

Chapter 181

Bai Rong pushed Gu Mingchen. "Who wants to flirt with you?"

"Then I'll flirt with you." Gu Mingchen said domineeringly.

Bai Rong's heart beat rapidly as she glanced at him.

As usual, he was very serious and cool. Even when he was flirting, he did it with a straight-face.

She thought that she had misheard him and wanted to disentangle herself from his arms.

But he lowered his head and kissed her lips fiercely and forcefully, not allowing her to refuse.

His hot breath puffed beside her ear.

Her mind went blank and she did not even have the strength to push him away. As he deepened his kiss, she found it increasingly difficult to breathe. She wanted to arch her head backwards, but he was pressing against the back of her head.

Bai Rong could only try her best to catch her breath.

Grabbing her hand, Gu Mingchen placed it below his abdomen. She could feel his explosive force even through his pants. The shy girl wanted to pull her hand out but he did not allow her to do so.

She got mad and grabbed it forcefully.

Gu Mingchen let out a soft groan and released her lips. He stared at her passionately. "Rong, it's too tight."

Bai Rong's heart skipped a beat and she withdrew her hand. Her palm felt like it had been burnt by a cigarette butt and she rubbed it against her shirt. "I can't breathe."

"How could you still not know how to catch your breath when kissing? You're so stupid." Gu Mingchen said in a low voice. He sounded like he was reprimanding her, yet his tone was adoring.

She walked towards the table.

Gu Mingchen did not want to release her just like that so he grabbed her arm.

Bai Rong said helplessly, "I still haven't figured out what's wrong with the video but we need to go to the police station at 2 p.m.."

"There were two people chatting at 6.10 p.m.. Judging from the way their lips moved, they were talking about watching the premiere for Beauty Ocean. It's a movie released last year." Gu Mingchen prompted the woman.

“If you’ve already figured it out, why didn’t you tell me?” Bai Rong dashed towards the computer and opened the file. Indeed, there were two people talking. “Are you sure that’s what they’re talking about? There’s no audio.”

“My lip-reading skills are always correct.” Gu Mingchen was confident.

“So, their alibi is false! They’re the murderers. I’ve got to talk to the witnesses.” Bai Rong already had an idea.

Gu Mingchen sat beside her and looked at her broodingly. “I think you should focus on me instead of on the case. What do you think?”

Bai Rong stood up flustered. “You’ve already done it yesterday…”

“You were a doctor so you should know. Men can begin the second round right after resting for ten minutes.” Gu Mingchen said in a deep voice.

“But you don’t have to, do you?” Bai Rong replied softly.

“I want to.” He said domineering and directly.

“I still need to work in the afternoon.” Bai Rong refused.

“Alright.” Gu Mingchen stood up and side-eyed her. “I won’t force you since you’re unwilling. However, to be honest, many men would have already lost control over their actions. Although I’m not like that, I’ll still be affected. Well, I hope I won’t do anything indecent when you’re working.”

Bai Rong gripped his arm. "You won't, right?"

He smirked. "What do you think?"

She flung his arm away in irritation. "You aren't flirting with me. You're coercing me."

Gu Mingchen hugged her waist and tugged her towards him. Lowering his voice further, he said, "Rong, I want you."

Bai Rong pursed her lips and gazed at him. "Can I refuse?"

"No." Replied Gu Mingchen without even considering it. However, he did not move, as if he was waiting for her permission.

Bai Rong side-eyed the time at the bottom right corner of the computer screen. It was already 1.20 p.m..

She was now twenty-seven years old. Her teenage days of fantasizing about love had already passed.

She started to understand the brutal fact that when a man wanted to have sex with a woman, love might not necessarily be in the equation.

Sometimes, it was due to a desire to conquer. Other times, it was to prove himself or satisfy his biological needs.

Gu Mingchen had already slept with her yesterday, so it was probably not to satisfy his biological needs.

Did he want to conquer her or to prove himself? Or... was it because of love?

That possibility was the last to come across her mind.

She was afraid of imagining, sinking and never being able to start anew. Whatever, let's just treat it as a mere encounter between a mature man and woman.

"Be quick." Bai Rong agreed.

Gu Mingchen's lips curved into a smile and he started kissing her even more passionately while pinning her against the bed.

Then, he moved to plant kisses on her neck, earlobe, collarbones and moved downwards...

"Bai Rong, you're responding well. You like it, right?" Gu Mingchen asked hoarsely.

"Who wouldn't if you do it like this?" Bai Rong retorted.

"I like it too." Said Gu Mingchen with a smile.

Bai Rong's heart skipped a beat.

Grabbing onto her ankle, he pressed it towards her face.

Bai Rong could feel him entering her and she breathed gently, her face burning.

His gaze was too passionate and she turned her head away in embarrassment.

He nudged her cheek back to face him. "I liked it in the past too, right? Liu Yan said that I often visited you and forced her to play Mahjong outside."

Bai Rong did not expect Liu Yan to tell him that and she was too embarrassed to reply.

As he rubbed against her, she started to feel uncomfortable. Frowning, she groaned, "Faster."

"Faster? Didn't you refuse just now?" He was very enthusiastic and loved to see her anxious look. It made him feel needed.

When she told him to let her go, he felt uneasy inside.

He did not want to be dispensable to her.

"Gu Mingchen!" Bai Rong exclaimed resentfully, her voice tender and melodious.

However, if she did not reject him earlier, she would not be Bai Rong.

"Alright." He could not hold himself back anymore too.

The both of them moaned gently and comfortably.

Gu Mingchen moved according to his desires and kissed her slightly open lips. He propped his arms against the bed and supported her head.

After all, he was a soldier and his body, strength and speed were exceptional.

Bai Rong could not take it anymore and her voice drowned inside his mouth.

She started to become excited and hugged his waist. An unknown feeling surged through her entire body and her mind was completely blank. It was like she was treading on the clouds tenderly, swaying around before floating down slowly. After she regained her senses and when her eyes focused, she saw Gu Mingchen staring at her.

She did not know how long he had been staring at her for. Her eyes glinted in embarrassment. "Why are you looking at me?"

"There're only the two of us here. If I don't look at you, should I look at myself instead?" Gu Mingchen replied.

"You should pull out now. It's almost 2 p.m. and I still need to bathe." Bai Rong said as she blushed.

Gu Mingchen did not budge. "I think it's good to stay this way with you forever. Anyway, I'm not interested in other women."

Bai Rong did not understand what he meant.

Was he proposing to her?

Or was he trying to confuse her with these sweet nothings?

“Don’t you feel comfortable?” Gu Mingchen asked in a serious tone.

Bai Rong did not want to talk about it and replied half-heartedly, “Well... Not bad.”

Gu Mingchen frowned slightly. “Bai Rong, you’re too discreet. If you have any requirements, just tell me. You’re the only woman I’ve touched so I don’t really know what women like. If I did anything wrong, I’ll change!”

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“I really need to bathe now. There’s no time left.” Urged Bai Rong.

“Okay.” He got up and carried her to the bathroom.

Bai Rong used the bathtub while he used the shower.

Not daring to look at him, Bai Rong kept her gaze fixated on the water in the bathtub. However, her mind kept wandering to his earlier words.

“I think it’s good to stay with you this way forever. Anyway, I’m not interested in other women.”

“Bai Rong, you’re too discreet. If you have any requirements, just tell me. You’re the only woman I’ve touched so I don’t really know what women like. If I did anything wrong, I’ll change!”

“Not just her, I also know everything you did overseas during the past three years.”

“I have already called off my engagement with Su Wanning. I’m single now.”

Every single word of his captivated her completely.

It was impossible to say that she was not flustered.

She could no longer lie to herself. She was falling in love.

“Gu Mingchen, do you like me?” Bai Rong asked directly as she stared at the man.

He was mysterious as usual and his expression did not betray any unusual emotions.

“Do you believe in what I say, or what you see?”

Bai Rong’s heart skipped a beat and a chilling sensation invaded her body.

She remembered that she asked the same question to Gu Mingchen three years ago, when he had not lost his memory yet.

He said that he would show it through his actions instead of his words.

Back then, she was immensely touched.

She believed Gu Mingchen was not a smooth talker and that he would prove what true love was with his actions.

Only after he lost his memories that she realized Gu Mingchen avoided her question because he was in love with Zhou Hailan. He could not tell her that he was only nice to her out of guilt and responsibility.

The man was still the same.

Bai Rong laughed and plastered an alluring smile on her face as she stood up from the bathtub. She grabbed the towel calmly and wrapped it around her body. "I believe what I feel with my heart."

She brushed past him, left the bathroom and took a change of clothes from her luggage.

The confusion and passion in her eyes had already disappeared, leaving only coldness behind.

When Gu Mingchen came out from the bathroom, Bai Rong had already set off to the police station.

