority complex or guilt. May I ask which camp you belong to?”

Leng Qiuzun turned his glare upon Bai Rong, his nostrils flared. Indeed, he looked rather fearsome. "Do you really think that I am either?"

"From the moment I got onto the bus, you've been trying to test me, getting me to prove that I truly am as capable as people say. You've been judgmental and rude. Could it be that you're afraid that I'll outshine you, which is why you keep trying to test me? Is that not a sign of guilt?" Bai Rong remarked casually.

"What a pile of nonsense from some ignorant rookie." Leng Qiuzun dismissed her coldly.

"You truly are talented and clever, with an aptitude for analysis. Although you rarely make an appearance, you are admired by many. Unfortunately, you crave glory too much, much like history's famous general Baiqi."

"Baiqi? Looks like I'm not the only analyst here. I'm done wasting my breath on you." He said as he promptly shut his eyes, indicating that he was done with the conversation.

He was wrong. Bai Rong had actually not studied him at all but she didn't bother to reply.

She only took the case to return a favor.

After half an hour on the road, the bus arrived at the North train station.

The ticket master passed out their tickets, which all read GXXX.

They were given priority seating.



Bai Rong checked her room number which read Carriage 6.

She did not want to reveal her relationship with Gu Mingchen to anyone so she followed the group to Carriage 6.

The carriage was in first class.

She had just sat down when a text message alert came in.

She opened it, seeing that it was from Gu Mingchen.

“Are you waiting for a formal invitation?” Gu Mingchen asked domineeringly.

Bai Rong helplessly texted back, “I just boarded the train. I’ll come over as soon as I can.”

She put her phone down and asked a member of the staff, “How long will it take to reach Pingyan?”

“Six hours and twenty minutes. We are expecting to arrive at around 8.30 p.m..” The staff replied with a smile.

Bai Rong nodded and slung her bag over her shoulder, making her way to the back of the carriage.

“Where are you going?” Leng Qiuzun asked.

“I have something to take care of. I’ll be back at 8 p.m..” Bai Rong replied brusquely,

Leng Qiuzun snorted.

She arrived at Carriage 12.

There were four soldiers stationed at the door.

They seemed to recognize her and knocked on the door.

“Come in.” Gu Mingchen’s deep voice came from inside.

The soldiers pushed open the door and Bai Rong strode in.

Gu Mingchen was fixated on his laptop screen, brows furrowed, looking as unapproachable as ever.

“Are you going to Pingyan too?” Bai Rong asked in greeting.

Gu Mingchen tossed the information pack he was holding to her, not bothering to look up.

She seated herself on the sofa and leafed through the file.

In it was information about both Xiong Zhiqing and Xiong Changan, as well as any connections they had between them.

When she was done reading, she noticed the last page mentioned that both of them had logged into the same adult website during their own free time.

“Xiong Jinping had logged into that website before too.” Bai Rong made the connection and looked at Gu Mingchen.

He turned to look at her calmly, asking, “Are you not going to tell me about this business trip to Pingyan City?”

Bai Rong was not expecting this interrogation. “I didn’t get the chance to before you sent me that text.”

“Really?” Gu Mingchen clearly did not believe that and smirked. “Between your decision to go to Pingyan and my text, one hour had elapsed. Are you trying to say that during that whole one hour you didn’t have the time to drop me one text?”

Bai Rong knew there was no point in trying to hide it from him any longer but she weakly replied, “You are always busy?”

“Yeah I am. Yet you had the time to text me about getting a checkup?” Gu Mingchen slowly pulled the thread of her lie, taking it apart.

Bai Rong always knew that he was infuriatingly smart and too logical for his own good. “This is my job. Why do I need to inform you of every little detail? It’s not like you offer me the same courtesy with your job.”

Gu Mingchen stood up and so did Bai Rong.

He paced one step at a time towards her, and her pulse quickened.

He wrapped an arm around her waist and pulled her till her face was an inch from his. “Whether it is just work or you’re hiding from me on purpose, only you know the truth. But I can guarantee you that as long as I don’t want to let you go, hiding is useless. Me going to Pingyan is to remind you of this fact.”

“You’re going to Pingyan because of me?” Bai Rong was surprised, her heart beating faster.

“Get your mind out of the gutter. Both Xiong Zhiqing and Xiong Changan were from my Special Forces team. This incident is extremely important so I need to get to the bottom of it by hook or by crook.” Gu Mingchen said expressionlessly, not a spark in those stormy eyes

“Is this case so important that you need to handle it personally?” Bai Rong enquired softly.

“Good that you know.” Gu Mingchen’s words carried a hint of salacity. Bai Rong’s heart rate picked up again.

Could he have come to Pingyan, knowing that she would be there, so that they could...

“I’m here for work.” Gu Mingchen’s words shut her mind down before its imagination spun out of control. He pulled her down onto his lap so they both faced the screen.

Bai Rong turned her attention to the screen.

Gu Mingchen entered a web address and an adult website popped up.

The screen was filled with revealing photos and videos.

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Bai Rong was frozen, refusing to look at the screen. "Don't you have subordinates who can do this?"

They've already tried but they couldn't find anything useful." Gu Mingchen replied coldly.

"We might not find anything either." Bai Rong objected.

Such websites were not foreign to her, for Liu Yan's laptop was full of them. But she refused to watch it with him.

"We'll only know after we look at it." Gu Mingchen said as he clicked on one of the videos, his expression wooden. "All three of them watched this video."

"Have you watched it?" Bai Rong asked, an odd feeling creeping into her heart.

Without any change in expression, he replied, "No. Now, pay attention."

Bai Rong was at a loss for words once again.

His words made it seem like she's the sinful one.

Bai Rong focused on the screen.

The high-definition video clearly showed a woman and two men in the middle of nowhere.

Bai Rong knew that it was work, but watching such a video with him, her mind unconsciously wandered.

She picked up a bottle of water from the table and gulped its contents down.

Gu Mingchen looked at her with that same stony expression. "Have we never watched such videos together before?"

"You never used to watch such things." Bai Rong said softly.

"Did I use to be such a prude?" Gu Mingchen smirked in response.

Bai Rong took a while to think her answer over.

"I guess." She mumbled placatively.

“How many times a week did we use to do it?” Gu Mingchen asked bluntly.

Bai Rong poured more water down her throat. “I don’t remember.”

She knew her own words seem rather dodgy so she added, “You used to be so busy with your job. We didn’t have much time to meet so the frequency couldn’t be measured in terms of weeks.”

“Do you have complaints to bring up?” Gu Mingchen poked teasingly.

The way he talked made her seem like the desperate one.

Bai Rong decided to shut the topic down. “Chief, shall we get back to work?”

