

Chapter 231

Bai Rong was speechless for a moment.

“I don’t know him that well. Let’s get back to the topic, shall we? His ex-girlfriend’s father is a geologist and knows Lu Xingzhou. Now, Xingzheng Construction is trying to get that piece of land from their company. I suspect the land is where Tangqian Village’s map indicated,” explained Bai Rong briefly.

“His ex-girlfriend? Does that means he’s single now?” uttered Gu Mingchen icily.

Bai Rong exhaled. “I think he has a girlfriend. I’m not that close to him. Besides, I’m married to a soldier. Why are you overthinking things?”

“I’m glad you know that. I’ll keep an eye on that piece of land. We can requisition it so no one will get it,” Gu Mingchen said without hesitation.

Bai Rong was delighted at his decisiveness. Chuckling, she added, “I’m going back to the military base now. Tomorrow, I’ll be going to Jadeborough. Lu Xingzhou’s hometown is there. I’m going to be his son’s tutor from Monday to Friday. We can only meet during weekends.”

“Mm, good. I don’t think it’s a good idea to leave you there for three months.”

Bai Rong was confused. Huh? He said it isn’t a good idea to leave me there alone for three months. So why is it good, then?

“Huh?” she grunted.

Gu Mingchen replied calmly, “I’ll come along with you.”

Bai Rong’s heart started pounding furiously.

She was indeed worried about going to Jadeborough for three months.

Gu Mingchen might be on the military base, but Zhou Hailan was in A City. She was also a smooth-talker and had access to the military base. Bai Rong was worried.

She wasn’t that magnanimous enough to leave her husband together with his first love.

After hearing Gu Mingchen’s words, her heart soared with joy.

“What about your work? Can you leave?” asked Bai Rong in concern.

“You said that piece of land has a treasure hidden in it, right? I will station my troops there to protect it. Spending three months there is normal for a business trip,” explained Gu Mingchen to ease her worry.

Bai Rong was touched. Should I tell him about Zhou Hailan’s request?

After pondering for a while, she decided not to. I should wait and see how things go.

“Okay, that’s all, then. We’ll talk once I’m back in the base.” Immediately after Bai Rong hung up, her phone rang.

Seeing that it was a call from Su Xuyan, she hesitated for a while before answering it.

“Where are you? Let’s meet up for lunch today,” said Su Xuyan jovially.

“Su Xuyan, I need to tell you something. Gu Mingchen and I are still legally married. As he’s a soldier, it’s terribly hard to get a divorce. If you really like me, please forget about me. I don’t want to add on to the existing troubles. Life is hard enough for me as it is.” Bai Rong went straight to the point.

After a brief silence, Su Xuyan chuckled. “What if I tell you I’ve found your child that you bore with Gu Mingchen?”

“Really?” Bai Rong was in disbelief.

Su Xuyan declared, “It’s easy to run a DNA test nowadays. I won’t lie to you. You can only choose between Gu Mingchen and your son. I’ll be waiting at our house. One hour later, if you don’t show up, I’ll disappear from your life. The same goes for your son.” He hung up right after saying that.

Bai Rong stared ahead blankly with her hand hanging mid-air.

Her mind was a mess as she came to a stop by the road.

I can head to Su Xuyan’s house at once, but I’m afraid he might resort to force.

If I ignore his order, I might miss the opportunity to see my son.

I can also ask Gu Mingchen to find out where our son is.

If Su Xuyan dares to hurt our son, we won't let him off easily.

But I dare not risk our son's life.

He told me to choose between Gu Mingchen and our son. Gu Mingchen is a soldier, so we can't get a divorce. There's still time.

Her thoughts were all jumbled up, so she decided to give Su Xuyan a call.

The moment the call went through, a cute voice spoke. "Hello. Mr. Su said you're my mommy?"

Bai Rong's heart sank. "Hello, darling. How old are you?"

"Five and a half years old. Mommy, don't you know how old I am? Aren't you supposed to be my mommy?" the little boy demanded.

Bai Rong felt terribly guilty. "Darling, can you hand the phone to Mr. Su?"

Su Xuyan took the call.

"Su Xuyan, show me a photo of my son. How can I be sure that he's my son?" Bai Rong demanded.

“I did a DNA test. Of course I’m sure,” said Su Xuyan confidently.

“Well, I think you’re lying. Where did you find my son?” Bai Rong tried to sound him out.