Upon her arrival, she was surprised to see that Leng Qiuzun was there too. "I thought you left."

“I don’t like to give up halfway. Although I won’t be handling the case directly, it’s still good for me to observe the case and know its outcome.” Leng Qiuzun explained.

Bai Rong smiled.

Although the detective had a sharp tongue, was arrogant and discourteous, he was still quite dedicated to his job.

“I shall go in first.”

“Bai Rong.”Leng Qiuzun called out.

The woman looked at him.

“I’ve checked Wang Donger’s account and there’s only eight hundred in it. She’s been spending large sums of money since last year. Among them, she used a credit card in Japan to buy a Sony HDR-AX2000E, which is a professional camera. Furthermore, her boyfriend, who is also her partner in the video, bought the latest 3D screen. Wang Donger majored in psychology too.” Leng Qiuzun reminded Bai Rong.

“I’ve understood their murder methods. Xiong Zhiqing and Xiong Jinping had been scared to death and they thought that it was Wang Xiahe who killed them. Xiong Changan committed suicide, probably because he could not take the psychological stress anymore.”

“I’ll be watching you interrogate them in the surveillance room.” Replied Leng Qiuzun. He brushed past her coolly before stopping in his tracks again. “Did you buy the fruits that I asked you to?”

“I did. They’re in my room now. I’ll give them to you after the interrogation.” Replied Bai Rong.

Leng Qiuzun’s expression was very strange. He wanted to say something but stopped himself. Taking in a deep breath, he asked, “Bai Rong, do you know why I accepted this case?”

“You like challenges.” Bai Rong deduced.

“Xiong Jinping is my friend’s uncle. I only joined this case because my friend asked me for a favor.” Leng Qiuzun said in a deep voice as he shot Bai Rong an examining look.

Bai Rong realized that his friend was Su Xuyan.

“Did you know my identity from the start?” Bai Rong asked.

“I didn’t. I only knew that you’re his ex-wife after Xuyan called me and asked about you. I always thought that his wife’s surname is Xing. What’s your relationship with Xing Jinnian?” Leng Qiuzun probed further.

No wonder Leng Qiuzun’s attitude towards her changed considerably. It was because he knew that she was Su Xuyan’s ex-wife.

“She’s my stepsister. We were born on the same day and I got out ten minutes earlier.” Bai Rong explained indifferently.

“You must have suffered a lot to change jobs from a gynecologist to a psychologist.”

Bai Rong smiled gently. "No matter how bitter days were, they have passed. The subsequent days will be sweet precisely because the previous days were bitter. As long as my heart isn't bitter, I'll be indestructible."

"Don't blame Su Xuyan. No wonder he spared Xing Bachuan when he could've just sentenced him to death. So it's because of you." Leng Qiuzun said meaningfully.

"What do you mean? He wanted to sentence Xing Bachuan to death?" Bai Rong was surprised.

"Su Xuyan's biological father died because of Xing Bachuan. He probably married you to take revenge. It's better for you to ask Xuyan about the specifics. Since you're my good friend's ex-wife, I won't target you anymore. You can call me if you need any help." Leng Qiuzun said regretfully as he shrugged.

"Su Xuyan's biological father died because of Xing Bachuan?" Bai Rong was puzzled and fell into utter disbelief.

No wonder she felt that Su Xuyan hated her and was deliberately trying to hurt her. His every move was designed to push her towards hell.

There was actually that additional layer of relationship between them.

Without saying anything else, Leng Qiuzun walked into the surveillance room.

Bai Rong remained stunned as she stood at the entrance of the police station and tried to recall the past bit by bit.

"Why're you standing here?" Gu Mingchen asked in a deep voice.

Bai Rong was too engrossed and got a shock from Gu Mingchen. She glanced at him and entered the interrogation room.

But the chief grabbed her arm and side-eyed her distracted gaze. "What're you thinking about? You don't look too good."

"After getting hold of some information, I know their murder method now. But Wang Donger actually studied psychology as well. It'll be quite hard to make her confess. After all, there's no concrete evidence yet." Bai Rong said ambiguously.

"You don't need to feel pressured. We have all the time in the world. Plus, I suspect that this murder was not committed by a single person. It'd be hard to infiltrate Wang Donger's psychological defense, but it'll be easy to do so for another person." Gu Mingchen hit the nail in the head.

Bai Rong nodded. "Gu Mingchen, do you know how Xiong Daini's husband died?"

"I think he died during a mission. He was barely thirty years old then. What's wrong?" Gu Mingchen looked at Bai Rong suspiciously.

The latter shook her head. "I'm just asking to see if it has something to do with this case."

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“He’s barely thirty. How old was Su Xuyan?” Bai Rong asked persistently as she side-eyed Gu Mingchen.

He looked at her broodingly. “Isn’t it inappropriate for you to be so concerned about your ex-husband in front of me?”

“I’m just asking casually.”

“Your casual questions mostly revolve around your ex-husband. If you’re asking me seriously, won’t all your questions be about him? Have I been too lax to you?” Gu Mingchen asked the last question sternly.

Bai Rong shut her mouth up.

What was her relationship to him?

He was being too controlling.

She walked into the interrogation room and glanced at the person’s particulars. “Where were you on 12th April 2020?”

“I was filming. I’m a videographer so I must be present during a shoot.” The videographer replied indignantly.

“What film were you shooting?” Bai Rong asked expressionlessly.

“What film? Didn’t you watch it? Isn’t my feature shoot good? It’s super clear. Both men and women love to watch my videos.” The videographer said lewdly.

“I didn’t see the feature shoot. However, I did catch you talking about going to the premiere for Beauty Ocean. The premiere was in June 2019, so your video wasn’t taken on the night of 12th April 2020. Speak! What were you doing on the 12th of April?” Shouted Bai Rong sternly.

The videographer looked at Bai Rong in confusion and his eyes glistened. “I don’t know what you’re talking about.”

“It doesn’t matter if you don’t know what I’m talking about, as long as the court knows. It’s a virtue to be righteous, and a duty to be filial. Will your ageing grandma think that you’ve done the right thing by shouldering the blame for someone else?” Bai Rong asked as she examined the videographer’s face.

Fear flashed across his eyes. “Don’t tell my grandma.”

“I won’t tell her. But rumors will spread and the version that eventually reaches her might be even bloodier and darker. Are you sure you want to be the mastermind behind this murder case? You have not even fulfilled your duty of being filial. Perhaps, your grandma won’t even want to see you.” Every single word from Bai Rong stabbed the videographer’s heart.

“I actually don’t know anything.” The videographer said as he panicked.

“Then tell me what you know.”

“Mai Sen and I are work partners. He was in charge of luring beauties to willingly take part in filming. Then, we’ll either publish the videos online to earn some money or sell them to film companies in Japan.”

“He brought a girl called Wang Donger last year and said that she’s very different. I was only responsible for filming them, while Mai Sen handled other matters.”

“One day, they asked me to film a horror video and said that they had a way to publish it on a video-streaming platform.”

“We started to shoot but the scenes were too gory, violent, realistic and erotic. It was not approved at all. Then, Wang Donger and Mai Sen disappeared so I started to shoot my own short movies.”

“Mai Sen contacted me on the night of the 12th of April. He told me that if someone asked me, I should say that I was filming on the 12th of April. That was what happened.” The videographer narrated.

“Once we have confirmed that you were being truthful, we’ll let you go.” Bai Rong stood up and realized that Gu Mingchen was already standing outside the door.

“I’m going to interrogate Wang Donger now.” Bai Rong said to Gu Mingchen.

“Although she might admit to the filming, she’ll definitely deny the murder. I’ve read Wang Xiahe’s diary and noted down the parts which mentioned Wang Donger. Take a look at it first.” Gu Mingchen passed the folded document to her.

Now she knew why he looked so exhausted. He probably spent the entire night looking through it.

“Why didn’t you give it to me earlier?” Bai Rong asked confusedly as she received the document from him.

“The contents are a bit heavy and I didn’t want to spoil your mood. You’ll know once you read it.” Gu Mingchen said in a deep voice.

Bai Rong flipped open the document.

After reading it, she indeed felt uneasy and gloomy. It felt like the uncomfortable humidity hanging in the air after a thunderstorm.

She looked at Gu Mingchen slowly.

He was still as meticulous and thoughtful as before. The man would never forget to ensure her safety even in the face of death.

He was using himself to make up for their relationship.

If Su Xuyan had been nice to her, he would not have rescued her from the prison.

If he had not lost his memories, he would definitely not let her know that Zhou Hailan was the one he loved and Bai Rong was only his responsibility.

He was a very profound man whom she could never bear to hate.

Bai Rong turned around and Gu Mingchen grabbed her hand. She looked at him confusedly.

“I was in a bad mood. Don’t be angry with me.” Gu Mingchen said in a deep voice.

She was stunned. “I’m not angry. What are you talking about?”