Gu Mingchen gazed deeply into her eyes. He seemed to already have the answer.

His intense gaze made Bai Rong shift uncomfortably in her seat.

She tried to concentrate on the screen and something caught her eye. Her hand reached out to pause the video.

The scene happened to stop at where all three of them were entwined with each other.

Bai Rong deliberately ignored them.

“Did you see something?” Gu Mingchen asked, leaning in.

Bai Rong fished the photos from her bag and compared them to the image on the screen.

“The video is categorized as outdoors but this isn’t outdoor at all. It’s actually in the castle, except with a dark background, so it was mistakenly perceived as nighttime. Take a look.” Bai Rong zoomed into a part of the screen and managed to pick out the definitions of the stone blocks and a white blurry spot.

They appeared in the photos as well.

“Are you trying to say that they recognized this castle from the video so they all went there?” Gu Mingchen questioned, frowning quizzically.

Bai Rong did not reply. She fast-forwarded the video to the end, which depicted the woman with her fingers in her mouth. She lustfully drawled, “Will you come find me? I’ll be here waiting.”

“I remember your information pack mentioned that they all logged on during their own free time. Could it be that they drove to the castle, then met with some unexpected circumstances? This woman is a lead. You should find out who she is as soon as possible.” Bai Rong suggested to him.

Gu Mingchen already had his phone to his ear. “I need you to find someone for me. I’ve already sent the photo to you. If you use facial recognition, you should be able to find out who she is soon right?”

Bai Rong waited for him to finish talking before sending the photo over via email.



“There are others as well. You should also take a look at the video which they appear in together.” Gu Mingchen continued, clicking on the next video.

“Gu Mingchen, do you get the feeling that your subordinates are rather...” Bai Rong trailed off, unable to find the right words.

“Men are lustful by nature. They can’t engage in such activities while on duty so naturally they have no choice but to do it while on break. It would be weirder if they didn’t.” Gu Mingchen replied in that deep voice.

Bai Rong glanced at him oddly.

Did he mean that he watched such videos too?

She was unsure of what to do at that moment.

Gu Mingchen suddenly closed the laptop.

Bai Rong was confused. “What’s wrong?”

She faced him and met those dark and seductive eyes of his. Her heart skipped a beat.

She stood up quickly.

But it was too late. Gu Mingchen had already ensnared her waist in his arms, spinning her towards the bed.

She felt her cheeks redden and tried to pry his arms off of her. "We're on a train."

"My men are standing watch outside. Not even a fly could sneak past them. Weren't you just grousing about how my job keeps me busy to the point that we couldn't even measure our sex life by weeks?" Gu Mingchen hoarsely whispered, his breath tickling her ear.

"I wasn't blaming you. I'm sure you're mistaken, Chief." Bai Rong tried to get up.

Gu Mingchen easily pushed her back down. He hovered over her, his voice lowering another octave. "Given our relationship, I'm sure we're past the stage for you to address me as Chief. Don't make me angry."

"How petty. I'm sure you're more magnanimous than this." Bai Rong tried to distract him as she attempted to escape his grasp again.

Gu Mingchen only tightened his grip. "You are right that that's not enough to make me angry, but your persistent rejection definitely will."

Bai Rong's heart panged and a weird feeling settled over her.

He was really too direct.

She had no room to retreat.

He lowered his head and connected his lips to hers,

Bai Rong wanted to say no but she knew that if he lost his temper, she would have hell to pay.

He penetrated her without much foreplay.

Although she was unprepared, she felt even more ashamed about what she felt next.

She wanted more. She could never admit it out loud but his desire had bled into her veins, and it made her as thirsty as he was. That was the real, unadulterated her, and it was beautiful.

Gu Mingchen crushed their lips together. "The next time you reject me, I'll push you right to the edge then leave you there."

His tone was harsh yet he caressed her gently and treated her like she was something precious. He controlled his animalistic urges, ensuring she had reached her climax before racing towards his own.

After.

Bai Rong's body glistened with sweat. "Is there a place to shower here?"

"There isn't any hot water and you shouldn't shower with cold water. I'll have someone boil a basin full of water for you." Gu Mingchen offered kindly.

Bai Rong was embarrassed. "Won't they know then?"

“You were so loud; how could they not already know? They might be able to keep anything and everything out, but the walls aren’t soundproof.” Gu Mingchen reminded her while smirking.

She wanted to dig a hole where no one could find her ever again.

Unable to face him, She flipped over to pretend that she was dead so she would not have to face her mortifying reality.

Gu Mingchen looked at her. Feeling bad, he went over to sit by her side.

She refused to look at him, fiddling with her fingernails.

“The men outside are my most trusted subordinates. They would bring all secrets to their grave so you have nothing to worry about.” Gu Mingchen tried to comfort her.

“Maybe don’t be so pushy next time?” Bai Rong protested weakly.

“I wouldn’t have to if you were more cooperative.”

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Bai Rong had been rendered speechless.

Gu Mingchen had one of his men bring a large basin as well as five bottles filled with hot water.

Bai Rong could not stand it anymore and desperately needed to take a shower.

She stepped out of the bathroom, feeling clean and refreshed

Gu Mingchen went in and took his turn.

His laptop had been left open and Bai Rong scanned the screen.

There must be a lot of top-secret files on this laptop.

Yet, he left it unguarded and went into the bathroom. If anyone were to come in, the secrets would be stolen as easily as taking a candy from a baby.

She did not peek.

The more secrets one knew, the more likely they were to meet with a quick end.

She lay on the bed and opened social media on her phone,

Someone named Manman had sent over a wave of information.

Bai Rong had not used this account in some time besides the occasional correspondence with Liu Yan.

Also, she did not give her username away easily.

She had no recollection of this Manman. Could it be an old colleague who changed their username?

Some people like Liu Yan liked to change their username often.

It used to take her forever to find Liu Yan's new usernames so eventually she made a remark on her friend's name.

Bai Rong opened the messages.

"Are you here?" This message had been sent almost daily and it was all the person said.

"Hi, you are?" Bai Rong typed out in reply.

"Bai Rong, you're finally here! I've missed you so much. Where are you now?" Manman immediately responded.

Bai Rong was even more bewildered at seeing her own name mentioned.

"Who are you?" Bai Rong asked.

“A man who loves you.” Manman cryptically responded.

Bai Rong could tell that he was determined to keep his identity a secret. He spoke almost childishly, trying to provoke her. This irked her and she could not contain her irritation. “I have many suitors. If you don’t tell me your name, then I’ll have no choice but to block you.”

He was silent for three seconds.

Bai Rong’s finger hovered over the button, getting ready to block him.

His message pinged in. “Su Xuyan.”

