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“Bai Rong, there are some things I’m curious about. How can you be sure that there is more than one murderer? Also, how do you determine that the murderer is not from a well-to-do family? You even concluded that she’s probably someone he has dated before. What is your basis for that?”

“Tony is six foot two and weighs almost 190 pounds. Do you think it’s possible for one person to carry his body alone? Besides, the corpse was dumped inside a public toilet which was at a deserted part of an old neighborhood where the roads were so narrow that cars couldn’t even pass through. The murderers were very familiar with that area and even knew what time there no one would be passing by.

Even if someone else happened to be there, it was highly likely that the murderers were people who would not arouse the suspicions of others. Do you think a wealthy person would frequent such a deserted public toilet? Tony was the most sought after gigolo and his customers were all either powerful or wealthy, or extremely gorgeous like Su Wanning. He would never waste his time entertaining ordinary women.

Another category of women whom he would willingly spend time with would be someone he loved or had broken up with. No matter what, she would be someone he had dated. As for tools used to dismember the body, it would be too risky for them to borrow someone else’s to do that. Moreover, the black plastic bag which contained the body parts was the sort used by fish mongers or butchers and wouldn’t be found in any ordinary household,” Bai Rong explained in detail.

“So you suspect that there are two murderers in total. Could there be more than two?” Mu Xiaosheng speculated.

“That’s not possible. Firstly, it’s not easy to tell others that you have contracted such a disease. Secondly, Tony’s ex-girlfriend wouldn’t be familiar with the people in Tony’s current social circle. As such, it’s not likely that she would have teamed up with Tony’s wealthy clients.”

Mu Xiaosheng was enlightened after Bai Rong’s further explanation.

“Bai Rong, isn’t this a part of criminal psychology? I can’t believe you are so well-versed in this aspect as well. I’m seriously impressed. No wonder you’re so popular in the field,” Mu Xiaosheng complimented the woman.

“Please focus on your work,” Gu Mingchen reminded Mu Xiaosheng.

Mu Xiaosheng looked at Gu Mingchen and suddenly remembered that there was something he had forgotten to do.

He turned to speak to Bai Rong, “This morning, the relevant department sent us a document but I haven’t looked at it yet.”

“Relevant department?” Bai Rong looked towards Gu Mingchen.

“I’ll take a look later. I’m so busy with Tony’s case recently that it slipped my mind,” Mu Xiaosheng said as he dug out that document.

Gu Mingchen was speechless.

When Mu Xiaosheng saw the Special Forces Military Base's official seal affixed at the bottom of the document, he kept quiet and looked at Gu Mingchen awkwardly before passing it to Bai Rong.

"You can leave now. Thanks for helping out with the case," Mu Xiaosheng said as he let out a dry laugh.

"OK, I'll contact you again." Bai Rong took over the document and kept it in her bag.

"We shall go off first then," Gu Mingchen said in a deep voice as he turned and left Mu Xiaosheng's office without looking back.

While Mu Xiaosheng waved goodbye to Bai Rong, the woman said, "You can call me if you need anything. I promised I will help you and I haven't forgotten that. I'll just be performing psychological tests for the soldiers at the military base and have plenty of time to assist you if needed," Bai Rong offered.

"Got it. Thanks, Bai Rong," Mu Xiaosheng replied.

After Bai Rong followed Gu Mingchen out of the research institute and got into his car, the man asked coldly, "What did you promise Mu Xiaosheng again?"

Bai Rong took a deep breath and replied truthfully, "More than three years back when I wanted to study psychology at a prestigious university overseas, it was Mu Xiaosheng who helped me with it and all the expenses were borne by him. In return, I promised that I would work for him for a few years after I graduate and return to the country." "

However, Mu Xiaosheng was very kind and told me that I didn't have to do that. But since that was what I promised him and it's only right that I repay his kindness, we agreed that I would help him with twenty cases. As Mu Xiaosheng has a good reputation and is an authoritative figure in the field, the police often approached him for help. There are a few branches of psychology and criminal psychology is one of them. I happened to have studied it when I was overseas and can apply the knowledge to help him."

"Well, I think he should find someone who specializes in criminal psychology instead," Gu Mingchen suggested.

"In our country, criminal psychologists would usually join the police force. Especially with the increase in mental health issues during recent years and the importance placed on such issues everywhere, the police department should already have a team of such professionals. If the police approached Mu Xiaosheng even with that, it would probably mean that they were not able to solve the case with their current capabilities. As such, being the director of the research institute, it's only reasonable that Mu Xiaosheng gets an expert in the field to assist him with the investigation. Otherwise, it wouldn't be useful," Bai Rong explained.

Gu Mingchen paused for a moment before asking, "What did you originally intend to do after helping him with the twenty cases?"

"Open my own clinic and just see a couple of patients a day. That would be enough to sustain my glamorous lifestyle. I charge really high consultation rates when I was overseas," Bai Rong replied placidly.

"Wouldn't that make you Mu Xiaosheng's competitor?" Gu Mingchen was slightly confused.

Bai Rong smiled and replied, “His target clients are corporations and ordinary folks and his research institute is heavily funded by the government. As such, he’s not able to refuse when the police need his help. As for me, my target clients are wealthy or powerful individuals. Normal people wouldn’t be able to afford my rates. As such, there’s actually no competition between us at all. Of course, he can still refer clients to me. I’ll be happy to help wherever I can.”

“Would it be easy for you to get clients? If not, I can hire you to work at the military base,” Gu Mingchen offered in a serious tone.

“I don’t like to be restrained. I want to have the freedom to make decisions and do anything I want.”

Gu Mingchen stared intently into Bai Rong’s eyes and said, “OK, if that’s what you want. If you don’t feel like working, I can support you too.”

When she heard that, the woman felt warm and fuzzy inside and smiled.

No matter what, it was still important for a woman to be financially independent and have her own career. It was not wise to fully rely on her husband and invest all her efforts in him.

Not only would that cause her husband to feel suffocated, but the woman herself also wouldn’t be happy too. It would be easy for her to feel neglected and anxious all the time. Eventually, it was inevitable that cracks would appear in the relationship.

If a woman had her own career, even if the relationship failed and her husband abandoned the marriage, she would still be able to support herself.

When Gu Mingchen and Bai Rong returned to the military base, the orderly brought their meal over, which consists of shredded meat, sweet and sour pork, tomatoes and egg, as well as chicken soup.

“Around 3 p.m., I’ll gather a team to assist you with the planning of the psychological assessments. Are you OK with that?” Gu Mingchen asked.

“Yup, sure.”

“You’ll probably need to understand the organizational structure of the military in order to proceed with your work. I’ll pass you some information later.”

Bai Rong nodded.

Just then, Lieutenant Song walked over, looking flustered.

“What’s the matter?” Gu Mingchen looked at him and asked.

“Chief, I have something to report,” Lieutenant Song had an uneasy expression and lowered his head.

Bai Rong watched as Gu Mingchen walked over and continued eating her food. She was not interested in listening to their military affairs either.

After Lieutenant Song finished reporting, Gu Mingchen was stunned for a second before snapping out of his shock immediately after, even though his hands were still shaking from the intense emotions he was feeling.

The man turned to look at Bai Rong and tried his best to regain his composure before saying, “Rong, I have something to attend to and need to go off for a while.”

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Bai Rong nodded.

She noticed that he had left in a hurry with his fists tightly clenched. Not only that, there was also a deep crease between his brows and a layer of mist on his eyes.

Bai Rong was slightly worried as that wasn't the usual calm and composed Gu Mingchen she knew.

She walked to the window and saw the man taking quick strides towards the car, without acknowledging the soldiers who greeted him along the way.

As Gu Mingchen had left so abruptly, he did not even have time to pass her the information.

Bai Rong was also not sure if he would still have time to make arrangements for the meeting in the afternoon to discuss the plan for conducting the psychological assessments.