“Since you have forgotten, never mind. But I want to declare that you’re my woman now. You shouldn’t think about your ex-husband.” Gu Mingchen asserted domineeringly.

“Who’s your woman?” Bai Rong denied as she curled her lips, before turning around and striding towards the interrogation room.

Gu Mingchen stood there as his face darkened. He tried to suppress that unknown fury in his heart, one which he could neither vent nor swallow.

“I was curious about why Xuyan is so obsessed with her. I think I know the answer now.” Leng Qiuzun exclaimed as he stood beside Gu Mingchen and gazed at Bai Rong’s back.

Gu Mingchen side-eyed him darkly. “I’ve slept with her.”

Leng Qiuzun was speechless.

He never expected the normally cold and stoic Gu Mingchen to say that, as if he was a child showing off his toy.

Gu Mingchen was quite satisfied with his reaction. The suppressed fire in his heart seemed to be released slightly. “Almost every day.”

Leng Qiuzun was once again rendered speechless.

“You’re going over the top, my friend.” Leng Qiuzun said bluntly.

Gu Mingchen’s eyes darkened and he said expressionlessly, “I have even slept with her multiple times a day.”

“That’s enough.” Leng Qiuzun replied, raising his voice.

Even he could not tolerate it anymore.

However, Gu Mingchen was still acting very seriously and he said domineeringly, “Convey to Su Xuyan what I said earlier. Please also tell him that his chances are zero.”

“I don’t spread unfounded rumors.” Leng Qiuzun lifted his chin and brushed past the chief.

Gu Mingchen’s fury, which had initially dwindled a bit, was burning again.

“When you were bad-mouthing me to Bai Rong, I was in her room.” Gu Mingchen pointed out.

Leng Qiuzun laughed. “Where did you find the confidence to tell another man that he has no chance, when the woman herself does not acknowledge you? What a joke!”

Gu Mingchen curled his lips. His eyes turned frosty and his smile could even send shivers down one's spine. "I heard that Mr. Leng has a black belt in Karate. Would you like to have a little competition with me?"

"Alright, let's do it after Bai Rong finishes interrogating Wang Donger. I'm not afraid of you. What'll happen to the loser?" Leng Qiuzun asked confidently.

"The loser will definitely go to the hospital. What else?" Gu Mingchen replied coldly.

"I'm a man of my word. I'll fight you!" Leng Qiuzun had wanted to beat Gu Mingchen up since a long time ago. Let's see who wins!

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Bai Rong strolled into the interrogation room.

Wang Donger was calmed as she put on a smile on her face, "Looks like you've managed to get through the first stage, or else, you won't be appearing before me."

Bai Rong sank into the chair, "I heard that you used to study psychology, so what makes you change your career?"

"It's because I'm interested in it. Does this answer satisfy you?" said Wang Donger while putting on a smile.

Bai Rong stared at her as she tapped her fingers on the table in a rhythmic manner, “Your sister was way older than you. When she left you, you were only seven years old? Do you still recall what happened when you were seven years old?”

A thud sound of the lamp slamming on the ground was heard when Wang Donger threw the lamp that was on the table to the ground.

Bai Rong stopped tapping her fingers on the table as she looked at Wang Donger, surprised.

“Are you trying to hypnotize me?” Wang Donger had seen through the tricks ahead.

“We’re from the same field so let’s just chat casually. Say, are your family full of scholars?” Bai Rong guessed.

“My mom’s a doctor, my dad’s a lecturer. They both had passed away in a robbery. My sister and I were being brought up by our grandma. Our family was very poor, hence, my sister had to work to make ends meet,” Wang Donger briefly explained.

“The murderer who killed your parents was arrested right?” Bai Rong said with a stern voice.

“A year after my sister started working, the two robbers got knocked down by a car when they were fleeing from a robbery,” said Wang Donger, coldly.

“So, you don’t have faith in the cops and decided to seek revenge for your sister by yourself?” again, Bai Rong guessed.

Wang Donger burst into laughter, "You're just trying to get information out from me."

"It's just a normal interpretation of one's mind, you know it well too."

Wang Donger lazily leaned back against the chair, "Then, I'll also analyze you. You..."

Wang Donger stared at Bai Rong from top to bottom with a critical gaze and checked out the broken finger of Bai Rong.

Subconsciously, Bai Rong placed her hands below the table.

"You have a man that you love very much but this man doesn't have mutual feelings for you. You feel deeply hurt," said Wang Donger.

Bai Rong smiled, "You've been raped by your uncle."

Wang Donger stared at Bai Rong, stunned, not believing what she had just heard. "How did you know about it? Nobody, not even my boyfriend knows about this."

"You really care about your sister and there was no one among your relatives to provide you with any comfort. Initially, you were pursuing psychology but after being deeply hurt, you started giving up on life, until you discovered your sister's body and diary. Since then, you started your one-year-long deployment," said Bai Rong.

"Yes, I've done some recordings and if it's not for them feeling guilty, why would they be terrified of it?" Wang Donger sneered with a disdainful look on her.

“I believe you’ve seen your sister’s diary. She would always repeat the same words, hoping for the best for you while referring to them as bad people. If your sister came to know about your doings, what do you think she would feel?” asked Bai Rong.

“My sister will be proud of me.”

“Your sister always had a kind heart even when she was being tortured. She wanted to save the two little kids with her own effort.”

“That’s all the more the reason for them to die. They did not let my sister, who’s so kind-hearted off the hook. Are they even human? They even placed foaming agents in her while she was still alive. They were intended to torture my sister to death,” said Wang Donger in hatred.

“They’re at fault, yet you think what you did was any better? Your sister mentioned that she wanted to do lots of things with you such as paying your parents a visit, take care of your grandma and help out other kids who were facing similar circumstances as you. Xiong Zhiqing’s kid is currently seven years old, exactly the same age as you were back at that time.”

“He deserved it. He was the one who injected the foaming agent into my sister,” Wang Donger got all agitated.

“Then how about the seven-year old kid?” Bai Rong asked.

“He doesn’t deserve to have a kid,” said Wang Donger coldly.

“But that kid was already seven years old, and Xiong Zhiqing had paid the price for what he had done. As for you, will you choose to continue your wrongdoings and let your sister down? Or take responsibility for what you have done, in order to not have a guilty

conscience for life? I know you had purposely let Xiong Changan off the hook because he treated your sister well as your sister mentioned it in her diary. However, he ended up committing suicide because of the immense pressure he was facing, right?" asked Bai Rong sternly.

Wang Donger's eyes reddened, "Xiong Changan liked my sister and he was the first person to realize my wrongdoings. I gave him the green light to report me to the officers but he was not willing to and was gutless to do so. He was a spineless man, even if he committed suicide, my sister would never forgive him."

"Your sister will forgive him because she's kind," Bai Rong lowered her gaze and paused for three seconds, "Wang Donger, you committed murder by using a horror recording. All the charges on you are established. What you've said earlier will be used as evidence in court. I believe the court will make the right judgment."

"You've tricked me?" Wang Donger's eyes fixed upon Bai Rong, feeling uneasy.

"I was just stating facts. Since you've planned meticulously for one whole year and even dragged your boyfriend along without any hesitation. They will be doomed if you don't plan to let them off the hook."

"They asked for it."

"They have very strong mentalities yet they were shocked to death, it could only mean that they had repented for what they did to your sister, so why..."

"They had no intention to admit their wrongdoings, it's me who drugged them. That drug will enter one's brain in the form of gas and will take effect after two hours. The crime scene investigators will never be able to detect the drug," Wang Donger said agitatedly.

“Yes,” Leng Qiuzun in the control room was praising, arms on his chest as he looked at Bai Rong in admiration, “I never expected such a beauty to be so smart as well. No wonder she was so famous despite being so young with the application of psychological knowledge. Well done.”

Gu Mingchen shut down the monitor and it turned pitch black.

Frowning, Leng Qiuzun looked at Gu Mingchen, “What are you doing?”

“Everything has come to light, it will be our turn next, are you going or not?” said Gu Mingchen coldly.

“Of course I’m going. Wang Donger said that the man Bai Rong loved doesn’t love her, I think it’s Su Xuyan. Hehe, the man she loved,” Leng Qiuzun said in a provocative manner.

“You’re overthinking stuff. They will not divorce if it’s not for love.” he sauntered emotionlessly to the outside.

Leng Qiuzun trailed from behind with utter dissatisfaction, imagining the scene where he would beat up Gu Mingchen in a while; that lightened his mood.

After half an hour, the ambulance arrived and Leng Qiuzun was placed on a stretcher, then sent straight to the hospital.

Bai Rong did not see Gu Mingchen when she exited the interrogation room and decided to head back to the hotel first. Back at the hotel, she booked a train ticket back to A City.

When she was packing up her luggage in the hotel, someone knocked on her door.