Bai Rong clearly remembered blocking Su Xuyan a long time ago so how was he still able to contact her?

Whether it was Su Xuyan or not, she decided to go ahead and block him anyway.

Her phone was suddenly snatched out of her hands.

Her head snapped up to see who had done it.

Gu Mingchen scrolled through the chat; a frown deeply etched into his forehead. “You have many suitors?”

That line was meant to provoke the other party but it undeniably carried a narcissistic undertone.

But his casual invasion of her privacy greatly displeased her.

She had not even peeked at his computer despite having ample opportunities.

“Quite a few.” Bai Rong retorted as she tried to retrieve her phone.

Gu Mingchen frown deepened. “You still keep in contact with your ex-husband?”

“I didn’t know it was him either. I actually thought it was a woman’s name. Frankly, I blocked him ages ago.” Bai Rong said truthfully.

Gu Mingchen blocked Manman and handed the phone back to her. “Let’s talk about these so-called suitors.”

Bai Rong rolled her eyes.

He had taken such a flippant comment of hers so seriously.

“Mao, Gou, Zhang San, Li Si, Zhang Long, Zhao Hu.” Bai Rong rattled off a string of random names.

Gu Mingchen held her chin and bent down to kiss her.

A more accurate word would be bite instead. He nibbled at her lip, but with just as much fervor and she soon found herself falling onto the bed.



Bai Rong jumped in surprise and instinctively pressed her hands against his chest, her face flushed. "Didn't we just do it? I just got myself clean."

Gu Mingchen looked deep into her eyes.

He said nothing but his gaze was so dazzling that she could see the tiny her in both his eyes.

She could not figure out his intentions.

"Who says you can't do it again right after doing it once?" Gu Mingchen posed the question.

"That..." Bai Rong took the chance to sit up, scooting to the foot of the bed.

"Yes?" Gu Mingchen marked her every movement, letting her squirm.

"Once a week is the minimum; twice a week is passionate; but ten times a week is just unhealthy." Bai Rong explained hastily.

Gu Mingchen peered at her. "So what's the right number of times a week for you?"

His words seemed like a trap.

If she replied once, it made her seem like a toy. The idea abhorred her.

If she said twice, it made her seem greedy and unvirtuous.

“There isn’t a serious answer to such a question.” Bai Rong hoped he could drop the topic.

“So you are aware of this too.” The corners of his mouth curled into another smirk.

Bai Rong found herself with no comeback.

He was clearly referring to her previous comment.

The man was neither smooth nor silver-tongued, yet she had no retort.

Gu Mingchen was a man of few words and spent most of his time in brooding silence.

He spoke seriously and often sternly hence most people found him to be unfriendly and intimidating.

His effort to heckle her was frustrating. “Do you have to beat me at everything? Won’t your heart ache?” She hissed back at him.

Won’t your heart ache?

This statement appeared often online.

She regretted it once the words left her mouth.

Someone as rigid as Gu Mingchen would never recognize it as internet language which was meant as a joke.

He would take it at face value.

“I’ll give in to you next time.” He promised gentlemanly.

Bai Rong felt that odd feeling washed over her again as she lowered her head and immersed herself in his strong aura.

He was already standing in front of her.

“But, I do have to correct you on something.” Gu Mingchen murmured.

“What?” Bai Rong revisited recent events in her head but could find no wrong.

“For the past three years, I’ve had no other woman and have not settled myself either. All I want is you.” Gu Mingchen said with complete seriousness.

Bai Rong’s heart was pounding at breakneck speed.

Was he hinting at something?

He had feelings for her?

That’s not possible.

There was a difference between having feelings for her and fulfilling his sexual needs with her.

He did say that she was not his type and found it appalling that he ever had feelings for her.

But why was he telling her these now?

Bai Rong stared at his clear, calm eyes.

He must just be trying to say that he liked having sex with her.

She did not know if she should laugh or cry.

“If you’ve really never settled yourself then how did you manage all this time?” Bai Rong asked furtively.

He had always run hot and she could feel his heat emanating.

“Exercise, training and high-pressure situations don’t leave me much time or energy for such matters anyway. Although sometimes I’ll find the blanket soiled in the morning.”

Bai Rong thought about Su Wanning.

Su Wanning was his fiancée and was also older than Bai Rong.

She was already twenty-eight herself so Su Wanning must have needs as well.

Should she bring up Su Wanning's condition?

Best not to interfere.

But, if both she and Su Wanning were sleeping with Gu Mingchen, wouldn't she be putting herself at risk?

"You need to use a condom from now onwards no matter what." Bai Rong felt even warmer and walked over to the other side of the bed to put some space between them.

Gu Mingchen noticed that and grabbed her by the waist and easily engulfed her within his embrace. "Didn't you just get your IUD? So why would we need to use a condom?"

Bai Rong found herself with nothing to say yet again.

## **Chapter 166**

Bai Rong knew he had misunderstood.

"I was talking about you and your fiancée." She regretted the words the moment she spoke.

He would eventually have a child with his fiancée.

Was she going to forbid them from having children?

Gu Mingchen had a faraway look as he stared at her silently.

She could not bring herself to meet his gaze. The conversation had taken an awkward turn and she did not know how to dig herself out of this hole.

Gu Mingchen released her.

Bai Rong immediately stood up, putting two meters between them just in case.

Maybe it was because of her lack of lunch combined with vigorous activity, her stomach chose that moment to let out a loud gurgle.

Gu Mingchen understood immediately. "You haven't eaten yet?"

Bai Rong could not deny this. "I left in a hurry and didn't get the chance to."

Gu Mingchen issued an order into his phone. "Go to the dining room and get the chef to prepare four dishes then send it over."

Gu Mingchen looked towards Bai Rong. "Any specific order?"

Bai Rong was craving for something heavier on the palate. "Do they have Chopped Bell Pepper Fish Head, Mala Chicken or Duck's Blood?"

Gu Mingchen's eyebrows raised quizzically. "You like spicy food?"

Bai Rong shook her head. "Just craving for it now."

"Ask them to prepare Chopped Bell Pepper Fish Head, Mala Chicken and Duck's Blood." He hung up after dispensing short instructions.

Bai Rong plopped down on the sofa to wait for the food to arrive.

Gu Mingchen did not speak either, turning back to this computer.

Bai Rong felt slightly bored and began to lazily scroll through her phone. The silence that enveloped them was tranquil and peaceful.

Gu Mingchen glanced at her and she appeared to be lost in thought.

A piece of news caught Bai Rong's eye.

It wrote that the police had found and saved two hundred children in Dragon City. They were calling for the parents to come and claim the children.

She felt a twinge of sadness.