“If you want to know the details, you’ll have to come personally. Bai Rong, I won’t give you too much time. I know how capable Gu Mingchen is. One hour later, if you don’t show up, your son will be sent away. Think about it. If I find out that you’ve informed Gu Mingchen about this matter, you’ll never see your son again.”

“Don’t be too brash now. There must be other options, right?” Bai Rong asked anxiously.

“Nope. Choose between your son and Gu Mingchen. Ponder over it carefully,” said Su Xuyan. He then cut the line without hesitation.

Bai Rong whipped out her notebook and wrote down the pros and cons. As she was concerned, her mind was already in turmoil. Time ticked away, and her anxiety heightened. In the end, she punched on the steering wheel in annoyance.

She could no longer control her emotions. As she took out her pills and poured some into her palm, she came to a decision.

I might not give birth to a child anymore, so I will choose my son. Gu Mingchen is capable enough to find us. He will find us.

After swallowing the pills, she calmed down gradually. A sharp glint flashed across her eyes.

Then, she called Liu Yan.

“Yan, if you’re forced to choose between your son and your husband, who will you choose?” inquired Bai Rong.

Her goal was to leave a discreet hint to Gu Mingchen. That way, Su Xuyan wouldn’t know about it.

“You only have one son, but you can have plenty of husbands. I’ll choose my son, of course. Besides, I gave birth to him myself. That means he’s more precious than anyone in this world,” Liu Yan answered without hesitation. “What’s wrong?”

“Thank you. I know who to pick now.” Frowning, Bai Rong hung up.

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Just to be safe, she bought a pepper spray and a stun gun before arriving at Su Xuyan’s villa.

She arrived just as the one-hour time limit came to an end. The password was still Xing Jinnian’s birthday.

How ironic.

Bai Rong pushed the door open and walked in.

Immediately, she spotted Su Xuyan and a little boy seated on the sofa. They were watching a cartoon on the TV.

Bai Rong was shocked to see how much the little boy looked like her when she was little.

Su Xuyan curled his lips into an evil smirk. "Why are you standing there? The ingredients are in the kitchen. Hurry and prepare our meal. Tian and I haven't eaten yet."

Tian stared at her curiously before asking, "Mommy?"

Bai Rong was momentarily stunned. When she regained her composure, she hurried over to the little boy and knelt down silently. She was at a loss for words. All she could do was to study his face carefully.

Tian was studying her, too. His eyes reddened. Soon, tears spilled out of his eyes. "Mommy, why didn't you come and get me?" he asked sadly.

At the sight of his tears, her heart wrenched painfully. Tears escaped her instantly.

My son was taken away from me when he was one week old.

I wanted to protect him, but failed to do so.

Patting his head, she apologized. "I'm sorry. I couldn't find you."

Tian threw himself into her arms and hugged her tightly. "Mommy, now that you found me, you won't leave me alone again, right?"

"Of course not. I'll take good care of you," Bai Rong assured him.

The boy wailed pitifully. "Mommy, I suffered a lot in the past."

Hearing that, Bai Rong's heart ached for him.

I gave birth to him. He suffered because I failed to protect him.

"Alright. You can have a chat. I'll be in the kitchen." Su Xuyan headed for the kitchen as a dangerous gleam appeared in his eyes.

This is getting out of my control. I don't like this.

Looking back at Bai Rong, who was smiling gently, he thought, She used to be mine. We could've given birth to a few adorable kids and lead a perfect life.

Su Xuyan frowned gloomily. I wish we could return to the past when she still loves me.

If she gives me a chance, we can still make it, right?

Su Xuyan went into the kitchen.

“Tell me. How did Mr. Su find you?” asked Bai Rong gently.

Tian pursed his lips and started sobbing again.

Bai Rong wiped his tears away. “You must’ve suffered a lot in the past. Now that I’ve found you, I won’t let you suffer anymore.”

“My adopted parents adopted me when I was young. Three years later, they gave birth to a son and started abusing me. Later, they sold me to a human trafficker who tried to cut my stomach open to hide drugs in me. I escaped and have lived on the streets ever since. I’ve been to many places, but I’ve always starved and lived in fear. I was afraid they might catch me again,” revealed Tian sadly.

It was only then that Bai Rong realized Tian was really skinny. He wasn’t as plump as the other six-year-olds. Even though he was dressed in proper-looking clothes, it was probably Su Xuyan who had given him the change of clothes when he arrived earlier.