After she finished eating, the woman lay down on the bed and starting scrolling through social media on her phone.

A while later, Mu Xiaosheng called.

“What’s up, Xiaosheng?”

“Bai Rong, you’re spot on! Tony’s ex-girlfriend has already been arrested. Her family operates a meat-processing plant and she has just admitted to murdering Tony. She and Tony used to date but she broke up with him after her parents’ objections. After that, she married her current husband and they have a son together. However, Tony contacted her again and they started seeing each other after that. She did not expect to contract syphilis from him and even passed the disease to her husband. Her husband was enraged and started plotting the murder.” “

That day, Tony received a call from his ex-girlfriend after leaving Su Wanning’s place. She told him that her husband wasn’t at home and wanted him to go over. When Tony went there, that woman drugged him and put him in the ice warehouse, where he froze to death. They dismembered his body after that,” Mu Xiaosheng described the murder process.

“How about their kid? He’s going to end up being an orphan, right?” Bai Rong’s heart was aching for the child.

“DNA testing has revealed that the boy was Tony’s child. When we found him, he was already frozen to death by the woman’s husband,” Mu Xiaosheng said gloomily.

After she hung up, Bai Rong felt a sense of sorrow in her heart.

Everyone should ensure that they did not make mistakes, otherwise, it would definitely come back to haunt them one day.

If Tony’s ex-girlfriend had not minded Tony and married him, he would not have suffered such a huge emotional blow. With a partner he loved, the man wouldn’t have become a gigolo in the first place.

Tony’s ex-girlfriend would also not have married another man while carrying his child. It would be difficult for any man to accept raising a child his wife had with another man.

Bai Rong was in the same situation back then.

If she had not insisted on giving birth to her child, he would not have become a permanent pain in her heart.

Unable to lift her spirits, Bai Rong knew that she should stop letting her mind run wild. Otherwise, her illness was going to act up again.

She switched on her computer and intended to do some work to distract herself from those thoughts.

Just then, her phone pinged.

Bai Rong took a look at her screen and saw that someone had sent her an image. The man in the picture looked like Gu Mingchen. He was wearing the same clothes as what he wore earlier on and was holding a woman tightly in his arms.

Bai Rong's heart tightened and she enlarged the image.

From the angle which the photo was taken, only Gu Mingchen's face could be seen while the woman had her back towards the camera.

She was tall and skinny, dressed in a red long-sleeved dress and had her hair tied up into a ponytail.

Ding! Bai Rong's phone pinged again.

She opened the image and could clearly see a drop of tear at the corner of Gu Mingchen's eyes as he hugged the girl tightly.

At that instant, tears streamed down Bai Rong's cheeks as well.

Soon after, she received a third image, which showed Gu Mingchen holding onto the girl's shoulders and kissing her forehead.

The forth picture showed Gu Mingchen holding the girl while they got into his car and in the fifth picture, Gu Mingchen and the girl were walking into Interstellar Hotel together side by side.

Bai Rong's phone pinged with another text: They are in presidential suite room 2108 of Interstellar Hotel. You should hurry there if you want to stop anything.

Bai Rong slammed her phone against the ground after she read the text.

It would take her at least an hour to arrive at the Interstellar Hotel from the military base and there was no way for her to stop anything even if she wanted to.

What was the point of trying to stop anything if both the man's heart and body were no longer with her?

Bai Rong recalled that time when she first married Su Xuyan, Gu Mingchen's betrayal three years back, as well as those photos which she had just received.

No wonder he left in such a hurry.

No wonder our initial plans have been disrupted.

As those thoughts ran through the woman's mind, a surge of fury, resentment and sorrow rose in her heart and all the way up to her head, causing her mind to fall into chaos.

One moment, she would think that she was still trapped in her hellish marriage with Su Xuyan and felt alone and helpless.

The next moment, she would think that she was still in that period when Gu Mingchen lost his memories and feeling heartbroken missing Zhou Hailan. She would never want to experience that sort of pain and desolation again.

Only after a while did Bai Rong snap back into reality and realize that it was already three years after. The man whom she had fallen in love with all over again betrayed her once more, both emotionally and physically.

She felt that no one liked her, loved her, nor would anyone protect her as she was merely a mentally unstable person.

Yup, I'm not just a psychologist, I'm also a psychiatric patient myself.

Bai Rong was trying to conceal her illness and numb herself, but no matter how hard she attempted to do that, she knew very well that she was indeed suffering from mental illness, just like her mother.

At the thought of that, the woman started sobbing and wailing in agony.

She hurled every object within her reach and smashed them onto the floor, including the table lamp, vase, drinking glass, her own computer and even the bed sheets and blanket.

Bai Rong felt extremely disgusted when she remembered that she and Gu Mingchen had just made love on that same bed the day before.

As the room was in a mess, the woman tripped and fell when she was walking towards the balcony to retrieve her bonsai.

At once, the porcelain shards on the floor pierced into her body and blood oozed out. Feeling the extreme physical pain, she regained her rationality instantly.

Looking at the mess she had created in the room, Bai Rong knew that she had a relapse again.

At the same time tears fell down her cheeks, her heart was also bleeding.

She couldn't help but wonder if it would be too unsightly if she just died in this manner.

Besides, her mom would lose her source of support and Liu Yan would be heartbroken.

She would also cause Gu Mingchen trouble by dying at his place and dirtying his possessions. If that happened, whenever he thought about her, he would feel nothing but disgust and resentment.

Bai Rong decided that even if she had to die, it wouldn't be at his place. As such, she bore with the pain and painstakingly stood up.

By then, her clothes were already soaked in blood. The woman unbuttoned her shirt and looked at her naked body. There were wounds everywhere but thankfully, only one piece of porcelain shard pierced into her skin and not more.

When Bai Rong pulled out that piece of shard, blood gushed out from her open wound.

She picked a white dress from her suitcase and tore a piece of fabric to use as bandage and tied it around her wound.

She could not get assistance from Gu Mingchen's orderlies as they would definitely alert him of the situation.

Bai Rong wanted to maintain her dignity and not let anyone know about her mental illness.

She emptied her suitcase and placed her clothes on the sofa before putting all the glass and porcelain fragments on the floor into her suitcase. Then, she wiped away the blood stains on the floor using the bed sheets and threw them into her suitcase as well. Fortunately, the blanket was not stained.

When Bai Rong stood up, wanting to place the blanket back onto the bed, her head started spinning as a result of losing too much blood.

I can't faint... I can't faint...

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The woman sat down on the sofa to rest for a while and her eyelids became heavy.

Struggling not to faint, she shook her head vigorously to clear her mind and stood up. After applying red lipstick to her pale lips, Bai Rong changed into a set of fresh clothes and put on a black jacket.

That way, it wouldn't be easily seen even if blood seeped out from her wounds.

With her luggage in hand, the woman said to the orderly, "So sorry, my suitcase is spoiled. This suitcase is very special to me and I'm going out to repair it now. Could you help me call a car? Also, I've accidentally dirtied the bed sheets. Do you mind changing some new sheets for me please?"

"Oh, sure. I'll get you a car right now. Please wait for five minutes," the orderly replied as he went off to make a call.

While the orderly was away, Bai Rong walked into Gu Mingchen's kitchen, which was very well-equipped. She found some sugar and put some into her mouth to warm it, before swallowing.

"The car is ready for you," the orderly reported.

"Thank you so much," Bai Rong replied placidly and walked past him, dragging her suitcase.

The orderly took a glance at her suitcase and realized that the wheels were working fine and the zip looks OK too. He wondered why the woman said that her suitcase is spoiled.

However, he did not dare to ask her about it as it was rumored that she could very well be his chief's future wife.

Bai Rong got into the car and tried her best to stay conscious. "Please take me to Shuiyue International. I'm feeling sleepy and will be resting for a while. Please wake me up when we are there. I might be in deep sleep but just wake me up. Remember, you have to," she said to the soldier driving the car.