If she and Gu Mingchen's child was still alive, he would be about five this year. Could any of those rescued children be her baby?

Su Xuyan said that he had found a lead but three years had passed and there was no new information. If he had uncovered anything, given his personality, he would have come knocking on her door long ago.

“Isn’t Dragon City near Pingyan City?” Bai Rong asked Gu Mingchen.

She had been so deep in thought that she did not notice that Gu Mingchen had been watching her.

Even if she did notice, he was such an enigma that she couldn’t have seen through his thoughts anyway.

“It would probably take about half an hour by high-speed rail. What about it?” Gu Mingchen asked her back.

She nodded. After she was done with this case, she wanted to hop over to Dragon City’s Public Security Bureau and try her luck. “Just asking.”

Gu Mingchen returned to his computer when Bai Rong spaced out on the sofa.

When her baby was born, he had not looked much like her.

Gu Mingchen was the baby’s father so maybe he looked more like him?

Right then, someone knocked on their door.

Bai Rong was thrown back into reality and went to open the door.



A soldier carried several dishes in.

Gu Mingchen closed his laptop and placed it on the coffee table, leaving the dining table empty. "Bring us two drinks." He instructed the soldier.

"Do they have beer?" Bai Rong asked the soldier.

The man looked at Gu Mingchen.

"Bring a few bottles of beer over." He directed the soldier again.

"Yes sir." The latter backed out of the room.

Bai Rong sat next to Gu Mingchen and picked up a pair of disposable chopsticks to taste the Chopped Bell Pepper Fish Head.

It was fresh, salty and spicy.

"I haven't had this in so long. I'm pretty good at making it too. I'll make it for you sometime." Bai Rong said casually.

This pleased Gu Mingchen. "Did you use to cook for me?"

"I did." Bai Rong was in a good mood and decided to indulge him with more conversation.

“When we get back, cook a few of your specialties for me. My appetite has been rather poor.” Gu Mingchen said with that deep voice of his.

Bai Rong could not hide her concern. “Why has your appetite been poor?”

“It’s been like this since I left the hospital. I’ve been busy and with the memory loss, there are many things to adjust to. For example, to adjust to being the chief of the Special Forces and having to deal with significant opposition from the State Council. Only the strong survive so I need to prove my ability and determination. I also need to sort out my messy interpersonal connections like having a fiancée, whom everyone keeps telling me I’m deeply in love with.” He stopped abruptly.

To be honest, he had already said more than enough.

He did not know why but he felt like he could trust Bai Rong.

Bai Rong lowered her gaze.

She had no experience but could imagine what he was going through.

An amnesic Chief who also lost all his experiences, strategic thinking skills and natural courage.

He held a position of power and would no doubt have many enemies. The man needed to prove that he was capable and that could only be achieved through immense hard work.

Especially now with the existence of Su Wanning.

That was basically a lie.

His family, friends and everyone he used to trust were the ones lying to him.

He must be suffering amongst all the lies.

Bai Rong felt for him.

It was no wonder that he became so jagged, merciless and cold.

The soldier returned with a dozen bottles of beer, two beer cups and a bottle opener.

Bai Rong opened a bottle and poured him a cupful.

Gu Mingchen took her hand in his, his inky dark gaze pierced her. "Can you tell me why we broke up?"

Bai Rong looked at him.

She did not want to lie to him any longer.

He was already too pitiful.

But she did not want to plunge him into hell either.

“It was the workings of fate.” Bai Rong said patronizingly.

Gu Mingchen’s gaze dulled as he chugged the entire cup. “In the end, you still refuse to tell me. Bai Rong, tell me what I need to do to get you to tell me the truth.”

“The past is the past. Don’t let it concern you too much. You should be trying your best to move forward and climb your way to the peak of the world. Standing there, you would be invincible. No one could hurt you.” Bai Rong said profoundly as she drained her own glass.

She was afraid that his questions would not stop there and changed the topic. “Chief, how about we play a drinking game?”

Gu Mingchen could tell she was deliberately trying to avoid the topic and was vexed. “Drinking games are boring. Let’s play cards instead. The loser drinks.”

“What if I’m drunk?” Bai Rong said worriedly.

“If you get drunk, just sleep it off. You should sober up by the time we reach Pingyan. With me here, what are you afraid of?” Gu Mingchen said huskily.

“With me here.” Those words seemed familiar coming from Gu Mingchen.

She gazed at him, her eyes glistening and tears welled up in the corners of her eyes. As though her Gu Mingchen had come back to her.

Even if that Gu Mingchen only materialized for a few seconds, it was enough to warm her heart.

She now knew why she could continue trudging on in this cruel and miserable world.

It was because only by living could she feel his presence...

## **Chapter 167**

This was one of the most important reasons why she was willing to compromise with Gu Mingchen.

She still longed for something. No matter how deep down it was hidden, it still existed in her heart.

“Alright. Then we’ll play a card game. Do we draw the cards randomly?” Bai Rong clarified the rules.

Gu Mingchen nodded and told the soldier to grab a deck of cards.

He shuffled the cards and let Bai Rong pick them.

After Bai Rong drew a card, he drew one too.

Gu Mingchen was good at the game and barely lost.

Bai Rong was also very cool with her defeat and she gulped the alcohol down in a single breath.

He was very thoughtful and did not play each round consecutively. Instead, he let her eat some snacks first before continuing.

She ate and drank a lot.

Eventually, she got drunk.

When Bai Rong came out from the toilet, she was already unstable on her feet.

“One more time.” She said as she sat down beside Gu Mingchen, her eyes half-closed.

“No. You’ve drunk enough. You’ll hurt your body if you keep drinking like this.” Asserted Gu Mingchen in a deep voice.

“Hah.” Bai Rong laughed and her eyes were starry. Straddling Gu Mingchen’s lap, she placed her hands on his shoulder naturally. “Are you worried about me?”

Gu Mingchen pursed his lips and did not say anything.

Her gaze swept over his face. “Gu Mingchen, if you haven’t forgotten about me, how would we be like now?”

Gu Mingchen realized that she was really drunk. Her face was flushing and even her smile was becoming silly.

“How would we be like?” Asked Gu Mingchen, following her train of thoughts.

Bai Rong broke into a smile and touched his soft lips tenderly with her middle finger. She stroked it with a lingering obsession, yet the words she said were very pessimistic. “We won’t be anything. I’m not your type. You like Zhou Hailan.”

Gu Mingchen frowned and grabbed her finger, which was moving rashly above his lips. “You know Zhou Hailan.”

Bai Rong nodded and tears rolled down from the corners of her eyes.

Zhou Hailan was his passionate love, yet also the thorn in his heart.