She took a glimpse through the peephole. When she saw that it was Gu Mingchen, she opened the door and stared straight at him.

Gu Mingchen presented 99 roses in front of her, "They say ladies generally like roses."

"Thank you," Bai Rong took over the roses and placed them on the table.

"I'm thinking that you must be feeling aggrieved, being my woman in the shadows. Bai Rong, let's start dating officially," Gu Mingchen said with a serious look.

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Bai Rong widened her eyes and stared at Gu Mingchen. Her mind went blank for a second but she calmed down quickly.

"If you want us to date officially because you don't want me to feel aggrieved, you don't have to do that. Because dating you will only make me feel more aggrieved." She retorted and blew his top.

"What do you mean by you will only 'feel more aggrieved'?" The man frowned and continued saying, "Do you think I am not good enough to be your boyfriend?"

Bai Rong did not look at him as she zipped up her luggage and put it in an upright position. Then, she looked at Gu Mingchen with a serious expression and said, "Two

people get into a relationship because they like each other. Do you think that applies to us?”

The man pursed his lips and looked at her with his deep-set eyes. He was already blue in the face, and the aura that he projected changed along with his mood.

As Bai Rong walked towards the door holding her luggage, Gu Mingchen grabbed her arm. He took a glance at her and said, “I think we do like each other.”

The woman’s heart skipped a beat and looked at him, sizing him up. “I don’t want to just date. If we get together, I want to get married straight away. A soldier cannot get divorced. Do you dare to agree?”

Gu Mingchen was stunned for a moment.

Bai Rong smiled faintly and her eyes were sarcastic. She turned around and looked at the man in his eyes. “I don’t have any more youth to waste. Being in a relationship with Chief is too risky, I don’t have the confidence that our relationship will last. If we get married, I’ll stay by your side for the rest of our lives. You don’t have to give me an answer immediately. Let me know your decision after one month. Think carefully, regret is a bitter pill to swallow.”

She pushed his hand away and walked out of the door. A layer of mist formed on her eyes that reflected the sun’s bright rays.

The woman was too exhausted to play any mind games in a relationship. A tragic ending would be too much for her to bear.

If Song Xiyu and Gu Tianhang found out that she was dating their son, she would probably die a horrible death.

Bai Rong only had two options. Either she severed all ties with Gu Mingchen and started completely anew, or she became his wife. If the die was cast and she bore the title of the chief's wife, there was nothing his parents could do to hurt her.

As she loved the man deeply in her heart, she chose to give herself one last chance. Regardless of his reasons, as long as he agreed to getting married, she would love him for the rest of her life.

But the woman still felt very aggrieved and afraid.

Bai Rong was scared that she would be hurt ruthlessly to the extent that she would not have any courage left to continue living. She was also worried that their relationship would be destructive to the both of them.

The past memories were like a blade that was slicing her heart. When the words 'Hailan, I miss you so much' came out of Gu Mingchen's mouth, it was so unbearable that Bai Rong wished she could be dead instead.

If the situation remained the same after marriage...

Could she really stay in a marriage where the man she loved was loving another?

The woman was feeling so conflicted. She did not know what she wanted and felt like she was trying to penetrate into a bull's horn. Her mind was in a mess.

Suddenly, with whatever little rationality that remained of her, Bai Rong realized that something was amiss.

She immediately rummaged through her bag and took out a white plastic bottle. After taking a glance at the label on the bottle, she poured out a tiny black pill with shaky hands and swallowed it. The woman dragged her luggage into a corridor and leaned against the wall. She clenched her fists tightly until she could breathe properly again.

Bai Rong shut her eyes for one minute. When she opened her eyes again, they were blurry at first but the focus gradually returned.

There was only so much a human's heart could bear. After a certain threshold was crossed, the body would generate harmful substances that would erode one's nervous systems and cells.

It was nothing like a knife wound that could be healed. In fact, it was almost impossible to recover from that sort of pain.

When the pain crossed the threshold, a human's natural defense mechanisms would act to preserve oneself and psychosis might arise as a result.

Sufferers of the most common mental disorders would experience delusions and hallucinations. They might display behaviors such as smashing objects, inflicting harm on others, destroying properties, being unfeeling and detached from reality.

Bai Rong's mom was one such example. After a while, there were other complications that had arisen from her mental illness, such as depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, insomnia, anorexia, phobias, autistic disorder, personality disorder and dementia.

She did not wish to follow into her mom's footsteps.

The woman would rather die than to be mentally ill.

After settling into a calmer state of mind, the woman walked out of the corridor.

Even though she was a doctor, she was unable to heal herself. However, she still knew the methods, which was to think positive thoughts, distract herself from the problems, find new joy in life, etc.

When Bai Rong exited from the elevator, she saw Gu Mingchen sitting on the sofa at the rest area and proceeded to the counter to check out.

The man took over her luggage and brought it to the car.

After she had completed the check out procedures, she walked towards the car.

Gu Mingchen opened the door of the passenger seat and said, "I'll send you to the train station."

"OK." Bai Rong said flatly and nodded, then got into the car.

While looking at the road ahead as he drove, Gu Mingchen said, "Even though the killer was caught, the matter cannot be publicized. There are still some loose ends that I have to tie. The deceased should be left in peace while life continues for those who are still living. I need to handle the compensation matters appropriately."

"All we ask for is a clear conscience." Bai Rong sighed with understanding and continued, "I never used to believe in fate. I always thought that we create our own destiny and as long as I persevere and work towards my goal, I would be able to achieve anything I want. But the truth is that everything has its own time and some things just cannot be forced no matter how hard you try."

“Didn’t you say that a clear conscience is important? If you don’t try, how would you have a clear conscience?” Gu Mingchen said meaningfully as he took a glance at the woman’s fair and delicate face.

She had a mild temperament and was not impetuous. Moreover, she also had the kind of looks that grew on people—pretty, elegant and gracious.

“I saw something on the news yesterday. A nineteen-year-old girl had tried to commit suicide by jumping into the river because her boyfriend broke up with her. A boy jumped in to save her. She managed to stay alive in the end but the boy was pulled away by the currents and died instead. Isn’t this fate?” Bai Rong said, feeling sad.

The man held her hand and placed it on his thigh.

His palm felt very warm against her cold palm.

“At the lowest point of my life, I met Su Xuyan. He found me a job and got my mom out of the psychiatric hospital. At that time, I thought my life would take a turn for the better. Now only do I know that our meeting has all along been a conspiracy. And with you, you saved me from the depths of misery and I also thought that I had finally found true happiness. I was willing to give up everything else for that, but life had once again played a cruel joke on me when you lost your memory.” The woman looked at Gu Mingchen as tears streamed down her face.

He gave her hand a squeeze and held it tighter as he furrowed his brows. “I will marry you. After I settle my work, we will go back and get married.”

Bai Rong smiled and looked at him with a gentle gaze. She rubbed away the crease in between his brows while she said, “You are always like that. Responsibility to you is everything. You want to make it up to me because you feel bad for losing your memory.

Gu Mingchen, I don't need that. Go and live the life you desire and don't be tied down by the past and responsibilities. I will lead a good life even without you."

"What do you mean by that?" The man was confused. "I am telling you that I am willing to marry you. Do you want to marry me?"

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"Gu Mingchen, we should let go of each other." Bai Rong said softly.

The man parked his car by the roadside. Feeling irritated, he said, "You are the one who wanted to get married but you are also the one who wants us to let each other off. What exactly do you want?"

"Will you agree to anything that I want?" She threw the question back to him.

The man was losing his patience and said resolutely, "Yes, we will do whatever you want!"

"Then let's let each other off."

"Sure." He replied decisively and looked ahead, before starting the car engine and drove off again.

Bai Rong knew that he meant it.

But she had no regrets as she saw his furrowed brows. It was not with complete conviction and sincerity when he said that he wanted to marry her. So, they should just let it be.

Gu Mingchen sent her to the train station and as he watched the woman walk in, his eyes darkened.

He took out a cigarette from the glove compartment and lit it. As he inhaled and exhaled, the thick smoke surrounded his masculine features.

Half an hour later, he made a call to Lieutenant Song. "Make a formal request to the Research Institute of Psychology for a psychologist to carry out a detailed assessment on the emotional qualities of the soldiers; specifically request for Bai Rong."

"Yes, chief. I will handle that immediately."

Gu Mingchen threw his phone onto the passenger seat after he hung up and drove away from the train station.

Bai Rong was going to have a good sleep in the hotel room after returning to A City when Liu Yan called. "Rong, when are you coming back? I miss you so much!"

The woman smiled and replied, "I think we can read each other's minds. I just came back and I'm staying in the hotel now."

"That's great! Let's have dinner together tonight. You know, that man I was dating was also a jerk. He dumped me. Am I really that bad that no one is willing to date me?" Liu Yan felt dispirited.