I can’t imagine how he survived in the winter...

“Where did you sleep?” asked Bai Rong, her heart throbbing dully.

"I'm smart. I slept in KFC. It's open twenty-four hours. In the winter, it's heated. In summer, it's air-conditioned. But they don't like me, so I have to keep going to different branches." He begs for money in the morning and sleeps in KFC at night.

Bai Rong couldn't stop her tears from rolling down her cheeks.

I thought my childhood was unbearable enough. After all, I spent a long time in the orphanage. But my mom picked me up after she left the hospital. Before she got sick, I had a great time with her. When I was in the orphanage, I didn't have to worry about surviving.

"I'm sorry. It's all my fault. I didn't protect you well. You'll be safe with me now," Bai Rong promised as she bawled sorrowfully.

"Lunch is ready!" shouted Su Xuyan all of a sudden.

Bai Rong looked at him in surprise. "I thought you said I have to cook?"

Su Xuyan flashed a smile and explained, "I was joking. The food had been delivered earlier. We've been waiting for you."

"You shouldn't let him starve." Bai Rong furrowed her brows and complained.

The grin on Su Xuyan's face widened. "I dare not starve your son. He had already eaten a piece of cake when we were waiting for you."

Bai Rong was relieved to hear that. She brought Tian to the dining table. When the boy saw the delicious spread on the table, his eyes widened in delight. "Thank you for the delicious food, Daddy Su. It will be nice if I get to eat delicious food every day."

The child's wish was indeed simple.

Yet, Bai Rong felt her heart ached at his simple wish.

Other children might not treasure what they had, but for this child, it was what he yearned for.

Su Xuyan smiled faintly and gave him a drumstick. "Then why don't you stay with me and your mommy?"

"Sure!" Tian was moved to tears.

Bai Rong gazed at her son and shed tears.

Seeing her reaction, Su Xuyan handed her the tissue box silently.

After whipping out a piece of tissue, Bai Rong wiped Tian's tears before wiping her own.

Su Xuyan took her hand. "Rong, I know this is what you want. A child, a husband, and a family. I can give you a perfect family. You saw how much I've changed, right? I've been waiting for you ever since. I won't make any more mistakes from now on. We'll be a happy family." He added, "If you're willing to give birth to my child, I won't neglect Tian. If you don't want another child, then I'll treat Tian as my own."

Bai Rong stared at the ground and forced herself to calm down. She didn't want the boy to see her losing control, so she stood up and headed to the bathroom.

Su Xuyan trailed behind her and wrapped his arms around her.

“You know how much I love you. I gave up everything just for you. I can do anything as long as you come back to my side,” implored Su Xuyan.

Bai Rong met his gaze. “That’s Gu Mingchen’s son. Can’t you just give us your blessing?”

At her words, Su Xuyan’s eyes reddened and misted up instantly. “Rong, I gave up on my career and revenge because of you. Why are you so heartless? If you and Gu Mingchen get your son back, what about me? Are you going to leave me alone? I can’t live without you!”

“But if Tian and I leave, Gu Mingchen will be alone, too.”

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Su Xuyan was mad, but it also upset him to see how Bai Rong stood on Gu Mingchen’s side. Releasing his grip on her, he said, “Bai Rong, you can’t always get everything you want. There’s no way you can get both Gu Mingchen and your son. If you choose Gu Mingchen, I won’t let you have your son. I’ll also tell him you’ve abandoned him for love.”

“Tian is still young. By saying that, you’ll traumatize him!” Bai Rong declared nervously. Her hatred for Su Xuyan increased because of his underhanded method.

“This is your choice. Love, or your child. You can only pick one.” Su Xuyan insisted and stared at Bai Rong.

Bai Rong met his gaze calmly as her mind raced.

Why can't I get both? Tian is my and Gu Mingchen's son. I'll inform Gu Mingchen. Now that I know what Tian looks like, Gu Mingchen will be able to locate him. Besides, we have AI face recognition now.

The confusion in Bai Rong's eyes faded away.

For now, I need to leave safely. I can't afford to anger him. "I need to think about it," she replied.

To her surprise, Su Xuyan chuckled. "Rong, I know you well. I can tell that you've already made up your mind. You told me you need to think about it, but you've already decided to choose Gu Mingchen. You trust that Gu Mingchen is capable enough to find your son. After all, you know how Tian looks like now."