When Gu Mingchen saw her cry, he felt a weird sorrow in his heart. He wiped her tears away with his fingers and realized a possible reason. “Does she have something to do with our break-up?”

She had something to do, yet nothing to do with the break-up.

She was not involved because Bai Rong did not know Zhou Hailan. They appeared in different stages of his life.

Yet, she had a part to play because when Bai Rong met Gu Mingchen, his heart was still conquered by Zhou Hailan.

She could already tell from his reaction when he saw Xia He.

After he lost his memories, he forgot about her. Instead, he only remembered Zhou Hailan.

This was probably the direct trigger of her suicide.

When she thought about it, her heart clenched painfully and she did not want to talk about Zhou Hailan anymore.

“Gu Mingchen, I don’t like it when you keep trying to sound me out.” Said Bai Rong.

Gu Mingchen fell silent.

Bai Rong smiled. “Actually, I know that you’re keeping me by your side just to learn more about your past.”

“You’re drunk. Go and rest for a while. I’ll wake you up when we’re reaching Pingyan.”  
Gu Mingchen carried Bai Rong and placed her onto the bed.

Bai Rong pulled him down and circled her arms around his neck. The both of them were barely ten centimeters apart.

Gu Mingchen looked at her.

“Don’t you want to know which position we liked in the past?” asked Bai Rong.



Gu Mingchen looked at her fixedly and two miniature versions of Bai Rong could be seen reflected in his deep eyes.

She was laughing and crying at the same time. There was an emotion in her gaze that he could not grasp. It was a mixture of despair and peace.

“You’re really drunk.” Said Gu Mingchen as he frowned.

Bai Rong circled her legs around his waist and tugged him closer.

When Gu Mingchen got closer to her, he frowned slightly and gazed into her eyes.

This was a very normal movement.

The difference was that she took the initiative this time. She enjoyed it and was cooperative.

This proved that they had really been in love before.

He should have asked more when she was drunk. Perhaps she would have revealed all the secrets she hoped to conceal.

However, Bai Rong’s words flashed past his mind: Gu Mingchen, I don’t like it when you keep sounding me out.

When he remembered her crying, his heart clenched painfully.

He lowered his head to kiss her.

The drunk Bai Rong returned the kiss passionately, rubbing against him and tempting him like a pitiful cat.

When he entered her, she would wrap her legs around his waist.

The feeling was completely different from the previous times when it felt like she was only obliging coldly.

Now, she was real, lively and vigorous.

He was very passionate and his breathing became heavier as well. His sweat rolled down his sharp chin and dripped onto her body.

Simultaneously, the both of them...

Her voice was soft and melodious, as if she was an angel singing.

He could feel something different.

There was a strong sense of attraction that tried to absorb him into her world.

Gu Mingchen lowered his head and kissed her lips.

She opened her lips slightly to breathe. Her eyes became unfocused and exhausted, and she eventually fell into a deep sleep.

Gu Mingchen got up.

He knew Bai Rong liked to be clean so he cleaned her first before washing himself up in the bathroom.

When he came out, Bai Rong was still asleep and she did not look like she would wake up anytime soon.

On the other hand, he was extremely sober. He thought of Bai Rong's every sentence and expression after she got drunk.

He had a feeling that they did not break up at all. Instead, they were only forced to separate because he lost his memories...

Bai Rong woke up naturally. When she opened her eyes, she saw Gu Mingchen still working in front of the computer.

The table was already cleared and even the empty bottles were gone.

She was drunk last night.

After being drunk, her memories became fragmented and the last thing she remembered was going to the toilet.

As she always rambled when she was drunk, she was slightly worried. "What's the time now?"

Gu Mingchen glanced at Bai Rong. "9 p.m.. You woke up at the right time."

Bai Rong observed his expression and did not discover anything that was out of the place. "I... did not spout nonsense, right?"

Gu Mingchen smirked. "Is asking me what position I like considered nonsense?"

Bai Rong immediately flushed.

It was too unreserved of her to ask something like this.

"What did I say other than that?" Bai Rong had a bad premonition.

"Oh, right. You didn't even just ask. You did it directly." Corrected Gu Mingchen.

Bai Rong was puzzled. Her eyes were wide open and she observed him, trying to judge if he was being truthful or not.

The main thing was that they had done it once before. If they did it again, she would not feel any difference.

Bai Rong could not tell if he was lying or not from his expression. She asked softly, "What was it like?"

Gu Mingchen did not say anything and changed the topic. "Do you want to leave with your colleagues or with me later?"

When Bai Rong saw that he did not reply, she thought that he was probably lying about it.

Her face relaxed considerably. "I'll go with my colleagues. It's not so good to act alone."

"I'll be going to the castle too. Let's contact each other then." Said Gu Mingchen in a deep voice.

"Okay." Bai Rong got up and walked towards the door.

"Bai Rong, about our favorite position, I found it hard for me to pull out. You didn't use an Intrauterine device before and I probably didn't enjoy birth control products either. So, did we have a child together?" Asked Gu Mingchen suddenly.

Bai Rong's heart beat rapidly and her back stiffened. She was extremely anxious and did not even turn her head around, afraid that Gu Mingchen would notice her guilt.

## **Chapter 168**

Bai Rong knew that she must be careful whenever she talked to Gu Mingchen. He could sense that something was wrong if she made a single mistake or logical fallacy.

Looking at Gu Mingchen from the sides of her eyes, she said, "How can we have a child in that position? We haven't had sex that many times, anyway."

Gu Mingchen did not say anything.

He could feel a tinge of grudge in her tone.

Could it be that he failed to satisfy her in the past?

This knowledge made Gu Mingchen extremely uncomfortable.

Bai Rong returned to her compartment.

Leng Qiuzun sized Bai Rong up with his penetrative and sharp gaze, as if he was seeing right through her. A chill ran down Bai Rong's spine.

She merely glanced at Leng Qiuyan and pretended not to notice him, before returning to her original seat.

"Where did you go?" Asked Leng Qiuzun with a cold tone, as if he was interrogating her.

"I don't have to report my whereabouts to you, right?" Asked Bai Rong warily.

"I'm your team leader now and I have to ensure your safety. You left for six hours and that's too long to simply chat with someone else, right?" Asked Leng Qiuhan with a frown.

"I'm not a child. Plus, we're on a train. Where can I go?" Bai Rong did not want to answer him.

“So I’m even more curious. What would require six hours to do on the train?” Leng Qiuhan wanted to get to the bottom of this.

“My good friend is here too, so I went over.” Bai Rong replied ambiguously.

“Which friend?” Leng Qiuhan asked demandingly.

Bai Rong frowned. “Although you’re my team leader for this case, you have no right to interfere with my freedom to make friends. Mr. Leng, you’re thinking too highly of yourself.”