“Let me give you a treat tonight to cheer you up. Shall we go to the seafood restaurant that we used to go to last time?”

“That restaurant has already closed down for two years.”

“Oh, is it?” For some unknown reason, Bai Rong felt sad when she heard that.

From what she recalled, that seafood restaurant had good business. The owner was very welcoming and the food was good.

“Yeah, takeaway has grown to become the norm these two years. More and more people are choosing to order delivery from home. That restaurant occupied a big storefront and the rental was too high for the owner to sustain the business. I know of another restaurant that is not bad. There is a ladies’ club in that area that I have been wanting to go but couldn’t find anyone to go with. You can accompany me there tonight, it’s my treat.” Liu Yan explained.

“Ladies’ club?” Bai Rong thought of Su Wanning and said, “The men there are not clean. Don’t try your luck.”

“I’m not that rich and stupid enough to pay to get men. I just want to take a look and maybe go for a spa treatment.”

“Oh, then that’s OK. I am staying at the Sheraton near A University. Call me when you reach.”

Liu Yan reached the hotel half an hour later.

“It would take at least one hour for you to travel here from the military base. How did you get here so fast?” Bai Rong was quite shocked.

“Heh. When the cat’s away, the mice will play. I wasn’t very busy today and it’s my off day tomorrow, so I knocked off earlier. When I called you just now, I was already in the car. Come, I’ll bring you to eat some seafood.” Liu Yan chuckled as she said.

Bai Rong got into her friend’s car and put on her seat belt.

“What kind of person is Mu Xiaosheng from your institute?” Liu Yan inquired.

“He’s very charismatic and unworldly, popular among women and fancies many women too. He had a brief marriage and is currently an eligible bachelor who is unlikely to settle down any time before forty. Why are you asking? Don’t tell me you have taken an interest in him?” Bai Rong looked at Liu Yan worriedly.

“I must be getting desperate. If it was four years ago when I was still at the prime of my youth, I would ask all men to scram to one side. But I’m approaching thirty soon. Even if I’m not worried, my parents nag at me every time I go home. It’s getting on my nerves.” Liu Yan let out a sigh.

“You are only twenty-seven; there are still three more years to reaching thirty. You don’t have to be in such a rush.” Bai Rong gave her two cents.

“That was the kind of mindset I used to have—to date someone for two years, then settle down and get married. But judging from the number of times I am getting dumped, I predict that I’ll still be single even when I reach thirty. What kind of women are men interested in these days? I’m getting so speechless.” Liu Yan said, feeling irritated.

“I think you are the type of girl men would like. You’re cheerful, optimistic, bright, beautiful, gracious, filial, kind and have a good figure. By right, there should be a line of men going after you.” Bai Rong was also quite perplexed.

“I think so too! I’m also financially independent and don’t need their money. We can even finance a house together. Men these days must be blind.” Liu Yan shrugged and said, “I should just sign up for one of those dating shows to cast my net wider and increase my chances of finding someone.”

“I’m sure you will find someone. Oh! I think I saw Shen Yiyang at the singles party the other time.” Bai Rong was not able to remember clearly.

“Why was he there? Was he thinking of hitting on the babes in the military base?” Liu Yan was annoyed at the mention of him.

“Have you guys been in contact ever since that incident?” Bai Rong asked casually.

“For what? My first time was ruined by him. He was so reckless and forceful that I had such a bad time. I would never have let him off if he was not drugged. If I’m still a virgin, I might be of higher value now. Urgh, let’s not talk about him. It’s so annoying.” Liu Yan sped up and they reached their destination in around half an hour.

When they reached the restaurant, it was already past dinner time. The restaurant was closed for the day as it did not serve supper.

“Let’s just eat at the ladies’ club. They have food there too.” Liu Yan dragged Bai Rong towards the direction of the club.

Entry to the ladies’ club was exclusive to members only.

While Liu Yan was filling up the registration form, Bai Rong went to the restroom.

“Have you all heard? Tony is dead. His corpse was hacked into eight parts. The vicious killer even chopped off his d*ck and stuffed it into his mouth, before abandoning him at the public toilet.” One woman said.

“OMG! that’s so scary. It’s a pity though. Tony was fit and good-looking. I heard that his skills were really good too. Only diamond-level members could request for his service.” Another woman added.

“Do you guys know Mu Xiaosheng?”

Bai Rong was about to leave the restroom when someone mentioned Mu Xiaosheng’s name. She looked towards the woman who was talking.

“He was guessing that the woman who requested for Tony’s service last night could be the killer. Before the killer was caught, Mu Xiaosheng was already taken away by a group of people. When those people took him away, I happened to be there too.”

Bai Rong creased her brows tightly. “Is the Mu Xiaosheng you are referring to the psychologist?”

“Yes, that’s him. If it was done by a diamond-level member, the person must be of a certain status. Besides, the information of diamond-level members is strictly confidential. It does not bode well for him.”

Bai Rong immediately gave Gu Mingchen a call.

She was well aware of those people’s methods and Mu Xiaosheng had offended them.

When Gu Mingchen answered, he spoke in a strange tone. "You've changed your mind about letting yourself off so quickly?"

The woman was speechless.

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She had an urge to hang up the phone immediately but she kept silent for a moment instead.

Out of everyone she knew, Gu Mingchen had the most power and was the only person who could help her.

Mu Xiaosheng was her benefactor. He had lent her a helping hand when she was in dire states. This reason alone was enough for Bai Rong to do everything she could to save him.

"I need a favor from you." Bai Rong said softly, as she felt bad about asking him for help.

"Sure, tell me what is it?" The man sounded quite civil.

"I just heard that Mu Xiaosheng, the director of the research institute, was abducted by some people. Can you get those people to release him?"

“Do you know who those people are?” Gu Mingchen asked her.

“A man named Tony was killed in a ladies’ club and Mu Xiaosheng speculated that the last person who requested for Tony’s service might be the killer. He was abducted right after that. Only diamond-level club members are able to request for Tony’s service, so I suspect that it could be that diamond-level member who took him away. I’m worried they may harm him.” Bai Rong summarized the situation for him.

“OK, I’m clear. Where are you now?”

The woman did not want him to know her whereabouts and replied, “Why?”

“I am sending the chief of the Public Security Bureau of A City to that ladies’ club. He will assist you to find out information about that diamond-level club member. Those people will definitely release him after I get involved.” Gu Mingchen said in a deep voice.

“I see. I’m at Qing Feng Xu Lai.” Bai Rong replied in a barely audible voice.

There was a moment of silence at the other end of the phone before the man questioned her with an unhappy tone. “You went to the ladies’ club? Bai Rong, you rejected me when I wanted you, but you are OK with doing it with a stranger. Are you just self-demeaning or am I not able to satisfy you? Do you know how dirty they are?”

The man was exploding with rage and his choice of words grew increasingly unkind.

Bai Rong was thin-skinned. “It’s not what you are thinking. I accompanied Liu Yan here. We did not request for that kind of service. We just came here for spa treatment and to sing.” She replied.

“There are so many places to sing. Why do you have to go there?” He said sharply.

“I told you I am only accompanying Liu Yan.” The woman frowned slightly.

“Your legs are yours. If you don’t want to go, no one could have forced you to. Aren’t you very good at talking? Liu Yan is not an opinionated person. If you don’t want to go, she wouldn’t have insisted on going.” Gu Mingchen said with conviction.

Bai Rong was unable to outargue him and hung up the phone in frustration.

But she immediately regretted after that.

Her purpose of calling was to ask for his help. They had already made things clear earlier and no relationship existed between them. Why did she still feel so diffident?

However, as she had so abruptly ended the call, she was worried that the man would change his mind about helping her.

Bai Rong decided to be thick-skinned and dialed Gu Mingchen’s number again, but his phone was engaged.

She sighed, feeling unsettled. After waiting for one minute, she tried to call him again.

“I have already informed the director. He will be there within an hour. You should wait for him somewhere.” The man said coolly.

Bai Rong felt a warm surge in her heart.

Although Gu Mingchen appeared to be cold and tough that made him seem unapproachable, he was very adept at handling matters.

“Thank you.” She said gently.

“Actions speak louder than words. How are you going to thank me?” The man said in a deep voice. From his tone, she could tell that he was still angry.

“I’ll buy you a meal when you get back.” The woman hurriedly added.

“OK. That’s more like it. I still have some things to settle here.”

“Sorry to trouble you, Chief Gu.” Bai Rong said politely.

Chief Gu. She was using honorifics with him that made them seem distant. That roused his anger again. “Bai Rong, you are so forgetful.”

The women did not know what Gu Mingchen was referring to.

Before she could clarify what he meant, the phone line went dead.

“Rong, I have been searching all over the place for you. Who were you on the phone with? My calls couldn’t get through.” Liu Yan grumbled as she walked over and waved the card that was in her hand. “I am done with the registration and went inside to take a look just now. They even cater buffet.”