"Sure, I understand."

Actually, Bai Rong could go over to Liu Yan's place.

Liu Yan was a doctor and would have all the necessary medicine and apparatus needed to treat her wounds. However, her friend would surely be very worried to see her injuries. Besides, it was hard for Liu Yan to keep things to herself.

Bai Rong shut her eyes and quickly drifted into unconsciousness.

When the orderly went into the room to change the bed sheets, he realized that the old bed sheet was gone and nowhere to be found.

He also discovered that the lamp, drinking glass and vase were all gone.

Those were not expensive items and the woman wouldn't be able to make much money from selling them. It didn't seem likely that she would steal those to make a profit out of them.

The orderly wondered if he should report the matter to his chief.

"Madam, wake up, wake up."

Bai Rong felt someone shaking her and woke up. Her head was throbbing and her lips were also cracking. She looked towards the soldier weakly.

The soldier asked with a worried expression, "Are you alright? You don't look too well."

Bai Rong smiled faintly and replied, "I didn't sleep well last night. Thanks for sending me here. You should get going. I'll go back to the military base myself later."

"Sure then," the soldier answered while eyeing Bai Rong suspiciously.

After Bai Rong alighted, her head spun again and she supported herself by leaning against the car.

As that soldier was carrying out her suitcase from the car, he did not realize that something was amiss.

"So, I'll go back first? If you want me to come and fetch you later, just call the chief's orderly," the soldier offered.

"Thank you," Bai Rong replied softly.

After ensuring that the car had driven away and out of sight, Bai Rong finally couldn't hang in there anymore and fainted.

After some time, she opened her eyes and the first thing she saw was an exquisite crystal chandelier.

"You're finally awake," Su Xuyan said in a gentle voice.

Bai Rong looked at the man, who had a sympathetic and affectionate gaze in his eyes.

“Why am I here?” Bai Rong asked dubiously and tried to sit up.

Su Xuyan pressed onto her shoulders and said, “Just lie down. You’re so badly wounded and also running a fever. How did that happen? Did Gu Mingchen hit you?”

Bai Rong shook her head and replied, “I fell down accidentally. What’s the time now?”

“5.20 p.m.,” Su Xuyan answered.

Bai Rong pulled the needle out from her vein and said, “I need to go. I’ve a meeting to attend in the afternoon and need to do some preparation work.”

Su Xuyan had a worried expression on his face as he looked at Bai Rong but did not insist that she stay. “Sure, I’ll send you back,” he said.

“Where’s my bag and suitcase?” Bai Rong asked.

“They are on the sofa outside,” Su Xuyan replied as he turned around.

Bai Rong walked out of the room and saw her bag and suitcase.

She took out her phone from her bag and saw that she had a few missed calls. Some were from her previous clients and there were a few from Liu Yan. However, none were from Gu Mingchen.

Sorrow and bitterness washed all over the woman but she put up a cold front in an attempt to bury her true feelings.

If she had guessed it correctly, Gu Mingchen should still be with the other woman.

No matter what the consequences were, Bai Rong had decided that she wanted to confront him.

“Let’s go,” Su Xuyan said as his eyes dimmed.

Bai Rong dragged her suitcase outside and emptied everything into the trash bin before going back to the military base with an empty suitcase.

When she reached the place, it was already 6.30 p.m..

She glanced at her phone but Gu Mingchen still had not contacted her.

“You should get someone to come out and fetch you, otherwise, you won’t be able to get in,” Su Xuyan reminded.

Bai Rong opened the car door and got out.

Su Xuyan remained seated inside the car but he rolled down the window and further reminded her, “Don’t forget to take your medication. You’re still running a fever. You should know that since you’re a doctor. Also, I’ve been waiting for you to come back all these while.”

Bai Rong watched as Su Xuyan drove away.

Then, she took out her phone and stared at Gu Mingchen's number blankly for a while before deciding to call him.

"Rong, I'm attending to some matters and will be back late. Please have dinner without me. I'll arrange for the meeting to be at 8 a.m. tomorrow," Gu Mingchen said in a deep voice.

At that instant, Bai Rong suddenly did not feel like speaking to him anymore and ended the call.

Are human beings naturally masochistic?

The woman had really felt like telling him that she had something on as well and would not be back for a few days. However, she wanted to ask him personally what on earth he was thinking and who that woman was!

In the end, due to the indignation she was feeling, Bai Rong hailed a cab and headed to Interstellar Hotel. She requested for presidential suite room 2110 which was opposite the one Gu Mingchen was in.

The woman felt that she was a creep by doing that. She was behaving exactly like a jealous and bitter woman, observing the room opposite hers through the peephole.

Bai Rong hated her behavior but if she did not do that, she wouldn't have been able to get pass herself.

After waiting for a long time, at around 10.20 p.m. a food delivery guy knocked on Gu Mingchen's door. Gu Mingchen opened the door and took the food inside.

Only then did Bai Rong remember that she had not eaten dinner as well, not that she had any appetite for that.

At around midnight, Gu Mingchen finally walked out of the room.

Bai Rong opened her door and looked out. She noticed that Gu Mingchen had washed his hair, which was still wet, and he was walking quickly towards the lift.

At that instant, the woman finally completely lost it. It was like a mountain had collapsed, trapping her heart at the bottom of the debris with no daylight in sight.

Bai Rong closed the door again and lay down on the bed.

It was then that she realized she was exhausted. Due to the extended period of time which she had been standing, her legs were aching badly.

The air in the room was so still that the woman could hear her own breathing.

Perhaps that was what they called destiny. Even though Bai Rong had never done anything heinous or harmed anyone and only wished to live a carefree life, she had taken something that did not belong to her indeed. Consequently, she was suffering now.

She took a look at her phone and saw that Gu Mingchen still had not called.

Actually, he should have known that she was upset when she hung up on him earlier on.

Knowing that she was angry and yet, he still did not bother to call, that meant that he cared about the other woman more than her.

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If that was the case, Bai Rong saw no point in loving someone who did not care about her at all.

With that realization, the woman made a decision. She stood up and walked to the bathroom. Looking at herself in the mirror, she tapped her fingers lightly on the sink and said, "Bai Rong, don't be sad. Everyone has the right to make their own choices. Whether he chooses you or not is not something you can control. Happiness can't be forced. It wouldn't end well if you try to force love. Not only that, you'll be the one suffering the most. However, as long as you don't love him, you won't get hurt and also not be upset by his actions. Who he loves is none of your business. Just remember, no one is obliged to love you in this world so you'll have to love yourself. Don't commit suicide, don't give up, don't hurt anyone and most importantly, don't hurt yourself."

After saying that, Bai Rong retracted her hands and the room became quiet once again.

The next second, her eyes dimmed. Her self-hypnosis did not work. She could still feel her heart aching. The pain was so much that it felt as if a dagger had been pierced into her heart. At the same time, the woman felt that she was extremely pathetic, having to resort to self-hypnosis in order to lessen her pain.

However, she was unable to get into that desired state as she was too aware that she was trying to hypnotize herself.

Bai Rong brushed her teeth and returned to the bed. She closed her eyes and forced herself not to think about anything, but her heart was still aching.

She picked up her phone and called a random number.

It did not matter which city the other party was from. Gender or age was not an issue as well. She just wanted to vent to a stranger, hoping that she would feel better after that.

Someone picked up after three rings.

“Hello, who’s this?” A male voice sounded. He had a deep voice which sounded calm and mature.

“Hello, am I interrupting anything?” Bai Rong asked apologetically.

“What’s the matter?” The stranger asked bluntly.

Bai Rong felt that she had acted too impulsively. Initially, she thought that she would feel better after ranting to a stranger. However, she realized that she wasn't able to say anything at all.

"Sorry to have disturbed," Bai Rong said and quickly hung up.

But the other party called back and said in an impatient tone, "Just tell me what it is!"

"I just wanted to talk to a stranger."