Leng Qiuzun gritted his teeth and he turned his livid face away, pursing his lips tightly.

His assistant had a worried expression.

Mr. Leng was definitely furious.

“Ms. Bai, Mr. Leng is just concerned about you. When you were gone, he checked his phone many times just to make sure that you were safe.” The assistant told Bai Rong.

Bai Rong also realized that her tone was quite unpleasant. After all, she was guilty and was trying to conceal it with her sharp words and domineering attitude.

“Mr. Leng, I’m sorry.” Bai Rong took the initiative to apologize.

Leng Qiuzun continued ignoring her and stayed motionless like a statue.

Bai Rong glanced at him.

Since she had already apologized to him, it was up to him if he wanted to forgive her.

An alert for a message sounded on her phone.

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

“If your colleague asked you where you went, just say that you were summoned by me to discuss the case. It’s alright to do that.”

Bai Rong kept her phone into her bag.

She had already said that she was meeting a friend. It would be too contradictory for her to suddenly change her words.

Anyway, it was a small matter.

Leng Qiuzun adjusted his emotions, looked at Bai Rong and asked, “Do you dare to sleep at the castle tonight?”

Bai Rong looked at Leng Qiuzun in surprise.

The castle already had a mysterious and murderous aura.



People would find it terrifying to go there during the day. To sleep there at night... These people were really too brave.

Leng Qiuhan smirked condescendingly. "You don't? I heard that you were a doctor. You won't believe that nonsense about ghosts and spirits, right?"

"I just think that it'll be more comfortable sleeping in a hotel." Explained Bai Rong.

Leng Qiuzan's face darkened further.

"You're here to work on the case, not to feel comfortable. I'm sorry but I need to settle this case within three days. There's no time to waste. If you want to go to the hotel, go there yourself. To be honest, I don't think you'd be of much help either." Said Leng Qiuzun meanly.

Bai Rong did not know how to rebuke him. It seemed like if she did not stay with them in the castle, she would have committed a heinous crime.

"I understand." Replied Bai Rong.

Leng Qiuzun turned his head around and said coldly, "Useless trash."

Bai Rong was furious.

However, it would seem uncivilized to argue with him.

She did not need to convince him. All she needed to do was to affirm herself.

However, she still felt uneasy.

Bai Rong sent a text to Gu Mingchen: Do you know Leng Qiuzun? He's a very famous detective and the team leader for this case. He wants us to stay in the castle where the murder happened.

"Ok." Gu Mingchen sent her a single word.

Bai Rong only saw that curt and direct reply from him.

She felt a bit crestfallen.

An alert for a message sounded on her phone again. Again, it was from Gu Mingchen. "I have already made arrangements. We'll be staying in the castle tonight as well. I'll be bringing two people along with me so you don't have to be afraid."

Bai Rong's lips curved upwards uncontrollably and she felt relieved immediately.

It seemed like she would feel safe wherever he went. He gave her a sense of security.

Leng Qiuzun snorted coldly and said to Bai Rong in a soft voice that only she could hear, "You're just a little girl acting mature. When something happens, do you always complain about it to your boyfriend and seek his consolation?"

Bai Rong looked at Leng Qiuhan incredulously.

How did he know that she was making a complaint?

However, it did seem from her actions that she was complaining to her boyfriend and trying to be reassured of her safety.

Was Gu Mingchen her boyfriend?

Bai Rong's heart beat faster and she looked outside the window, blushing.

The window reflected her shy look.

Bai Rong sighed.

Walking out of the shadows had been difficult for her. Was she going to fall into the same trap again?

The train reached its destination quickly.

"Don't fall behind anymore. There'll be someone from the Pingyan City police station coming to pick us up and they have prepared supper for us." Leng Qiuzun said to the air.

Bai Rong assumed he was talking to her.

She analyzed Leng Qiuzun from a psychological perspective.

He was arrogant, rude, prideful and supercilious.

Furthermore, he probably knew who she was.

He had a world of his own – a world that could not be easily trespassed by others.

He did not speak to anyone and he only spoke to her occasionally, acting so arrogantly that he seemed foolish.

Yet, this proved that he was still willing to invite her into his world. However, he was still observing her.

Bai Rong suddenly felt that Leng Qiuzun was quite cute and laughed.

Leng Qiuzun looked at her at once and pulled a long face. “Why are you laughing?”

“Guess.” Bai Rong did not want to tell him.

“You’re laughing at me.” Leng Qiuzun stated clearly.

Bai Rong laughed even more cheerfully and her eyes curved into crescents. “It’s so rare that you’re in a muddle.”

Leng Qiuzun gritted his teeth. “So you’re really laughing at me.”

Bai Rong did not reply and walked in front.

The people from the police station picked them up in police cars and colorful lights above the cars spun around dazzlingly.

It was very easy to spot them.

A brawny man in police uniform walked forward and greeted Leng Qiuzun. "You have finally arrived! You must be hungry. Our chief has arranged for a meal with all of you so please follow me to the car."

"Okay." Answered Leng Qiuzun coolly.

Five people came in total.

There was a chauffeur and another person who came to pick them up in the car. Bai Rong deliberately wanted to sit in a different car from Leng Qiuzun.

When she walked to the car behind and sat on the backseat, Leng Qiuzun sat beside her.

Bai Rong was speechless.

It was even more unexpected that the chief had invited Gu Mingchen and the rest for supper.

## Chapter 169

Gu Mingchen only brought two people along for supper.

The police chief said with great hospitality, "Thank you for coming down despite being so busy. Let me introduce everyone. Mr. Leng Qiuzun, Assistant Leng, Ms. Bai Rong, Wang and Lee."

After introducing the people on Bai Rong's side, the director introduced Gu Mingchen and his group. "This is Mr. Gu, whom the military sent over to aid in this investigation. These are Mr. Zhang and Mr. Cheng."

Mr. Gu, Mr. Zhang and Mr. Cheng?

Bai Rong guessed that the police chief was not aware of Gu Mingchen's real identity.

Leng Qiuzun glanced at Gu Mingchen and did not greet him.

Bai Rong felt extremely guilty.

She was the woman behind Gu Mingchen—a secret that was concealed and kept in the dark.

Once the secret was exposed, there would be a lot of trouble knocking up their doors.

Worried that Leng Qiuzun would see through her, she did not greet him either.

When the police chief saw that the people on both sides were not very courteous towards each other, he felt slightly awkward. "Everyone, please take a seat. You must be hungry already. Let's eat first!"

Everyone sat down. Bai Rong sat on the opposite side of Gu Mingchen, while Leng Qiuzun sat beside her.

However, Bai Rong's foot was suddenly caught between two feet. Frowning slightly, she looked at Gu Mingchen.