Bai Rong creased her brows.

This man is frightening. He saw through my act.

She felt frustrated at herself for failing to hide her thoughts. “You told me to make a choice, right?”

“Yes, and since you’ve chosen Gu Mingchen, I’ll respect your decision. But, I’ll change the boy’s features through plastic surgery and change his DNA through bone marrow surgery. That way, you won’t be able to find him. He’ll blame you for your choice forever!” Su Xuyan declared icily and spun on his heels to leave.

Bai Rong grabbed his arm uneasily. “You can’t do that. He’s still so young! This is too cruel!”

Su Xuyan’s gaze was cold. “You think I’m cruel to him? You’re being cruel to me, too.”

Bai Rong grew increasingly upset. “What about you? Did you forget what you did to me three years ago? You tried to kill me time and again just to gain Xing Jinnian’s heart. Did you forget everything?”

“When did I ever tried to kill you? I told you that the kidnapper wouldn’t harm you. It was just a ruse to make Xing Jinnian trust me so I could take revenge successfully. I wasn’t planning to kill you!” Su Xuyan retorted angrily.

“What about all the times you harmed me? I gave you three years, but you kept sleeping around. Did you know how much I suffered back then? It was as if I lived in hell!”

“That was because I vented my hatred of Xing Bachuan on you. I didn’t realize then how much I loved you. When you were overseas, I remained celibate for three years. I love you so much that even if you want me to castrate myself, I’ll do so willingly! Sex doesn’t matter to me as long as you’re by my side!” Su Xuyan raised his voice.

Bai Rong's temper sparked as she gave Su Xuyan a forceful shove.

She broke down from being forced to choose between her husband and her son. Grabbing the handwash on the sink, she smashed it to the ground angrily. That wasn't enough to vent the anger coursing through her entire being, so she flung the tissue box and vase onto the ground in a fit of rage.

Striding into the bathroom, she smashed the body wash, shampoo, and shaving foam on the porcelain floor. Still feeling frustrated, she punched the wall next to her.

Panic flashed across Su Xuyan's gaze.

Bai Rong is acting the same way as her mother, Bai Bing.

Rushing forward, he flung his arms around her.

Bai Rong struggled to free herself to no avail. She turned at her shoulder and bit his arm desperately.

Su Xuyan let out a grunt. Blood immediately filled Bai Rong's mouth, but her teeth remained clamped on his arm.

Just then, the door was pushed open, revealing an innocent Tian. When he saw the both of them, he spoke softly, "Daddy Su, Mommy, are you fighting because of me? Daddy Su treats me well, and I like Mommy. If you're fighting because of me, I'll leave after lunch. Don't fight."

Bai Rong froze and whipped her head to look at him.

The little boy was gazing at them pitifully.

Bai Rong burst into tears. Her tears rolled down and splattered on Su Xuyan's hand.

She saw the blood trickling down Su Xuyan's arm, staining his pristine white shirt. The sight of the mess in the bathroom shocked her immensely. She stood rooted to the spot, momentarily dazed.

I had a manic episode again.

Whenever she was emotional, she would lose control of herself and her mind would go blank. After regaining consciousness, she would forget whatever she did earlier.

Seeing that Bai Rong had calmed down, Su Xuyan released his grip on her and went to Tian. Patting his head affectionately, he flashed the boy a comforting smile. "We didn't fight because of you, Tian. We're really happy to have you with us. Tian, be a good boy and finish your lunch. I need to talk to your mommy. We'll join you soon."

"Daddy Su, Mommy, can you stop fighting, then?" asked Tian.

"We're not fighting. You saw, right? I was holding her. I promise we won't ever argue, alright? I'll love her with all my heart. Just like how I love you. Will that do?" Su Xuyan cajoled him patiently.

Tian gazed at Bai Rong before running over to give her a hug.

He was so tiny that his height didn't even reach her waist.

Bai Rong lowered her gaze and stared at his head.

I can't let him wander out there and live on the streets alone. I can't.

Hot tears continued streaming down her face.

"Mommy, stop crying. I'll protect you when I grow up." Tian gazed at her fearfully. He was afraid she would abandon him.

The little boy's gaze was innocent and clear. Bai Rong caught the emotions swirling in his eyes. She knelt down and met his gaze. "Tian, go finish your lunch. I need to talk to your Daddy Su."