"You are crazy."

The corners of Bai Rong's lips curled up as she heard that and tears welled up in her eyes. She said plainly, "Yup, I'm crazy. I have a mental illness. I have had a few relapses since I came back to the country. I'm not aware of my actions whenever I smash objects onto the ground. After I finish doing that, I'll feel so drained of energy and suddenly snap back to my senses. That's when I know that I had a nervous breakdown again."

"You too?" The stranger asked suspiciously.

Too? Bai Rong suddenly felt like laughing when she heard him use that word.

She could hardly believe that the stranger whom she had randomly called was also suffering from mental illness.

What kind of fate is this!

“My first husband married me out of revenge. It was three years of marriage without sex for me and he would hook up with different women every day. We eventually got divorced. Then, I fell in love with another man who had saved me from danger a few times. He confessed his feelings for me and it was mutual. After that, he lost his memories from an accident. He forgot all about me and only remembered his ex-girlfriend. I fell into despair and committed suicide. However, someone saved me, and after seeing how hurt my loved ones were by what I did; I suddenly realized that my death would only cause my loved ones pain, and my enemies would gloat over it. As such, I chose to go overseas to study psychology.”

“It was during that time that I found out that I’m mentally ill. By studying psychology, I wanted to help myself. However, after I became a renowned psychologist, I managed to cure others but not myself. I ended up marrying that man who lost his memories and on the first day after we got married, I saw him with another woman. I’m feeling so heartbroken that I wish I didn’t have a heart. Maybe I won’t be suffering if that was the case. I tried using self-hypnosis but it didn’t work.” After Bai Rong poured out all her grievances, she managed to feel slightly better.

However, the man on the other end of the phone remained silent.

“Thanks for lending me a listening ear. It’s late now and I shouldn’t disturb you any further. You should rest early too. Late nights are not good for health,” Bai Rong said softly.

“Are you a psychologist?” the man asked.

Bai Rong thought that she should repay the man in some way for listening to her rants and replied, “I’m a psychologist who’s unable to help myself. If you trust me, I can give you some advice for free.”

“I’m quite hot-tempered and when I’m angry I tend to smash things on the floor. I’ll also take it out on the people close to me such as my parents, brother, and girlfriend. Everyone has turned their backs against me now. I feel like none of my employees like

me either. Sometimes I feel like making a change, but I can't seem to do it. I overheard my employees calling me 'devil', 'madman' and even 'pervert' behind my back," the man said in a troubled tone.

From his voice, Bai Rong was quite sure that he wasn't sleeping yet when she called.

The man was in a quiet environment and he had a deep and steady voice. It did not seem like he had been drinking.

"You're staying alone and even though it's already midnight, you're still working. You take your work seriously and you're a very responsible person. You're also a sensitive person who have experienced glory, gone through setbacks and have been looked down upon. You can be rather conceited and are very ambitious. You care a lot about others' opinions of you and that usually drains you of your energy. When you lose your temper, it's usually because your employees are unable to meet your expectations or you feel like you're very far away from your goal. You might also think that you're a failure and that is what you wish to avoid the most," Bai Rong analyzed.

"Wow! Do you know me?" The man was astonished at her evaluation.

"I don't know you. Also, you think that people are always secretly judging you but these people don't care about you at all and you're merely the subject of their random gossips. Those who truly care about you are those who still show you concern and stay by your side even after being scolded by you. In fact, you do have such people around you."

The man listened to Bai Rong quietly.

"If one day, you become very successful and want to brag about your success to the world, you'll realize that no one would care about it. Even if you found someone to share your success stories with, no one would be willing to truly listen to you, especially those

whom you had known earlier or even people who had looked down on you previously. Do you know why is that?" Bai Rong asked the man.

"Because my success would upset them and make them jealous." The man understood what Bai Rong was driving at.

"Yup, that's human nature. Not only will they not admire you, they'll be jealous of you or even hate you for that. In order to succeed, you gave it your all and in the process, hurt your loved ones. However, what you get in return will be people's hatred. Do you think it's worth it?" Bai Rong explained.

"I think what you just said makes a lot of sense."

"Just don't be too extreme and strike a good balance in life. While you're trying to build your career, you should also strive to lead a wholesome life at the same time. If what you do benefits others, they will help you in return when you need help. Naturally, everyone will wish for your success as they know that they will have something to gain from that. Sometimes, it's good to slow down a little. Making mistakes might not be a bad thing. Sometimes, they serve as a lesson. With such experiences we accumulate along the way, our successes would be more grounded and long-lasting," Bai Rong advised in a soft tone.

"I feel a lot better after listening to you and I'm no longer depressed. If you can treat others, why can't you do that for yourself too?"

"I don't know," Bai Rong answered and at the same time, her phone rang.

She took a glance at the screen and realized it was Gu Mingchen.

Chapter 205

“I don’t know much about psychology, but he has cheated on you. You’ll eventually find someone who’ll treat you wholeheartedly, and the key is knowing when to let go,” said the man.

“Thank you. I’ll have to hang up because of an incoming call.” However, Bai Rong didn’t answer it because it was Gu Mingchen.

I should calm myself down first before I regret saying hurtful words. Since I’m still quite aggressive and aggrieved, I might end up hurting both of us. In fact, he’s not just anyone but my family, friend, colleague, boss, and even lover.

When he called once more, she eventually answered it.

“Where are you?” he asked wearily.

She thought to herself. What use is it if I scold him for spending all his energy and patience on other women? He would only think of me as a pain in the neck.

Humans naturally avoid suffering and pursue happiness. More importantly, girls lose their temper to gain the guys' attention and demand for them to improve. Still, I'll only end up hurting myself if he doesn't change since he doesn't care at all.

"I'm outside settling some matters," replied Bai Rong indifferently.

"Alright. See you tomorrow, then."

She bit her lip. Wow. He neither asked what I'm up to nor offer to help. Hmph. Men are the most cold-blooded animals indeed.

"Bye." She softly hung up, turned off her phone, and lay on the bed.

The more I more clearly I see things, the more painful it is. I'm definitely losing sleep tonight. Well, since no one loves me, I'll have to take care of myself now.

She fished out some pills from her bag, took them, and rested.

The following day, she had a terrible headache and sore throat, and her eyes hurt so badly that she could hardly open them.

It seems like a high fever. When she realized it was already 10 a.m., she shakily got out of bed to wash up. Then, she called a cab and headed to the nearest hospital. After getting off the vehicle, she saw Gu Mingchen's car passing by.

After he got off, he was seen carrying a girl in his arms and heading toward the hospital.

Seeing that, she slumped back into the cab and watched him disappear from her sight.

If I'm not his wife and just a stranger to him, or if I didn't promise to marry him, I probably wouldn't be this miserable now.

She knew this would frequently happen in her hellish marriage, and she shuddered at the thought of it. She really didn't want to live a life like this.

Trembling, she dug her phone out.

"Ma'am, are you getting off?" The cab driver asked.

"Please take me to First People's Hospital," answered Bai Rong. Hence, the driver did as told.

Then, she called Su Xuyan, "Today is the second day of my marriage with Gu Mingchen. Can you help to annul it, please? I regret it already."

"Yes, because your marriage information is not saved in the system yet. What you should do now is to steal the marriage certificate, so others can't obtain the information, which means you're no longer married. In fact, I have to let you know that he didn't use his military ID to marry you. Thus, it's easy to settle it as it's just another conventional marriage," replied Su Xuyan smilingly.

Bai Rong sneered silently. Game over, Gu Mingchen.

"Got it. Thank you," she feebly responded as she was suffering from a terrible fever.

“Just treat me to a meal, Bai Rong. You owe me two of them already.”

“Sure.”

“The most important thing is to get the marriage certificate,” reminded her friend Su Xuyan.

“Alright.” Bai Rong hung up.

As she was about to pass out, she feared that she wouldn't be able to wait in line at the hospital. As soon as she saw a private clinic, she asked the driver to drop her there.