He still looked extremely relaxed as he twirled the wine glass in his hand, not returning her gaze at all.

This man has his childish moments too.

Bai Rong pulled her foot away.

"After eating, we'll stay in the castle. Can you prepare some mats for us?" Asked Leng Qiuzun straightforwardly.

"You're going to spend the night in the castle?" The police chief was very surprised.

"We're here to investigate the case, not to travel. The faster we solve the case, the better. I still have other things to do." Leng Qiuzun stated assertively.

“Oh, alright then. I’ll arrange for it now. However, I must remind you that there are strange noises coming out of the castle at night. The locals don’t even dare to go near the place. Actually, something happened in the castle last time.” The police chief said.

“What happened?” Gu Mingchen asked coldly.

The director explained, “We didn’t report this incident because we’re afraid that it might have undesirable impacts. In the past, there were a few mischievous high school students who ran into the castle. Only one person emerged, but he lost his mind.”

“Were the remaining children found?” Bai Rong asked.

The director shook his head. “We sent some brave policemen to search the castle the next day but our efforts were futile. We didn’t even manage to find their corpses. So you must be careful when you enter that place.”

Although Bai Rong was an atheist, hearing this sent shivers down her spine. Because she knew that the most terrifying thing on Earth was not ghosts, but the human heart.

Gu Mingchen kicked her gently. Bai Rong regained her senses and looked at him.

“I think the girls shouldn’t stay there.” Said Gu Mingchen.

Bai Rong knew he was being concerned about her and it warmed her heart.

“That’s what I think too. Anyway, girls are scaredy-cats. They can just rest and wait in the hotel.” Leng Qiuzun remarked sarcastically.



Bai Rong could tell that Leng Qiuzun was deliberately targeting her. The warmth in her heart instantly dissipated. "There's no need for that. Let's go together. I want to solve the case quickly too."

After Bai Rong spoke, the atmosphere became weirder and everyone fell silent.

The police chief laughed awkwardly and said, "Eat up! Pingyan's puffer fish is very famous. There's also the saury which you can't eat anywhere else."

As Bai Rong had never eaten puffer fish before, she picked a slice up and placed it into her mouth.

It was prickly like a hairy pig's skin. She quickly spat it out.

"Not suited to your taste?" The director asked, feeling concerned.

"Yeah." Bai Rong admitted.

"I have heard about Ms. Bai. I thought you'd be an old lady, but I never expected you to be so young and pretty. Do you have a boyfriend?" The police chief asked.

That question made Bai Rong feel awkward.

"Not yet." Said Bai Rong half-heartedly.

Gu Mingchen's eyes glinted with unhappiness and he kicked her again.

Bai Rong frowned and added, "I'm too busy with work now so I'm not considering entering any romantic relationship yet."

"Hah." Leng Qiuzun snorted and looked at Bai Rong disdainfully, disagreeing with her.

Bai Rong was speechless at his reaction.

She guessed that in Leng Qiuzun's eyes, she must seem like a very hypocritical person. With an unknown anger brewing within her, she asked with a smile, "Mr. Leng, you don't have a girlfriend too, right?"

"Why? Do you want to be together with me? I'm sorry, I'm not into you at all." Leng Qiuzun answered arrogantly and impudently.

Gu Mingchen's expression became darker. When he looked at Bai Rong, his anger was evident.

However, it only lasted for a short moment as he was good at concealing his feelings.

Bai Rong was not angry either.

For someone like Leng Qiuzun, she would have lost if she became angry.

Bai Rong said with a smile, "Don't worry, Mr. Leng. I'm not blind. I'd rather like Mr. Gu than you."

Leng Qiuzun became furious. When he sized Gu Mingchen up, it seemed like he was glaring at a love rival.

Gu Mingchen was taller, brawnier and more handsome than him. Not only that, he was also calmer and more mysterious.

Leng Qiuzun suddenly frowned and thought that he had seen Gu Mingchen somewhere before.

“Hahaha.” The police chief let out an awkward laughter again. “Let’s eat, let’s eat.”

The chief was quite generous in hosting them.

Well, Bai Rong guessed that all he had to do was to sign a form, considering that every unit had a special fund for entertaining guests.

As such, the police chief ordered a serving of crab for everyone. The crab was golden with egg yolk sauce drizzled over it and looked extremely appetizing.

“Let me wash my hands first.” Bai Rong said and she stood up.

“How pretentious.” Leng Qiuzun scoffed, as if he was intentionally trying to bring her down.

Bai Rong did not know when she had offended him.

Even if it was because both of them were reputable, he still did not have to act like that.

Never mind, they would probably not meet much after this case.

Everything would be peaceful again if she just endured this short moment.

Bai Rong went to the washroom, washed her hands and came out.

Gu Mingchen was smoking while leaning against the wall.

The woman wanted to brush past him and pretend to not recognize him.

However, the chief grabbed her wrist and pulled her into the male toilet.

Bai Rong's heart beat faster and she exclaimed softly, "Gu Mingchen, someone will see us here. It's not good."

"You don't have a boyfriend?" interrogated Gu Mingchen.

Bai Rong thought that he was speaking too rudely. "Don't you know if I have one?"

Gu Mingchen looked at her sternly. "In the future, no matter who asks you, you must say that you have a boyfriend. Do you understand?"

His tone was completely commanding.

Bai Rong could not be bothered to argue with him "I understand. I have to go back now. They'll suspect something if I return too late."

Gu Mingchen lowered his head and kissed her lips forcefully.

His breath was overpowering and it was mingled with the smell of tobacco, warning her of the danger posed by a mature man.

As Bai Rong was excessively nervous, her nose was covered in sweat.

She pressed against Gu Mingchen's chest, hoping that he would stop after tasting enough of her.

Initially, Gu Mingchen only wanted to kiss her briefly. However, once his lips touched her tender ones, he yearned to go deeper.

The handle of the toilet clicked.

Bai Rong was so shocked that her heart almost jumped out from her throat.

This picture of a man and a woman in a male toilet reminded one of all sorts of passionate scenes...

## **Chapter 170**

Gu Mingchen carried her into the last cubicle.

As the space was too cramped, she could feel his strong and steady heartbeat by pressing against his chest.

Suddenly, a hint of sorrow crept over her and she looked up at Gu Mingchen.

At least he was still alive, right?

She should be grateful that the only thing lost was his memories, not his life.

However, why were her eyes watering?

Was she still reluctant to accept this outcome? Was she sad, or did she pity herself?

Bai Rong lowered her head, her long eyelashes hiding the true emotions brimming in her eyes.

She should not let him find out.

“Mr. Gu is a very distinguished person, right?” Leng Qiuzun’s voice sounded.