"Okay. I'll be a good boy and finish my lunch. I won't trouble you." Tian toddled out obediently and closed the door behind him.

Bai Rong's heart ached at the sight of how obedient he was. She looked up and saw Su Xuyan watching her, his gaze full of concern.

Chapter 234

"When did it start?" Su Xuyan asked worriedly.

Since he saw her manic episode, which was similar to her mother, she decided to come clean and told him honestly. “After I tried to kill myself and got saved.”

“You’re a psychologist. Didn’t you treat many patients previously?” Su Xuyan couldn’t understand.

Previously, when Bai Rong told him she was suffering from a mental illness, he refused to believe her and ignored her words. Hence, he was truly shocked to see her throwing a fit.

“I can’t treat myself. I tried hypnotizing myself a couple of times, but I’d fail every time. There are two types of medicine in my bag—sleeping pills and chlorpromazine.”

Afraid that he wouldn’t understand, she explained, “Chlorpromazine is effective to prevent mania episodes, but it has a serious side effect. It would take six hours for the drug to be expelled by the body. Hence, I can’t take it twice within six hours as it would cause blurred vision and depression.”

Her voice was laced with sorrow. “I can’t sleep well and suffer from severe insomnia. That’s what happens when one takes too many sleeping pills. I doubt I’ll be able to live to a ripe old age. And even if I do, I’ll suffer from Alzheimer’s. By then, I’ll be lost in my own thoughts and lose control over my bladder control. I won’t hear you when you talk to me. That’s worse than being in a coma,” she concluded calmly.

Su Xuyan’s heart ached for her.

Since young, Bai Rong had been a diligent and smart student. Even though she had to work in university to pay for her tuition fees, she had always come out top in her class.

He couldn't believe someone as smart as her would end up suffering from Alzheimer's in her old age.

After all, he saw with his own eyes what happened to Bai Bing.

"It can be treated, right?" Su Xuyan's brows were furrowed.

"I don't know. Perhaps in the future when the technology is more advanced. But that's too far ahead for me, so I won't think about that." Bai Rong sighed and gazed at him. "Su Xuyan, will you give me my child now?"

Rage bubbled up within Su Xuyan as he grabbed her shoulders. "Why are you so stubborn? Don't you remember who caused you to commit suicide and suffer from manic episodes?" He roared angrily. "It isn't me. It's Gu Mingchen! If you insist on staying with him, your illness will only get worse! Let me tell you. Zhou Hailan bore Gu Mingchen a child, too."

Bai Rong's eyes widened in surprise. "What? How is that possible? Zhou Hailan told me she got pregnant after her captors gang-raped her."

"Why do you think those people gave Gu Mingchen the aphrodisiac six years ago? He escaped and didn't have sex with Zhou Hailan, but he did have sex with you. After that, those people collected his semen and impregnated Zhou Hailan. They wanted to use his child to blackmail him," Su Xuyan revealed calmly.

Bai Rong's mind was blown. She staggered backward in shock. As Su Xuyan wasn't holding on to her tightly, she nearly collapsed and barely supported herself by holding on to the sink.

Zhou Hailan must've lied when she said she was gang-raped. She must've known that her child belongs to Gu Mingchen.

But Gu Mingchen knows nothing about it.

She asked me to locate the child so she can pretend to explain about her being gang-raped in front of Gu Mingchen so he'll feel guilty.

At that thought, her head started aching dully.

Gu Mingchen is a responsible man. If he knows Zhou Hailan gave birth to his child and was even raped because of him, he might change his mind.

I won't be able to accept that. I'll go crazy and sink into the depths of despair.

Suddenly, Bai Rong felt like she should stop struggling.

All she wanted was a peaceful life, a warm and welcoming home.

Somewhere to return to after a long day of work.

"I choose my son," she uttered softly and sighed.

Elated, Su Xuyan gave her a tight hug. "I'll take good care of you and Tian. I promise you won't ever get hurt again. It doesn't matter if you can't give birth anymore. Tian will be our son."

"Is Zhou Hailan a spy?" asked Bai Rong.

"I don't think so. I ran a background check on her. She had completed many missions successfully. If she's a spy, there's no way she would risk her life for the country. Why did you ask that?" Su Xuyan was puzzled.

Bai Rong's lips twitched. "I'm prejudiced. I don't think she's a good person. To me, Xia He seems to be a good person. Besides, Zhou Hailan lied that she was raped. She must've known Gu Mingchen didn't have sex with her."