Then, she gave him fifty. “Keep the change. Thank you.”

She staggered toward the clinic with much difficulty. When she reached, she asked the doctor to prescribe some medicine and hook her up to an IV. She even added, “Please find a nurse to help me change the bandage.”

Knowing that she was probably a medical professional, the doctor quickly agreed as it didn't affect his profits.

Bai Rong lost consciousness while lying on the hospital bed.

Eventually, she woke up three hours later.

She then realized that the nurse had applied medicine on her wounds and had changed the bandage. She was also hooked up to an IV.

“Hello ma’am, your phone rang several times,” reminded the nurse kindly.

Bai Rong thought to herself. Hmm. Private clinics do offer quality services.

“Thank you.” She then got up from the bed and still feeling a little dizzy. I guess I’ll have to come again tomorrow.

Fishing her phone out of her bag, she noticed that Gu Mingchen called, so she returned his call.

“When are you coming back?” he asked straightforwardly.

“In an hour. Ask the soldiers to wait at the entrance. Otherwise, I might not be allowed to get in.”

“Okay.”

Bai Rong put on some makeup to conceal her haggard looks.

When she arrived by cab, she saw Gu Mingchen waiting for her at the entrance.

Nevertheless, she only glanced at him icily. On the first day of our marriage, he took a woman to a hotel. The next day, he took a woman to the hospital. Ironically, I went to the same hotel and hospital as him. The difference was that I was alone, but he was not. Thus, it would be impossible for me not to feel hurt and pained, but these are pointless before a coldhearted man. Well, letting him go is easier. I don’t want to have a

torturous marriage for another three years. I would be thirty by then, and my youth will soon be over.

She got into his car without bringing up the incident that happened on that day and the day before. Meanwhile, Gu Mingchen stayed quiet, too.

“Where did you keep our marriage certificate?” Bai Rong asked casually while staring ahead.

“In the nightstand. Why?” He looked at her and replied.

She smirked wickedly and peered at him with sarcasm, coldness, misery, but even relief. “Nothing. Just asking.”

“Okay. Have you eaten?” Gu Mingchen asked.

When she recalled the takeaway that he and the girl had ordered in the middle of the night, she felt disgusted to eat with him.

She neither had dinner last night nor ate anything that day, but she didn’t want to dine with him, much less letting him watch her eat. Hence, she replied, “I have.”

“I have scheduled the meeting at 4 p.m., and I have prepared the documents. You can go through them before it starts.”

“Okay,” replied Bai Rong indifferently.

She just wanted to get the marriage certificate and destroy it.

Gu Mingchen looked at her and held her hand.

As if shocked by electricity, she scowled and aggressively pulled out her hand. Subsequently, she glared at him defensively.

“What’s the matter?” he asked puzzledly. She seems a little off today.

Chapter 206

“What?” Bai Rong narrowed her eyes at Gu Mingchen.

Wow. This man is really good at hiding his emotions. Doesn’t he feel guilty at all about spending the night with another woman? Or did he think that it’s normal for someone high and mighty like him to be surrounded by women all the time, and he’s merely being generous to them?

I don’t understand him. I can’t even read his mind, and he had never let me in. In fact, he didn’t even shed a tear when I nearly died. Yet, he wailed for that woman and even kissed her cheek. But... whatever!

“It’s nothing. Something happened recently, so I’m in a bad mood. I hope it won’t affect you,” she added smilingly.

Gu Mingchen frowned. “Do you have to be so sarcastic with me? We are husband and wife.”

“Well, you may not know me as well as you think. I’ve always been weird, indifferent, and acrimonious to others. Aren’t you already aware of this when we first met? It’s not too late if you want a divorce since the Civil Affairs Bureau hasn’t recorded our data,” said Bai Rong lazily.

“Oh, you want a divorce?” He raised his voice.

She felt that it was funny and laughed aloud. You’re wrong! You’re the one who actually wants a divorce! Oh, whatever. I don’t care. I only want to be free.

She side-eyed him.

“We’ll talk after the meeting,” demanded Gu Mingchen with a grave expression while gripping the steering wheel tightly until his fingertips turned pale.

She gave him an emotionless stare. Are you mad at my arrogance or your own mistakes? Honestly, you have no right to be furious at all. Also, we’ll talk after the meeting? Are you afraid that I won’t work for you anymore after the divorce?

“Don’t worry. I always draw the line between work and personal affairs.”

He pursed his lips and remained silent. Not long after, they reached his place.

Bai Rong got off and turned around to look at him.

Suddenly, his phone rang, and she caught his panicking look when he glanced at her.

The woman’s lips curved slightly upwards. Then, she turned around and headed to the room.

Meanwhile, Gu Mingchen walked outside to answer it. “Hailan, what’s wrong?”

“Mingchen, I’m terrified. Where are you?” Zhou Hailan wailed.

“I’m busy now; I’ll send someone over later.”

“Are you leaving me? I know I don’t deserve you now that I’m so ugly. Aaahh—get away from me! Aaargh—” she screamed frantically.

When he heard the crashing sounds on her side, she had already hung up.

He frowned and looked at his room.

Bai Rong was standing at the window and smirked at him when she saw all his worry and tenderness while talking to that woman.

At that point, a flicker of guilt flashed across Gu Mingchen's eyes.

Afterward, she closed the curtains, took out two marriage certificates from the nightstand, and grinned delightfully.

"Idiot," she softly said. She tore off both certificates, threw them in the toilet bowl, and flushed them away, finally at peace. It's good that I'm neither in the position to blame him nor be miserable anymore. Which is good.

Subsequently, Gu Mingchen entered as soon as she came out of the bathroom.

"Well, I have arranged the meeting for tomorrow afternoon. I'm heading out to attend to some matters," he said while his eyes flickered.

She smiled. "Are you coming back tonight?"

"Yeah. I'll be late, though," he replied

"Give me five more minutes. Do you know where I was yesterday?"

He was silent for a while. "Even though we are married, you still have your freedom. I believe you won't cross the line."

"Freedom." Bai Rong nodded. Well said, Gu Mingchen. You mean I should give you freedom as your wife as well.

“I was in Room 2110 of Interstellar Hotel in Jazona around 9 p.m. last night. You may not know where the room is. For your information, it’s opposite room 2108,” she jeered derisively.

Upon hearing that, he looked confounded.

“I was at the entrance of Second People’s Hospital at about 10:30 that morning. Were you there at that time?” she continued.

“Did you followed me?” Gu Mingchen’s brows furrowed, and he looked at her in disbelief.

She scoffed silently. I won’t put it that way, but whatever.

“So, who’s the woman?” Bai Rong asked curiously.

“It’s not what you think of Hailan and me,” he explained.

“Oh, she isn’t dead.” She finally understood why. It was because his beloved woman had returned.

Although I’m no longer married to him, I still feel stabbed in the heart. My feelings for him are real, and I’ve waited for him for more than three years. Furthermore, I sincerely wanted to marry him. Well, I’ll just suffer one last time.

Her tears fell uncontrollably.

Gu Mingchen scowled. "We didn't do anything last night. She fainted and had very serious psychophobia. Then, she even cut herself with a knife early in the morning, so I sent her to the hospital."

Bai Rong shed tears quietly. I collapsed too and had a severe mental illness and was injured. But I was left alone while you were with her.

"Gu Mingchen, I don't need a man to take care of me. I can still live a good life without you. But she needs you to survive. Take care of her. Nonetheless, I will never, ever forgive you." Bai Rong picked up the suitcase, opened it, and stuffed her clothes inside.

He immediately tugged at her arms as soon as she tried to leave.

His strength tore open her wounds, and she could feel the warm liquid running down her skin. Fortunately, her dark-colored clothing concealed the bloodstains.

"What are you talking about? I'm responsible for her as she is in this state because of me. It's not what you think," explained Gu Mingchen anxiously.