“I... “Bai Rong hesitated for a moment as she remembered Gu Mingchen’s words.

If he found out that she actually entered the club, he would definitely flip out.

“What about you? What are you waiting for? I have already booked a private room for us to sing. There will be food in the room too. C’mon babe.” Liu Yan said, as she put her arms around her friend’s shoulders.

“You didn’t request for any gigolos, right?” Bai Rong wanted to be sure.

“Even the cheapest ones cost five hundred. I found it too expensive. So, tonight we will only have each other.” Liu Yan said as she ushered Bai Rong into the room.

Bai Rong stopped overthinking and followed her friend in.

Anyway, she had a clear conscience and was not planning to do any of those things Gu Mingchen mentioned.

Inside the private room, a sumptuous buffet spread was laid out.

Liu Yan’s eyes sparkled as she looked at the food and started digging in. Her stomach had been growling in hunger for some time.

After they were full, they started singing.

Half an hour later, someone knocked on the door.

Liu Yan guessed that it was the club promoting gigolo services and opened the door. She was spot on. Standing at the door was a mamasan followed by two men wearing extravagant masquerade masks.

“Hey beautiful, today is our club’s giveaway day. You are entitled to receive free services from our boys today. I hope that you will have an enjoyable time.” The mamasan announced joyfully.

“Oh, free?” Liu Yan was not keen at first. But once she heard that it was free, she thought that it would be a waste if they did not accept it. “Alright, come in.”

Bai Rong was speechless.

Didn’t they agree that it would just be the two of them tonight?

“Yan, I don’t think it’s a good idea. What if they have some kind of...” Disease. Bai Rong couldn’t bring herself to say the word as she found it too hurtful.

“Miss, you don’t have to worry. We are all certified healthy, organic and carry no harmful substances.” The man in the wolf mask said jokingly. He sounded quite young from his voice.

“We are just going to ask them to sing and drink with us. Rong, what else were you thinking of doing huh?” Liu Yan teased.

“You two can both accompany her. I don’t need your service.” Bai Rong was still very resistant.

The man in wolf mask sat on Liu Yan's right while the man in dragon mask sat on her left. She looked at the man on her left and asked, "Can you sing?"

The man shook his head.

"No wonder you are free. You guys must be only second-rate. And why are you wearing masks? Are you ugly?" Liu Yan was being her usual blunt and outspoken self.

The man in the dragon mask was speechless.

"Miss, we are not ugly. Because you don't need to pay for anything, that's why you cannot gain access to our looks. But the free service does include drinking and singing. That guy on your left, Not only is he not talkative, he hates singing even more." The man in the wolf mask explained.

Liu Yan looked at the dragon mask man as her curiosity sparked. "You can't even sing. Business must be bad for you."

She left the man speechless again.

He lowered his head and whispered something in the woman's ear. A blush spread across her cheeks as she looked at him in shock.

The corners of the man's mouth curved into a bewitching smile as he poured some red wine in Liu Yan's glass in a seductive manner.

Liu Yan took over the glass awkwardly. Without drinking, she dragged Bai Rong out of the room.

“Young master.” Said the man in the wolf mask worriedly.

Shen Yiyao raised up one hand as a signal for the man to stop talking.

When the two women were outside, Liu Yan said, “Rong, the man in the dragon mask said that he provides those ‘extra’ services and was telling me how good his skills are.”

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“There’s no such thing as a free lunch in this world. Maybe it’s part of their marketing strategy. They let you try the product out for free first, and then when you get hooked onto it, they start charging you a fee.” Bai Rong guessed.

“That’s what I think too. Why don’t we chase them away?” The girls discussed in low voices.

Bai Rong nodded. “That would be for the best.”

“Let’s go back then.” Liu Yan pushed open the door and called, “Hey, you over there! Please leave, we don’t need your service.”

“Did we do something wrong?” The man with the wolf mask asked whiningly.

“I think you talk too much.” Liu Yan said roughly.

Shen Yiyan, who was wearing the dragon mask, seemed nonchalant. He stood up and dusted off his clothes, then dipped his head in an elegant nod to Bai Rong and Liu Yan before walking out.

Since Shen Yiyan had left, the man in the wolf mask hurried after him.

Seeing how compliant they were, Liu Yan heaved a sigh of relief. She lifted a glass of wine to her lips and took a sip. It tasted pretty good.

Right then, Bai Rong's mobile phone started ringing.

Gu Mingchen was calling her. She picked up the call immediately.

Hearing the faint music in the background, Gu Mingchen asked, "Did you go in?"

Bai Rong felt a little angry at herself. She had been in such a hurry to pick up her phone that she had completely forgotten to turn off the music first. "I only came here to sing, really."

"Go to the entrance right now. If you go in again, I promise I'll break one of your legs." Gu Mingchen said angrily.

"Got it."

"You know that the men outside are all mine, right? Don't try and gamble with luck." Gu Mingchen reminded her sternly.

“Yup.” Bai Rong hung up the call.

“What’s going on?” Liu Yan looked at her quizzically.

“I have to step out for a while and I might not be able to come back inside though. Why don’t you leave with me?” Bai Rong was quite worried for Liu Yan.

“I booked a three-hour session. This karaoke room lets you have the room for the entire night if you book it for three hours. I’m not going to work tomorrow, so I’m going to sing as much as I want.” Liu Yan didn’t want to leave.

“It’s too dangerous for you to be alone here.”

“What danger can there be? Sexual assault? I wish, ha ha! Nothing will happen to me. Go do your thing. If you still want to sing later on, come back to this room to find me.” Liu Yan hurried Bai Rong out of the room.

Bai Rong felt very apologetic.

She was supposed to accompany Liu Yan the entire night. But she had never expected that something would happen to Mu Xiaosheng.

“Call me if there are any problems. I’ll accompany you to a karaoke room for the whole day next time.”

“Sure! After you leave, I’ll have the microphone all to myself. I’m going to have a blast, ha ha!” Liu Yan said cheerfully.

Bai Rong's phone started to ring again. It was an unknown number. Guessing that the call was from the director, Bai Rong picked up.

"Um, Miss Bai Rong, I'm Zhang Donglai from the Public Security Bureau. Someone has informed us that we have to go inside and look for you if you don't come out yourself in five minutes."

"I'm coming out now." Bai Rong explained.

That 'someone' Zhang Donglai had referred to must be Gu Mingchen.

She had already broken up with Gu Mingchen, but he still insisted on keeping her on a tight leash.

It wasn't as if she was his girlfriend.

Bai Rong was too tired to complain. However, if he continued being like this, she would never be able to escape from the cage he had built around her.

As she exited the room, she was in too much of a hurry to notice that someone was watching her.

"Young master, the girl has left the room. We don't have to lure her away anymore, do we?" The man in the wolf mask asked.

Shen Yiyan's lips curled into a smile. "This was meant to be, after all. After Liu Yan finishes her drink, take her away."

“Yes, sir.”

When Bai Rong arrived at the gate, there were two police cars waiting for her.

A fit, middle-aged male was waiting by the two cars. He looked very suave indeed in his police uniform.

He stretched out his hand to greet Bai Rong and spoke very politely, “A pleasure to meet you. I’m Zhang Donglai. What do you need me to do for you?”

“Hello, I’m Bai Rong.” After she had introduced herself, Bai Rong cut to the chase. “Find out who Tony’s guests yesterday were. I want all of their detailed personal information.”

“Alright. Someone asked you to wait in the car. I’ll get back to you in about ten minutes.” Zhang Donglai replied.

Bai Rong was rather speechless.

Zhang Donglai took a few men and went into the club.

A policeman opened the door of the car and gestured for Bai Rong to get into the vehicle.

Bai Rong had a rather strange feeling. As she sat in the backseat of the car, she shot nervous glances out of the window.

Her phone pinged. Someone had sent her a text message.

Seeing that it was from Liu Yan, she opened it to take a look. Bai, I found a guy to have fun with. Don't bother looking for me later!

Worried, Bai Rong called Liu Yan immediately but her friend didn't pick up.

Are you crazy? Which room are you in? Yan, don't do something you'll regret later. Bai Rong hurriedly texted her.

Don't worry, I know what I'm doing. I'm an adult, aren't I? I'm going to turn off my phone and take a shower now, xoxo. Don't disturb me! You should show me some support as a friend.

Bai Rong noted Liu Yan's tone.

Although Bai Rong disapproved very strongly, there was some truth in Liu Yan's words. She was an adult after all and knew what she was doing.

If she went and dragged Liu Yan away by force, her friend would be very displeased.

She didn't call again, but deep inside she felt that something was amiss.

After Shen Yiyang sent the text message, he switched off Liu Yan's phone. Then, he placed the phone onto the bedside table and looked coldly at Liu Yan, who was passed out on the bed.