"I believe they injected Gu Mingchen's sperm into her body after she was raped and lost consciousness," Su Xuyan explained.

"Why are you so clear about everything? It's like you've witnessed the whole incident personally." Bai Rong stated her doubts.

"I arrested a man who revealed everything to us, including the fact that Zhou Hailan gave birth to Gu Mingchen's child."

"But she was raped. How could they be sure the child was his?" Bai Rong still wasn't convinced.

"Because they used condoms, so of course they're certain that she could only be pregnant with Gu Mingchen's child. She fainted after that and didn't know what happened next."

“Then why didn’t they tell her she was pregnant with Gu Mingchen’s child?” Zhou Hailan yearned to give birth to Gu Mingchen’s child. Weren’t they afraid she might lose her baby on purpose? Bai Rong refused to believe Zhou Hailan was a good person.

“Because Zhou Hailan was afraid of being raped again. To her, being pregnant was the only way to ensure that she won’t get raped. She would do anything to protect her baby.”

He added, “That being said, if Zhou Hailan found out that the baby was Gu Mingchen’s, she’d know their purpose was to harm Gu Mingchen. Her love for Gu Mingchen was so deep that she could even ruin her looks and risk being burnt alive. So I doubt she would keep the baby if she knew their plan.”

Bai Rong met his gaze steadily. “After getting Gu Mingchen’s semen, why did those people impregnate Zhou Hailan instead of other women?”

“They were under the impression that Gu Mingchen would take care of his child if the mother was Zhou Hailan. If the mother was one of them, Gu Mingchen wouldn’t spare her life seeing how honorable he was.” Su Xuyan analyzed the situation for her.

Bai Rong’s eyes glinted as she creased her brows.

Su Xuyan’s explanation makes sense. Perhaps I was too prejudiced and misunderstood Zhou Hailan.

Since she’s not a spy, Gu Mingchen won’t be in danger.

“Su Xuyan, can you give me some time? Gu Mingchen and I are married. I need to divorce him before I can leave with you. But I’ll be with you for three years only. After

that, you can't force me to stay. Is that okay with you?" Bai Rong stated her final request.

"I won't interfere with your decision to stay or leave after three years. But I don't think it's easy to get a divorce. The easiest way is to fake your death." Su Xuyan had already come up with a plan.

Chapter 235

"I need to wrap things up. So give me three months," Bai Rong insisted.

She had given up halfway on many things—her love for Su Xuyan, her love for Gu Mingchen, and her work.

After faking her death, she would no longer return to A City. Hence, she had to wrap things up and leave no regrets behind.

"Okay. I'll give you three months' time. I'll send Tian away for now. Bai Rong, don't do anything that you'll regret or inform Gu Mingchen about this. Otherwise, there's no turning back," Su Xuyan reminded her.

Bai Rong inclined her head. "I'll go back for now. Tomorrow, I'll be going to Jadeborough."

“Let me give you a ride back to the military base.” Su Xuyan opened the door.

“No need. I can drive back myself.” Bai Rong was staring at Tian, who was seated in his chair obediently.

He was gazing at them hopefully, afraid they would abandon him.

Bai Rong went over to him and kissed his forehead. “I have to attend to some matters. Tian, wait for me. A few months later, we will live together happily ever after.”

Tian jumped down from his chair and flung his little arms around her. “I have a mommy. No one will bully me from now on. Even if we have to live under the bridge, I am happy with that!”

Bai Rong caressed his head affectionately. “I’m not that poor. We won’t be living under a bridge. You’ll go to school and marry a wife later. You’ll be a useful person to society!”

“Alright. I’ll be a good boy as long as you promise not to abandon me,” Tian declared in his boyish voice.

Bai Rong pecked his forehead once again before heading toward the door.

Su Xuyan had booked a car ride for her.

She entered the car and left the villa.

Throughout the whole journey, Bai Rong leaned back in her seat and pondered over Su Xuyan's words.

Three months later, Tian and I will lead a peaceful life. That might be the most blissful thing ever.

Her phone rang abruptly, interrupting her thoughts.

As the caller ID showed it was Gu Mingchen, she answered it.

"When will you be here?" Gu Mingchen inquired tenderly.

Bai Rong looked out the window and estimated the time needed. "A few hours. What's wrong?"

"My mom wants to meet you for dinner. I can reject her invitation if you don't feel like going."