She cursed bitterly in her heart. Zhou Hailan got sick because of you? What about me, then? I became mentally ill because I was stubborn and irrational, so I deserve to suffer!

Bai Rong's hatred toward him exploded. "Yeah, right. You're Mr. Responsibility, aren't you? The reason why you're in my life is that you raped me! I don't need you and our child don't need you too!"

Gu Mingchen was utterly shocked and exclaimed, "You said I raped you? And we have a child?"

"The child is dead," Bai Rong responded coldly.

"You..." He felt dumbstruck and only recovered his senses after a while. "Why didn't you tell me?"

"Did you tell me that Hailan is still alive, that you spent the night with her, that you took her to the hospital?" She roared in accusation but suddenly regretted it. We're already separated, but I still trample over him. How childish of me! We're only hurting each other now.

She calmed down. "It doesn't matter anymore. I have annulled our marriage at the Civil Affairs Bureau, and I have torn off the marriage certificates. You and I are both single now, and you're free to take care of her now."

"What are you talking about?" He became anxious and lost his temper for the first time. He clenched her arms so tightly as if trying to break them. "Who gave you this right? Have I consented to a divorce?"

Bai Rong struggled to free herself. “No, we’re not divorced since we’re not even married.”

“This is madness.” He finally released his grip.

Due to inertia, she fell heavily to the ground. She felt dizzy and almost passed out, but she persisted in staying conscious. Then, she glared at him bitterly.

You’re so intimate with other women, but you are violent with me. Well, this is what a coldblooded man looks like.

Gu Mingchen felt more pained than the woman who fell to the ground, and he helped her up.

Regardless, she flung away his hands.

When he felt that his palms were sticky, he looked and saw that they were covered with crimson blood.

He looked at her heartbreakingly. “What happened to you?”

Then, she stood up by herself.

At that moment, Gu Mingchen bellowed for someone to send in a doctor immediately.

“Are you trying to worry Liu Yan or ridicule me in front of Su Wanning by calling the doctor?” Bai Rong exclaimed in a sharp tone.

“Let’s stop arguing, okay? I didn’t tell you because I didn’t want you to worry. I will take care of things between Zhou Hailan and me,” he promised.

“It’s burdensome when you are caught between two responsibilities. Gu Mingchen, don’t your life for those responsibilities but yourself. I quit. Take good care of Zhou Hailan. Don’t let your half-heartedness hurt her again as your commitment has hurt too many people.” She smiled feebly and pulled her luggage.

Gu Mingchen took her arm and looked at her with misty eyes. “Don’t go.”

Bai Rong side-eyed him. “Arrange a place for me to stay. As I said, it won’t let this affect official affairs. If you think I’m not suitable to work here, just let me know.”

However, he didn’t want her to move out. “Do you have to be this stubborn?”

She removed his grip. “I’m not stubborn. I’m just disappointed with you.” Sorry, sir. I can’t trust you enough to spend my life with you. Another weakness of mine is that I’m very jealous. It bothers me exceedingly when my husband takes care of another woman. I hate it even when you are doing it out of obligation and not love!

Gu Mingchen eventually released her, looking hurt. He opened the door and commanded the orderly, “Clean West Yard for Ms. Bai to stay over.”

“Yes, sir.” Seeing both his chief’s and Bai Rong’s cross expressions, the orderly left with his head drooping.

The man faced her. "Rest here for now. You must know what medicines you need since you're a doctor. Write it down for me, and I'll get them at the medical unit."

She was indeed too exhausted to head out, so she wrote a list for him.

"You can rest in the guest room first," he stated while he took the list.

Bai Rong nodded, turned around, and walked toward the room.

Gu Mingchen clenched his fists so tightly that his veins protruded. She didn't feel anything when I purposely addressed her as Ms. Bai and let her stay in the guest room. Is it game over for me?

Frustrated, the man simply dropped the vase on the coffee table to the ground with bloodshot eyes and went out to make a call. "Give me the phone number of the director of the Civil Affairs Bureau within a minute."

Shortly afterward, Lieutenant Song had completed his task on time.

The next moment, he dialed the number and stated crossly, "I am Gu Mingchen from Special Forces Military Base. My wife and I got married here yesterday morning. However, she said that you don't have our marriage on file. What does this mean? Is this a mistake, or do you think this is child's play?"

"Oh, I see. Generally speaking, if you got married yesterday, it would be recorded in at least a week. I will check it for you now," reported the director of the Civil Affairs Bureau.

"Give me a reply within three minutes. I want it saved right now," bellowed Gu Mingchen.

After that, he went to the medical unit with an emotionless face.

When Su Wanning saw him coming, she stood up and gaped at him affectionately.

Nevertheless, he didn't even look at her. He only gave Liu Yan the list and ordered in a deep voice, "Help me get these medicines."

Su Wanning's eyes dimmed. Remaining seated, she took out the resignation letter from the drawer and handed it to him, but he stared at her icily instead.

"I don't think you need me here any longer," said the woman while observing his expression.

He remained expressionless. "Hand it to your supervisor; he'll take care of it. You can leave after doing that."

Su Wanning's hope shattered into pieces when he didn't even try to make her stay.

The man she had waited for more than ten years was too coldhearted and had never given her any hope.

"Gu Mingchen, you'll never be with the woman you love," she cursed hostilely when she passed by him.

Upon hearing that, his expression became darker, and he clenched his fists.

Afraid, Liu Yan quickly handed him the medicines.

She felt that it would be best for Bai Rong to let go of this man as he was no good for her.

When he was about to leave after getting the medicines, the phone rang. He answered it at once as it was from the director of the Civil Affairs Bureau.

“What is it?” Gu Mingchen anxiously asked.

“Erm... I’m sorry, Chief. Our staff has lost your marriage information. Can you drop by and redo it with your wife, please?” the director replied fearfully.

“What? The information went missing? And you can’t do anything without it?”

“It seems like we’re having technical problems. I can’t find the scanned copy of your marriage certificate, and the photos you and your wife took are also gone. Without these, they can’t be recorded. If you are busy, you can ask someone to send in the certificate so that you don’t have to come in person,” the director answered carefully.

Gu Mingchen hung up. Great. It seems like I lost her this time.

When Gu Mingchen returned to the guest room, Bai Rong had changed into a white dress and had taken a shower.

“Where are you hurt? Will the wound get infected if you took a bath?” he asked worriedly.

She didn’t want to answer.

“Schedule the meeting for tomorrow since you’re busy today, and I don’t have any energy left. But I should be fine after a night’s rest,” she responded weakly while suffering from a burning fever.

“Let’s talk after you rested well. The meeting is at 1:30 p.m., so there is no rush. But what should I do with these medicines?” he inquired again.

“I had an IV today, so this is for tomorrow. You can go now. I’ll sleep after taking the pills,” Bai Rong replied with her drooping eyelids.

When he had poured water for her, she already had all the pills ready in her palms.

She took the cup from him, took a sip, and swallowed all of the pills. Then, she shut her eyes and drifted off to sleep.

Gu Mingchen sat on the edge of the bed and watched her sleeping deeply. He frowned and placed his hands on her burning forehead.

At that moment, his phone rang again. When he saw that it was Hailan, he hung up and called the orderly, "Go to room 2108 at Interstellar Hotel in Jazona to take care of someone for me."

"Yes, sir." The orderly quickly did as told.

His phone rang once more, and it was Su Haoran this time.

His friend asked in astonishment, "Your mother said you and Bai Rong are getting married?"

Gu Mingchen stared into space while feeling stabbed in the heart. "She won't be marrying me anymore."

"Huh? What happened?"

"I received a notice yesterday that a mentally ill woman kept wanting to see me, so I went and found out that she was Zhou Hailan," explained Gu Mingchen.

Su Haoran was dumbfounded. "Hailan isn't dead?"