How dared her to sleep around with gigolos now? He had given her a little too much freedom.

Shen Yiyan yanked off his tie and flung it aside onto the sofa. Then, he started to take off his clothes.

Liu Yan's eye twitched. She felt really hot, as though her body was crawling with insects. "I feel uncomfortable."

The man jumped onto her. Trapping her between the bed and his body, he took hold of her chin. "You deserve it. How dare you go around seducing other men when you're my woman?"

Liu Yan slapped his hand aside. Opening her eyes, her vision was very blurry. She couldn't really see anything.

After downing one glass, she passed out unconscious. It was as though her head was spinning now.

"I'm thirsty. Give me water." Liu Yan demanded hoarsely.

"Here." Shen Yiyan pressed his lips against hers.

Liu Yan sucked with all her might. She still felt rather thirsty, but less so than she had before.

Shen Yiyan's tongue had been sucked swollen. Feeling the pain, he backed off a little.

Liu Yan wasn't satisfied however. She hooked her arms around his neck.

Shen Yiyan smiled, and leaned forward to close the distance between their lips again.

Liu Yan was acting like a baby. However, the fire within Shen Yiyan was only burning more strongly by the second.

“I feel really uncomfortable.” Liu Yan looked pitifully at Shen Yiyan.

“Can you wait half a year more?” Shen Yiyan said. His words had a rather suggestive undertone.

In half a year, he would have risen up in life enough that he could dictate his own marriage.

“No. I feel uncomfortable right now.” Liu Yan shoved her aside, trying to make her way into the bathroom to take a cold shower.

Shen Yiyan pulled her back onto the bed. Liu Yan was no match for his strength. The woman collapsed back onto the bed; her body completely soft.

Shen Yiyan looked at her. “Don’t bother looking for a boyfriend anymore. I’ll marry you.”

Liu Yan could see that his mouth was moving and she seemed to hear something come out of his mouth too. However, she simply couldn’t understand what he was saying.

She was feeling warmer and more uncomfortable by the second.

“Send me to the hospital. I think I’m going to die.” Liu Yan stood up drowsily.

Shen Yiyang held her to his chest and said rather wickedly, "Shall I cure it for you?"

Liu Yan froze for a few seconds.

Shen Yiyang placed her onto the bed. His hands wandered down the length of her body and towards the hem of her skirt.

The drug he had put into her drink was the newest one and its effect was the strongest. She had long been prepared for this. As Shen Yiyang kissed her on the lips, he pulled up the hem of her skirt...

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Liu Yan didn't know what she wanted, but the uncomfortable feeling eventually subsided. After the deed was done, she rolled over and fell asleep.

Shen Yiyang stared at her with an infatuated look on his face. He gently swept her bangs to one side.

Three years ago, when they had first done it, he had started to love her with a fierce obsession.

He had never given up on chasing her all these while, and he wasn't intending to. No matter how many suitors she had, he dealt with them one by one.

She could either die alone or be with him for the rest of her life...

Bai Rong finally received the personal details of Tony's last customer that day. She was a Diamond Member.

As she scanned through the details, she had to admit that she felt rather stunned.

Su Wanning.

Tony's last customer had been Su Wanning. Thus, Mu Xiaosheng had probably been taken away by Su Zheng.

It was worse than what she had imagined.

If it was only a normal high-ranking official, one word from Gu Mingchen would resolve the entire issue.

However, Su Zheng's rank was higher than Gu Mingchen's, and he was a hot favorite for the position of the new commander-in-chief.

This wasn't going to be easy.

Bai Rong didn't dare to act impulsively so she dialed Gu Mingchen's number.

He picked up the phone on the first ring.

“Um, Gu Mingchen, I have a suspicion that Su Wanning’s father Su Zheng was the one who took Mu Xiaosheng away. What are we going to do now?”

“I’ve already guessed that it’s him when you mentioned Tony, Qing Feng Xu Lai and the ladies’ club. Don’t worry, I’ve already settled the matter and Mu Xiaosheng has already been released. Keep out of this matter from now on. Mu Xiaosheng will be fully in charge.”

Bai Rong was speechless.

“Since you already knew, why did you still ask Chief Zhang and I to investigate the matter?”

“I was only guessing. There was no harm in a second opinion. I’ll ask someone to fetch you home now. Have a good rest. See you tomorrow.” As soon as he finished speaking, Gu Mingchen hung up immediately, leaving her no room to protest.

See you tomorrow?

Is he coming back tomorrow?

They had agreed not to bother each other anymore, but she did owe him a meal after all. It wouldn’t be good to just ignore him.

Gu Mingchen had brought up Mu Xiaosheng’s release so blandly. It led her to imagine all sorts of horrible possibilities about what had happened in between.

She should treat Gu Mingchen to a meal.

Bai Rong went home. In order to wake up bright and early the next morning, she took some pills and went to sleep immediately.

In the morning, she woke up naturally. When she opened her eyes, Gu Mingchen was lying next to her with his face facing hers. His hand was encircling her waist quite naturally.

Bai Rong was shocked. "What are you doing here?"

Gu Mingchen didn't open his eyes. His Adam's apple bobbed up and down in a rather provocative manner. "Sleep with me for a while more."

Bai Rong took a close look at him and saw that he did in fact look quite tired.

It was nearly 9 p.m. when she called him on the phone. If he had gotten onto the train at 9 p.m., he would have arrived in A City at around 4 a.m..

Deducing that, she didn't say anything and kept completely silent.

She didn't think that she would fall asleep again. After all, her sleep quality had never been good and she had only been able to sleep at night all along because of the sleeping pills. However, after a while, she slowly nodded off to sleep again.

After a long while, Bai Rong was woken up again by Gu Mingchen's movement. She opened her eyes and asked, "What time is it?"

Glancing at his phone, Gu Mingchen replied, "It's 12 p.m.."

Bai Rong couldn't believe that she had slept for that long.

Sitting up, she said, "Let's go, I'll treat you to lunch."

Gu Mingchen pressed her back down onto the bed. "Let's do something else before we get lunch."

Seeing his lips get closer and closer to hers, Bai Rong held up a hand to cover her mouth.

Gu Mingchen frowned. "Bai Rong, don't make me angry."

"I haven't brushed my teeth yet." Bai Rong said haplessly.

Gu Mingchen froze for a while. Then he let go of her and headed into the toilet to wash up.

Bai Rong joined him in the toilet too. As she squeezed out the toothpaste, she saw Gu Mingchen walk right into the glass shower cubicle and start showering in front of her.

She accidentally caught a glimpse of his crotch area. It was standing at attention.

Flushing with embarrassment, Bai Rong tried to finish brushing her teeth. She patted a few drops of facial cleansing milk onto her face and ran some water over it.

After he had finished showering, Gu Mingchen came and stood behind her. Wearing only a bath towel around his waist, he looked at her, his eyes glittering smugly. “Do you want to shower, too?”

Returning his gaze, Bai Rong stared into his dark eyes. Seeing the lust within them, she felt a little shaken.

Had they gone back into the past?

She shook her head. “I showered last night. I still have to report to the research institute later. I’m already late for work.”

Gu Mingchen looked at her with a rather annoyed look in his eyes and asked, “Aren’t you an external staff? Mu Xiaosheng said that you don’t have to go into the office at all. He told me that you work alone.”

Bai Rong was speechless again.

How did Gu Mingchen know everything?

She felt as though she had shot herself in the foot.

“Do you not want to do it?” Gu Mingchen had correctly guessed what she was thinking.

Bai Rong lowered her head in embarrassment. “I’m hungry. I didn’t eat lunch yesterday, dinner was bad, and I skipped breakfast today too. I’m so hungry that my stomach hurts.”

“Oh. It’s my fault for forgetting. Let’s go have lunch first then. You don’t mind helping me wash the clothes I’m going to change out of, do you?” Gu Mingchen asked.

Bai Rong scanned him warily.

He was talking about his underwear. It would have to be dry-cleaned.

As though she was in a trance, she nodded.

Gu Mingchen smiled, rather satisfied with her answer. He turned and left the bathroom.

Bai Rong followed him out. It was then she realized that he had brought his suitcase along too.

“Don’t you have to report to the military base these few days?” Bai Rong asked, rather surprised.

“I’ll be going back soon. I still have a lot of things to do at the base.” Gu Mingchen said in a low voice.

Bai Rong breathed a quiet sigh of relief.

Her reaction had been caught by Gu Mingchen. He didn’t say anything, but his eyes grew colder by a few degrees.

He changed his clothes right in front of her, as though they were a couple who had been married for a long time. Bai Rong wasn’t so comfortable with it, however, and she escaped into the bathroom to change.

Then, they headed to the nearby Shuiyue International to eat at the restaurant.

Bai Rong remembered how they had come here to eat three years ago. She should have simply cut off their relationship then.