"It's fine. We can meet her for dinner." Bai Rong agreed.

Previously, when she was with Gu Mingchen, she would always deliberate carefully before speaking or taking any actions. But now that she had decided to leave, nothing else mattered anymore. There's no need to make things difficult for Gu Mingchen.

“There’s no need for you to come here, then. We’ll meet at Jade Restaurant in Shuiyue International two hours later.”

“Sure.” Bai Rong hung up. She only had to bring some clothes, so there was enough time to pack up after dinner.

After arriving at Shuiyue International, she bought three outfits and some cosmetics. She also picked a tube of lipstick for Song Xiyu.

Then, she headed to Jade Restaurant.

Song Xiyu arrived at the same time, so they bumped into each other outside the restaurant.

Bai Rong gave her a polite nod.

“Come with me,” Song Xiyu ordered arrogantly and strode into the private room. She gave the menu to Bai Rong. “You can order anything you want.”

“I don’t mind. You can make the order.” Bai Rong returned the menu to her.

Song Xiyu sensed something was amiss. Bai Rong doesn’t seem as sharp and cold as she was this morning. In fact, she has softened down a lot.

Frowning, she ticked on a few dishes on the menu and handed it to the waiter.

The waiter left to prepare their order.

Song Xiyu stared at her sternly. "I've been mulling over your words."

"I'm sorry for my harsh words." Bai Rong took out the lipstick and placed it in front of Song Xiyu. "I bought it for you when I was shopping earlier. This color suits your complexion."

"I was rude to you," Song Xiyu reminded her coolly.

"When I got mad, I'd be reminded of how bad you treated me. But when I stood in your shoes, I realized you've done all you could. You've sacrificed a lot for your family, your husband, and your son," Bai Rong said with a gentle smile on her face.

Song Xiyu narrowed her gaze defensively. "Are you trying to flatter me?"

Bai Rong smiled faintly. "You invited me and Mingchen to dinner. You even showed up alone. I think you're going to give us your blessing or you have something to tell me. Flattering you right now will do nothing to change your mind."

"Well, well. You're indeed a psychologist who's good at reading minds and seducing men," snapped Song Xiyu.

"Actually, psychology won't help in seducing men. Everyone has their own thoughts. It only helps me to understand others better," Bai Rong tried to explain.

"If I have a choice, I won't allow you to be my daughter-in-law. But Mingchen loves you. You're right. I don't want him to forget how to love when he has everything he ever wanted."

A hint of sorrow crept into Song Xiyu's voice.

Bai Rong lowered her gaze silently.

Song Xiyu finally gave them her blessing, but she wasn't going to spend the rest of her life with Gu Mingchen anymore.

"No one knows what will happen in the future. You don't need to feel conflicted. Just follow your heart. Perhaps the more you do, the more mistakes you'll make. Well, let's just forget it." Bai Rong stopped as if hinting at a deeper meaning to her words.

"You're acting strangely. I've given you my blessings. So why are you patronizing me now?" Song Xiyu blurted out angrily.

"Let's just go along with the flow," Bai Rong replied lazily.

Just then, the door was pushed open. Gu Mingchen walked in and saw both women in the private room.

"Mom!" he greeted his mother before taking a seat beside Bai Rong. Taking her hand, he studied her carefully.

Bai Rong shot him a smile. "We arrived ten minutes ago. Dinner is on the way."

"Mm," Gu Mingchen grunted in reply.

Song Xiyu cut straight to the chase. "When are you going to have kids?"

“We’re preparing for it. What’s wrong?” Gu Mingchen was confused.

“It’s better for you to have a baby as soon as possible since I’m still strong enough to help take care of your baby. As for your wedding, let’s hold it sometime later.” Song Xiyu had given them their consent.

Gu Mingchen finally understood why Song Xiyu invited them to dinner. “Thank you, Mom.”

“I hope you’ll live happily ever after,” said Song Xiyu coolly, her gaze fixated on Bai Rong.

Bai Rong merely stared at the ground wordlessly.

Seeing her reaction, Gu Mingchen’s grip on her hand tightened.

When Bai Rong met his gaze, he flashed a smile.

Gu Mingchen rarely smiled. But he was exceptionally handsome whenever he smiled. Alas, his smile was poison to her. At the thought of being separated from him, a bitter feeling spread in her heart.

After I leave, he’ll probably end up with Zhou Hailan.