"Well, her face was thirty percent burned, and she has been getting skin grafts. Half of her body is ninety percent burned. She had a mental breakdown and was locked up for

treatment. Fortunately, she finally escaped and was scared of being locked up again. Now she lives in extreme fear and has very low self-esteem.”

“Who locked her up? Wasn’t Xia He the only one who survived?”

“Back then, she and I were trapped in the house. She asked me to leave with the government official, but as soon as we left, the beam collapsed, and she was trapped to death. Since the enemies were right behind us, I ran out of time, so I could only send the official off to the plane. When I returned, the house was burned to ashes, and I saw her severely burned body taken out, so I thought she was dead,” Gu Mingchen sobbed.

“So she had been imprisoned by the terrorist for so many years?” Su Haoran was suspicious.

“She was detained for three years and had mental problems. Later, she was rescued by Special Forces and was under the military committee’s control. After their unanimous consent, they hid the news about her and locked her in the research center for treatment.”

“Who are they?” Su Haoran had a bad feeling.

“Your father, the commander-in-chief, and mine, Deputy Commander Gu.”

Su Haoran exclaimed in realization, “So our fathers intentionally released Zhou Hailan to stop you from marrying Bai Rong?”

Gu Mingchen fell silent.

“Then, what are you going to do now?” Su Haoran was also worried for his friend.

“I have to take care of Hailan. She has suffered for almost nine years because of me, so I can’t leave her to rot.” He was sure of his responsibility.

“What about Bai Rong?” his friend asked tentatively.

“I love her,” replied Gu Mingchen firmly.

Su Haoran understood. “Who knows, you would still fall in love with her even after your amnesia. I will support you as your good friend, of course.”

“Haoran, did you know that I raped her that year?” Gu Mingchen had no memory of that at all.

“More than six years ago, you went out on a mission and were injected with drugs by the enemies. Then, it so happened that she was also kidnapped, so both of you had sex. However, you kept brooding about it, and Bai Rong was going through tough times after that. Thus, you felt guilty, so you approached her, and you were gradually attracted to her,” explained Su Haoran.

“But did you know that we had a child?” the man asked anxiously.

“Both of you had a child?” His friend was dumbstruck. “I had no idea, but where’s the child now?”

“Bai Rong said the baby died.” Gu Mingchen’s gaze darkened.

“I really have no idea. I already joined the air force by then. Why don’t you look into it? The matter with the child is the most important! What actually happened? How did the baby die?” Su Haoran burst into a string of questions.

Gu Mingchen wanted to know more about the baby too. If not for his amnesia, he would have lots of clues about it.

“If the child is not dead, maybe you and Bai Rong are just a match made in heaven, and God doesn’t want you to be separated,” Su Haoran commented suddenly.

The man’s eyes lit up.

Alright. Let’s begin with the mission that year.

He turned on his computer, entered the confidential archives section, and typed in his name.

There were only the materials he had four years ago in the archives, and they were nothing special as he had read them before his amnesia.

His father also told him that he came here as the chief four years ago, which meant that his authority only started by then.

However, his mission was completed six years ago.

He was a colonel six years ago and should belong to the military base of the old general Cai Qingyun, who had retired four years ago.

Then, he looked up Jadeborough, the hometown of Old General Cai.

Jadeborough and Jinyang City were two cities belonging to the same province, and they were two hours apart.

With that, he decided that it was about time for him to visit his senior.

Gu Mingchen wrote down the old general's contact information and turned off the computer. Then, he came out of the room and checked on Bai Rong in the guest room.

She was still asleep, and her nose, forehead, and neck were covered with sweat.

Seeing this, he took a dry towel to wipe it off.

Since she had just been hooked up to an IV, he could only sponge her to break the fever.

He filled a basin of cold water from the bathroom, soaked the towel, and twisted it half dry. Next, he wiped her palms, forehead, and feet. Then, he threw the towel into the basin and lifted her dress.

He then saw the shocking stripes on her body, and there was a deep scar that was lapped with gauze.

With trembling hands, Gu Mingchen lifted off the gauze.

Since the wound opened again, he thought that the injury hadn't healed. As a matter of fact, it swelled badly around the cut, which was near the heart.

His eyes swelled with tears, and he felt heavily stabbed in the heart.

How am I not aware of such severe injuries...

Chapter 209

No wonder she was at Second People's Hospital's entrance.

"Are you done looking?" Bai Rong spoke coldly.

She put down her dress, sat up, and looked at Gu Mingchen frostily. "Isn't it rude to uncover my wounds without my permission?"

"How did you get injured?" he asked worriedly.

Bai Rong got up from the bed without looking at him. "I'm not the one you should care about as we have nothing to do with each other any longer."

He stood behind her. "We have mutually agreed to be married, but now you won't even discuss the divorce with me?"

"We agreed that you wouldn't oppose my request of divorce before our marriage, so I'm just fulfilling your promise." She pulled off her diamond ring and handed it to him.

However, he took the ring and threw it out the window. Glaring at her with bloodshot eyes, he said with certainty, "I won't divorce you."

"But we already have," she told him the hard truth.

Gu Mingchen held her arm. "I'm obligated to take care of Zhou Hailan! Her injury and mental sickness were because of me!"

Nonetheless, Bai Rong didn't want to go over the same problem.

"Then, take care of her for the rest of your life," she spat coldheartedly.

He frowned helplessly. "Can't you be more understanding?"

"There are many women in the world who can forgive you, tolerate you, support you, and honor your decisions, but I am not one of them. You can hate me and even blame me, but you'll realize that I'm not the one you're looking for eventually. So, just let me go," she responded decisively.

His gaze turned cold. "Am I not worthy of you?"

She looked up at the man. I had enough with hopeless marriages. It will be like hell if it lasts for one more day. I'm already on the brink of a mental breakdown, and I have to protect myself.

This is my defense mechanism.

"Just regard me as a selfish woman."

Gu Mingchen dropped his hand. "Alright. I'm taking you to the hospital since you're severely injured."

"There's no need."

He blew his top. "Is that all you say to my face from now on? Let me tell you something, I won't divorce you. If you can ask Su Xuyan to destroy the records at the Civil Affairs Bureau, I can recover them too."

She finally broke down. "I want a divorce! I want freedom! I don't want to be trapped in utter despair. Where was my husband on my wedding night? Do you think the only sick person is Zhou Hailan? Do you think she's the only one who fainted and needed a doctor? She fainted when you were there, but I fainted on the road! Ask yourself if you really care about me at all."

"I really have no idea about all these. Is it fair to blame me when I don't know what your sicknesses are?" Gu Mingchen looked at her worriedly.

She paused. Being impulsive will only make me act irrationally and say hurtful words that I will regret later. However, it's often easier said than done.

“Gu Mingchen, I’m knackered. Let me rest while you take care of your business,” said Bai Rong softly.

When he looked at her pale face, his gaze gradually softened. “Let’s not force each other to marry or divorce. Extreme methods will only hurt us.”

“Fine,” she responded feebly.

“Get some rest. I’ll make you something to eat.” Hearing this, she felt sad and lay in bed while he covered her with a blanket.

She shut her eyes to avoid facing the man.

“Rong, don’t sleep yet. We still need to treat your wounds. Have you applied any medicine yet?” Gu Mingchen asked tenderly.

Bai Rong opened her eyes. “Yes. I applied it once in the morning and at night, so you can leave now.”

After leaving, he soon came back in with a kettle and poured some water into a cup.

“I’m not leaving... I’ll be in the kitchen. Just holler if you need anything,” he said solemnly. Then, he turned around and walked toward the door.

However, she felt reluctant to see the stalwart figure leave.

She had already heard the story of Gu Mingchen and Zhou Hailan, and there was nothing wrong with him wanting to take care of that woman.

Unfortunately, she minded Hai Lan's existence.

Since she didn't want him to give up on his responsibilities, she decided to let him go instead.

But at the same time, she felt upset that he couldn't see that woman because of her condition.