“Do you want some ice cream?” Gu Mingchen asked her.

Bai Rong saw the ice cream store and smiled.

It was still the same ice cream store. Even the owner hadn't changed. “On our first date, you asked if I wanted to eat ice cream and I said no. But you bought three of them and told me to hold on to them for you. In the end, I ate the ice-cream, and you gave your share to the other kids.”

“That sounds like something I would do.” Gu Mingchen didn't acknowledge if he had done it.

“Two-faced?” Bai Rong commented.

“If I had really done that, then it means that I liked you back then.” Gu Mingchen said in a low voice.

Bai Rong's eyes quivered slightly. She looked askance at Gu Mingchen and matched his gaze.

Gu Mingchen considered her. “You don't believe that?”

Bai Rong didn't want to continue this guessing game with him. She wanted them to finally come to a decision about their relationship instead of wasting each other's time. "Gu Mingchen, the girl that you're truly in love with is Zhou Hailan."

Gu Mingchen looked very peaceful. His expression hadn't changed at all.

She didn't understand him, nor could she ever see through his intentions.

"Bai Rong, have you ever loved Su Xuyan?" Gu Mingchen replied with a question of his own.

"Our situations aren't the same."

"But both of our relationships ended up the same way, didn't they?" Gu Mingchen retorted.

"I don't care a bit for Su Xuyan anymore, but you still love Zhou Hailan, don't you?" Bai Rong asked.

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"She's already dead." Gu Mingchen said in a low voice. His expression was completely blank.

Bai Rong's eyes reddened with tears.

She knew many married couples who had faced some problems in their marriage. Although they had initially gotten married because of their love for each other, the mundaneness of daily life had turned each other's strengths into weaknesses. From there, arguments had arisen, causing freedoms to be restricted.

The couples had fought with each other and tried to hurt each other, until the conflicts got too much and destroyed any remaining love they shared. In the end, the marriages came crashing down and the couples had separated.

The lucky ones parted amicably, though most would just continue on as strangers.

However, there were those who henceforth treated each other like archenemies.

Because they had once loved each other, those memories were all the more grating now. Even if their relationship had been happy once, both recalled those times with nothing but bitterness.

Hence, the living Bai Rong could never win against a dead girl who was hidden away in Gu Mingchen's memories.

When Zhou Hailan died, she had left in his memory the most beautiful impression of her.

She was sunny, outgoing, brilliant, beautiful and carefree.

Zhou Hailan had even died because of him. In his heart, she was a memory nobody would be able to erase. She would always be a girl that he could never have no matter how hard he tried.

On the other hand, Bai Rong was full of flaws. The longer Gu Mingchen spent with her, the better he would think of his ex-girlfriend.

Bai Rong didn't want to get married to Gu Mingchen and then have to see their marriage head down a path of self-destruction.

More importantly, she couldn't stand it if the man she loved had another woman in his heart.

She would much rather give up on a man like this.

"Let's eat." Bai Rong dodged the subject and walked into a French restaurant.

Her phone started to ring. She looked down and saw that Liu Yan was calling her.

"Rong, I'm in trouble." Liu Yan said, sobbing.

Bai Rong's heart skipped a beat and she asked worriedly, "What happened to you?"

“Yesterday, I...I...” Liu Yan didn’t know how to explain. “Where are you now? I’m at your hotel. Let’s talk when we meet.”

“Alright, I’m coming back now.” Bai Rong said in a panicked tone.

She hung up the phone and turned to Gu Mingchen. “Something has happened to Yan. I have to go back now. I’ll treat you to a meal another day.”

Without waiting for Gu Mingchen to respond, Bai Rong picked up her handbag and dashed out of the restaurant.

Gu Mingchen’s eyes followed her as she left. Thinking deeply, he took out his phone and started deleting all his photos of Zhou Hailan, one by one.

Bai Rong found Liu Yan in the hotel lobby.

Liu Yan’s eyes were red. She was still wearing her clothes from yesterday and didn’t look very well.

“Yan, what happened?” Bai Rong asked worriedly.

“Bai, do you know what happened to me yesterday? Who took me away?” Liu Yan asked agitatedly.

“You texted me that you were going to have fun with a male escort and told me not to look for you.” Bai Rong looked anxiously at Liu Yan. “What exactly happened to you?”

“I wasn’t with a male escort! I somehow fell asleep in the karaoke room yesterday. When I woke up, I was in a hotel room. I was forced by someone to, well, you know... The point is, he took some rather compromising videos of me.” Liu Yan said, her face white as sheet.

“Can you tell who the man is from the videos?”

“No. The hotel was also booked under my name. I wanted to check the CCTV, but the staff told me that their CCTV was broken down yesterday.” Liu Yan said heavily.

Liu Yan was very loud sometimes and looked as though she was quite a liberal person.

However, she was actually very traditional in her thinking.

Otherwise, she wouldn’t still be single now.

“Let’s go for a check-up in the hospital first to ensure that you didn’t catch anything from him. Then you can decide whether or not you want to call the police.” Bai Rong said, thinking logically.

“Let’s go to a private hospital. I’m scared I’ll get recognized if I go to a public one. Also, I don’t want to go to the police. It’s very easy for this sort of stuff to make it onto the news these days.” Liu Yan felt very upset.

Bai Rong felt very guilty as well. If she hadn’t left Liu Yan alone in the room, nothing would have happened. “Did the man leave behind... that thing?”

Liu Yan didn't know how to say it. Flushing red, she said, "He used seven condoms. I have one of them with me. Aren't you working for the police now? Could you help me see if you can get a fingerprint off this and match it with someone's?"

"That needs to go through strict procedures. I'm afraid I don't have the authority to do that. However..."

Power was a brilliant thing. All procedures melted away before it.

Gu Mingchen could probably help.

"I'll try." Bai Rong said uncertainly.

"Then I'll trouble you to help me out." Liu Yan produced a sealed package from her bag.

As Bai Rong received the package from her, she felt a little embarrassed.

She accompanied Liu Yan to the private hospital for a check-up.

Since Bai Rong couldn't follow her friend into the check-up room, she walked to the window at the end of the corridor, then took out her phone to dial Gu Mingchen's number.

She had already asked for his help regarding Mu Xiaosheng case yesterday and she was asking him for help again today. The woman was feeling apologetic.

Telling herself to grow a thicker skin, Bai Rong called Gu Mingchen.

His phone had been turned off.

She wondered if he was busy as she texted him, "I have something to talk to you about. Please call me when you're free."

She placed her phone back into her bag and continued waiting for Liu Yan.

Half an hour later, Liu Yan came out with the results of the check-up in hand.

"There's no problem, right?" Bai Rong asked worriedly.

Liu Yan shook her head. "No, he did use protection after all. But I'm getting angrier the more I think about it. Is that guy a pervert? Why did he have to film me while he was doing those horrible things to me? He's sick in the head."

"If he wasn't sick in the head, he wouldn't have done something like this." Bai Rong said, agreeing. She draped an arm around Liu Yan's shoulders. "Have you eaten?"

Liu Yan shook her head. "Let's go and eat then. Once I find that person, I'm going to sue him and make sure he spends the rest of his life in jail."

"Let's see if we can catch him first."

After they had finished eating, it was already 3 p.m..

Bai Rong had to go to the research institute and Liu Yan decided to tag along.

Just as they stepped out of the elevator, they bumped into Su Wanning.

The latter was extremely shocked when she saw Bai Rong. "What are you doing here?"

"Rong is a specially hired psychologist here. Do you have a problem with that?" Liu Yan asked smugly.

"A specially hired psychologist? Have you switched fields?" Su Wanning's face clouded over even more.

Bai Rong smiled, but she didn't say anything.

Su Wanning's family was very powerful, so she didn't want to antagonize her.

She grabbed hold of Liu Yan and continued walking away.

Watching Bai Rong walk further and further away, Su Wanning called after her, "Can I speak with you privately?"

"Why do you have to do it privately? Rong's time is very precious. She charges ten thousand per hour. Do you want to see her for medical reasons? She'll give you one hour then." Liu Yan stood in front of Bai Rong and said.

"Alright, I'll give you ten thousand for an hour of your time, for consultation!" Su Wanning placed heavy emphasis on her last sentence.

Bai Rong frowned. "Come with me then."

"Rong, you can just ignore her." Liu Yan said worriedly.

"I can, but that doesn't mean she will stop bothering me in the future. It's better if we talk things out now. Wait for me in the reception room. There's a computer there if you get bored." Bai Rong said to Liu Yan.

"Alright, then. We're good friends, so whatever you choose to do, I'll support you." Liu Yan punched a fist into the air.

Bai Rong walked into her office. As soon as she sat down in her chair, Su Wanning flung her handphone onto Bai Rong's desk.

"Take a look. Everything you want to know is in the gallery." Su Wanning said coldly. Her eyes were full of hostility.