“Yes, most likely so. The superiors have ordered us to listen to his commands.” The police chief replied.

“Does he have a girlfriend?” Leng Qiuzun suddenly asked indifferently as he turned on the tap to wash his hands.

“I’m not sure about that. If I don’t even know his exact identity, how would I know if he has a girlfriend?” The police chief laughed.

“Mr. Gu is really a lady-killer. When my assistant and Bai Rong looked at him, they kept blushing.” Leng Qiuzun said in a strange manner. Then, he opened the door and left.

Bai Rong was speechless at his words.

Did she blush when she saw Gu Mingchen?

How could she not be aware of it?

Leng Qiuzun’s observation skills were too strong—so strong that it worried her.

“Did you blush when you saw me?” Gu Mingchen asked with great enthusiasm.

“No, it’s probably because I drank a bit of wine. Leng Qiuzun loves to spout nonsense.” Bai Rong denied.

Gu Mingchen kissed her lips again but Bai Rong dodged by moving backwards. The man was unhappy with her actions and pinched her chin.

Bai Rong pulled Gu Mingchen’s hand away and explained, “We’ve already been out here for a long time. They’ll suspect something if we don’t return soon.”

Without waiting for Gu Mingchen’s reply, she pulled the door open, shielded her face and walked out briskly.

When she returned to the suite, everyone except for Gu Mingchen was present.

Leng Qiuzun glanced at Bai Rong. “You left for a long time. I even thought that you have drowned in the toilet.”

Bai Rong was a bit embarrassed.

Leng Qiuzun had been targeting her constantly.

“Does that have anything to do with you?” Bai Rong retorted in a low voice and did not bother with her tone.

Leng Qiuzun looked at the woman and met her resentful, yet slightly embarrassed gaze.

She was embarrassed because of what Leng Qiuzun said earlier—that she would blush when she saw Gu Mingchen.

Leng Qiuzun’s gaze became a bit odd. He picked up a cup of tea and took a sip.

Ignoring him, Bai Rong continued to deshell her crab. It was actually quite delicious.

Leng Qiuzun placed his crab beside her.

She looked at him confusedly.

“Deshell it for me.” Leng Qiuzun demanded curtly.

Bai Rong laughed, feeling amused.



Where did he get the courage to assume that I would help him deshell the crab?

“Assistant Leng, please help your boss.” Bai Rong passed the plate to his assistant.

Leng Qiuzun looked displeased. “Is this how you should treat your superior?”

“You aren’t my superior anyway.” Bai Rong replied rudely.

Leng Qiuzun was rendered speechless by her retort.

Gu Mingchen entered from the door and sat opposite Bai Rong.

“Mr. Gu, do you have a girlfriend?” Leng Qiuzun asked directly. As he was not in a good mood, his tone was very unpleasant as well.

Gu Mingchen glanced at Bai Rong casually.

“Yes.” He replied in a deep voice.

Bai Rong’s heart beat rapidly.

That was not true. Not only did Gu Mingchen have a girlfriend, he had a fiancée too.

Bai Rong’s beating heart resumed to normal.

“That’s such a pity.” Leng Qiuzun smirked and glanced at Bai Rong.

Bai Rong was speechless.

It was her first time seeing Leng Qiuzun smile. However, why did he glance at her when he smiled? That made her feel uneasy.

It was already 11 p.m. when the meal ended.

The police chief ordered his subordinates to bring eight sets of mats and blankets over.

They then set off to the ancient castle.

The castle was located in a remote area and would take more than an hour to drive there from Pingyan City.

Bai Rong did not want to talk to Leng Qiuzun, so she pretended to sleep the moment she boarded the car.

She frequently suffered from insomnia at night. In addition to the fact that she had overslept in the morning, she was unable to fall asleep.

Suddenly, she felt a hand over her shoulder.

She did not know what the other person wanted to do.

Leng Qiuzun increased his force and Bai Rong toppled onto his shoulder.

The woman was speechless at his actions.

She could smell the faint cologne on his body—a scent that was slightly bewitching.

Should she pretend to sleep, or open her eyes now?

As her eyes had been closed previously, it would be awkward if she suddenly opened them.

The car stopped at the red light.

Gu Mingchen's car stopped beside Bai Rong's car.

He looked into their car subconsciously and caught sight of Bai Rong leaning against Leng Qiuzun's shoulder. His pupils contracted and he shot a sharp glance at them.

The man picked up his phone and called Bai Rong.

When Bai Rong's phone rang, she was so thankful that someone had called her at this juncture, which gave her an excuse to wake up naturally.

Leng Qiuzun explained, "You fell onto my shoulder yourself."

Bai Rong was speechless.

Digging her phone out of her bag, she noticed that the call was from Gu Mingchen.

Her relief immediately disappeared.

She picked up Gu Mingchen's call.

"Didn't you have enough sleep during the day?" Gu Mingchen asked. His tone was deep, as if he was trying to suppress his anger.

"Huh?" Bai Rong did not understand what Gu Mingchen was saying at first and she looked outside the window subconsciously.

When she met Gu Mingchen's hawk-like eyes, she guessed that the chief had witnessed her leaning against Leng Qiuzun's shoulder. She hurriedly explained, "I won't do it in the future."

"Wake up!" Gu Mingchen commanded.

Bai Rong felt extremely guilty, as if she had been caught committing a crime.

"Got it." She hung up the call.

The traffic light turned green and the cars started to move.

"Is your boyfriend checking on you?" Leng Qiuzun asked as he looked at Bai Rong from the side of his eyes.

“Mr. Leng, you’re such a busybody.” Bai Rong replied as she leaned against the seat.

“Didn’t you say that you don’t have a boyfriend? I don’t understand the psychology of women like you who lie.” Leng Qiuzun scorned.

“My psychology has nothing to do with you, right?” Bai Rong retorted defiantly.

Leng Qiuzun became angry and kicked the seat in front of him.

Leng Qiuzun’s assistant was sitting in front of him and her face paled immediately.

She knew Mr. Leng hated people criticizing him and tried to clarify for her boss, “Ms. Bai, Mr. Leng is never a busybody! He’s very responsible and is probably showing slightly more concern for you since you’re part of his team.”

Bai Rong did not want to ruin her relationship with Leng Qiuzun as they had to solve the case together. Hence, she stopped arguing and changed the topic. She asked the policeman driving the car, “How long more until we reach the place?”

“About half an hour more. To be honest, you’re really brave. There’s still something which the police chief had not mentioned. Back in 2007, a terrifying incident happened in the castle.” The policeman said.

“What terrifying incident?” Bai Rong asked.

Her instinct told her that that terrifying incident would be the beginning of the case.