Women were conflicting creatures. They were quickly moved and blinded by emotions.

Besides, she had seen too many cases like that.

A young, beautiful, and kind-hearted female graduate student saw an old lady collapsed and helped her up. She wanted to find her son, but couldn't, so she wanted to go home.

Therefore, this girl sent the old lady back to a mountainous area but was detained and forced to marry a disabled man. The girl was also compelled to give birth to a defective child and stuck there for life.

There was also a young and beautiful nurse who helped a pregnant woman to go home. However, she did not expect that the pregnant woman was helping her husband hunt down virgins. In the end, the nurse was brutally killed by the couple.

Kindness and compassion were good qualities, but being rational and having awareness of danger were even more important in life.

Bai Rong closed her eyes and drifted off to sleep with a heavy head.

It was 10 p.m. when she woke up.

Growling in hunger, she got out of bed and walked out of the room.

When Gu Mingchen saw her, he stood up from the couch. "Are you hungry? The food's ready. I just need to heat it up for you."

She looked up and thanked him.

However, he disliked her thanking him as it felt formal and distant.

He walked toward her and put the diamond ring on her finger again. "Don't take it off first. I won't force you to get marry me. Let's wait for three months before making a decision. If you made up your mind after that, I wouldn't push you anymore."

She glanced at the shimmering diamond ring under the light.

Then, she looked at Gu Mingchen rationally.

Forcing things won't work. Given his position, divorce is forbidden in a military rule. Maybe we can't even have a divorce as we are married. I only need to persevere for another three months, after all.

"Fine," she agreed.

“Wait for me at the dining table. It’ll be just a few minutes.” He finally seemed more relaxed and went into the kitchen.

He made fish chowder, carrots, and omelets.

“The fish chowder and the vitamin C from the carrots help repair the wounds,” he explained.

“Alright.”

He served two plates for both of them.

She glanced at him. He hasn’t taken dinner yet?

Gu Mingchen looked at her, too. “Well, can you tell me about our child? Who does the baby resemble more? Me or you?”

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Bai Rong peered at Gu Mingchen, trying to see through him, then she went back to her meal.

“What’s wrong?” Gu Mingchen was perplexed.

“The baby didn’t open its eyes at first, so I don’t know who it resembles, but it has fair skin, long eyelashes, small mouth, and double eyelids.” Bai Rong smiled at the mention of the child.

“How did it die?” Gu Mingchen stared at her.

“I don’t know. Some guys took him away right after I gave birth, and I don’t know who they were, nor did I manage to find anything. He has been gone for five years without any news. If he’s still alive, he would have been five years old now,” Bai Rong answered wistfully.

But Gu Mingchen saw hope. “So you aren’t sure if he’s dead or alive?” Bai Rong didn’t answer, and she kept munching on the meat. “Could your ex-husband be the culprit?” Gu Mingchen guessed.

“No. He didn’t know I didn’t take the abortion. He didn’t know that I had a baby. He only found out after the kidnap, and that’s because I asked for his help. The search had gone on for three years, but nothing came up.” Bai Rong was sure about it.

“Why’d you ask for his help? That baby isn’t his.” Gu Mingchen frowned.

“W-Well, I’ll marry you if you manage to find my baby,” Bai Rong joked, but she knew that was a slip of the tongue, and she took a deep breath. “Just joking.”

The light in Gu Mingchen’s eyes was dashed. “Let’s eat.”

And then his phone rang, but he hung up when he saw that it was Zhou Hailan calling him. His phone rang again, and it was still from Zhou Hailan.

“Take it. I’ll go with you later,” Bai Rong said calmly.

“She’s not in her best mental state.”

Bai Rong smiled. “I can stay here while you talk to her then.”

“That’s not what I meant.” Gu Mingchen looked at Bai Rong hesitantly.

“Are you worried that I might hurt her?” Bai Rong guessed.

“She’s mentally unstable and easily shocked. And she might get violent hurt you. Don’t go. At least not for now,” he explained.

She smiled. Ah, so he’s still worried I might hurt her. Well, I tried to help, and this is the thanks I get. “Go. It’ll be ugly if she were to hurt someone.” Bai Rong smiled.

“I’ll be back,” he promised.

Bai Rong went back to her food, though she saw him off from the corner of her eye. If she had to spend her married life where her husband would leave the table for another woman, or even leave her alone in bed for someone else, it'd be torture to stay together.

It's just three months. It'll be over before I know it. She knew that was the case, but still she was irked.

Bai Rong wanted to call Liu Yan, but her friend had work the next morning. She should be sleeping at the moment, so Bai Rong didn't want to wake her up.

Then, she hailed a ride from the military base to the nearest KTV and reserved a whole room for herself. She sang all the old breakup songs popular with the 90's kids.

"I heard that you're settled down. That you found a girl and you're married now. I heard that your dreams came true. Guess she gave you things, I didn't give to you. Old friend, why are you so shy? Ain't like you to hold back or hide from the light. I hate to turn up out of the blue, uninvited. But I couldn't stay away, I couldn't fight it..." Tears streamed down her face as she sang, and in the end, her voice cracked. Unable to go on, she stared down, clenching her fists, her shoulders trembling.

Then, someone opened the door, and Bai Rong looked up, alarmed. Su Xuyan came in. "I know you're lonely. Me too, so here I am."

Bai Rong broke down even further. All she wanted to do was cry her heart out. She didn't want to think anymore, fearing that she would be confused once again.

Su Xuyan sat beside her and wrapped his arm around her shoulder, but she pushed him away. "I might be wallowing in sadness and despair, but that doesn't mean I'm going to hook up with any random guy."

A tear fell from Su Xuyan's left eye, much to her shock. "I'm not trying to hook up with you. Just trying to give you the love I can give."

"Do you think that's what I need?" she roared.

"That's your issue. All I care about is whether I can give you my love or not. You can refuse me all you want, Bai Rong, just like how I did to you. Do you know why I didn't do you in our three years of marriage?"

Bai Rong looked away, her tears muddying her sight. Even though she tried to wipe her tears away the best she could, it wouldn't stop flowing.

"Because your father killed my father. I know my flames of vengeance would burn you one day, but I've liked you ever since I saw you, and that's why I didn't try to approach you. I was worried it might ruin my resolve to take my revenge. My plan was ruined in the end, because I can give everything up for you."

"Su Xuyan!" She raised her voice. "Do you think three years is enough to wipe everything off the slate? Do you think it's enough for me to forget what you did to me? You hurt me, slept with someone else, forced me into something I loathed and you were almost the death of me! I might be stupid, but I don't forget."

"I'm sorry, Bai Rong. That was just me venting my hatred on you. I won't do it again. I've received my due punishment. It hurts me to see you cry. My heart died when I saw you killing yourself. I love you so, so much," Su Xuyan gushed.

"Oh, so you love me, do you?" Bai Rong took out a knife from her backpack and tossed it to him. "Cut your dick off and I'll stay by your side forever. What I want isn't sex, but companionship. Genuine companionship. Can you do it?" she questioned him in a fit of impulse.

“Very well then. If you say so.” He picked the knife up and tried to slice himself, but Bai Rong closed her eyes and stopped him, the blade cutting into her forearm.

“Bai Rong,” Su Xuyan gasped, feeling guilty.

Bai Rong smiled, but tears were still streaming down her cheeks. “I’ve gone mad again, Su Xuyan, just like my mother.”

Su Xuyan gaped at her and her tears that flowed down her pale, pale face. “I’ll take you to the hospital,” he said sadly.

“I want to leave. I haven’t adjusted myself yet. I want to go back to the United States.” Bai Rong cried.

“Of course. You can go anywhere you want, and I’ll be right by your side, even if it’s the depths of hell.” Su Xuyan held down the wound on Bai Rong’s arm, crimson blood drenching his palm.

Bai Rong stood up groggily, then everything around her spun, and the world went black. Her phone rang, but she couldn’t hear it.