Turns out he’s fated to be with Zhou Hailan instead of me.

Seeing that it was still early after dinner, Gu Mingchen put her shopping bags in the car before they strolled around Shuiyue International like a normal couple.

“You seem upset. What’s wrong?” Gu Mingchen asked in concern

Chapter 236

Bai Rong came back to her senses and glanced at Gu Mingchen.

She was wondering why they couldn’t end up together after going through so many hardships. Was it because I didn’t fulfill the promise I made to Tang Xiaojiu?

After I leave, will Gu Mingchen end up with Zhou Hailan and forget about me?

Where will Tian and I go after we change our identities?

Her mind was abuzz with thoughts.

“I was thinking about Tangqian Village and got lost in my thoughts,” Bai Rong answered with a grin.

Gu Mingchen chuckled, his gaze full of adoration. "I didn't expect my mom would agree so quickly."

"Your mom loves you dearly. Three years ago, when your dad kidnapped me, she tried to stop it from happening. If it weren't for her, I'd be dead by now. She's not a wicked woman. It's just that she thinks you deserve better." Bai Rong seemed to have forgiven her.

"Time reveals a person's heart. One day, they will realize your kindness and that you're the perfect match for me."

Bai Rong said nothing and hooked her arm around his.

If we have three months left, I'll treasure every minute I spend with Gu Mingchen. That way, I won't have regrets.

"Mingchen, I have a question for you. If you're locked in a room for a few years and will be leaving soon, what will you pick if you're allowed to bring one thing with you? Your choices are a teacup, your pet dog, diary, or a radio. What is your answer?" Bai Rong posed a question casually.

Gu Mingchen sensed something was wrong. "What do the choices signify? You can be direct with me. I'll tell you anything you want to know except for classified military information, of course."

"I was just asking," replied Bai Rong with a shrug.

Gu Mingchen pressed on insistently. "We've known each other for six years. You should know me well. There's no need to sound me out. Come on. What happened? You seem preoccupied."

"Mingchen, that was just a hypothetical question. If you had to pick between your child and me one day, who will you pick?" Bai Rong inquired.

Without hesitation, Gu Mingchen answered, "You."

Bai Rong urged, "What if your child will die without you?"

"I'll still choose you," Gu Mingchen repeated without even batting an eyelid.

"Why?" Bai Rong couldn't understand him at all.

Gu Mingchen replied, "We can have more than one kid, but there's only one Bai Rong in this world. Since I love you so much, that's an easy choice for me." He gazed at her earnestly and asked, "What about you, Rong?"

Bai Rong fell silent as a mixture of feelings overwhelmed her entire being. Afraid that Gu Mingchen would see through her, she lowered her gaze. "I don't know. Our child was taken away because of my negligence. He's been through a lot. How can I not pick him?"

"There's no need to worry about that. The child's mine, too. Why would I abandon him? Silly, stop worrying." Gu Mingchen flicked her forehead in a teasing manner.

Bai Rong's lips curled up helplessly. I've made up my mind, so there's no need to feel conflicted.

There was a cinema ahead, so she suggested. "Let's watch a movie together. I don't think we've ever done that."

"Sure." Gu Mingchen nodded affectionately. "What do you want to watch?"

"I don't like romance movies. What about a sci-fi movie?" Bai Rong glanced at the screen and answered.

"Alright." Gu Mingchen paid for the tickets. He proceeded to buy some popcorn and drinks before they entered the cinema.

It was a movie about a spaceship that broke down and went through the black hole before landing on an unknown planet.

The aliens inhabiting the planet then invaded the human's bodies. It was overall a sci-fi thriller film.

Normally, Bai Rong wouldn't watch something like this. However, it felt different when she was watching it with Gu Mingchen.

Like an ordinary couple in love, they shared the popcorn and enjoyed their time together in the dark.

She glanced at the man who was focused on the screen. From her angle, she could see his stunning side profile illuminated by the lights from the screen.

Sensing her gaze, Gu Mingchen turned to her. "What's wrong? Do you want your drink?"

Bai Rong gave a lopsided grin. "I just think that you're more interesting than the movie."

Gu Mingchen smirked and pulled her nearer to him.

Taking in the fresh laundry scent of his clothes, Bai Rong relaxed.

I've made up my mind. For the next three months, I'll try my best to find out the murderer from Tangqian Village as per my promise to Tang Xiaojiu.

After faking my death, I won't marry or fall in love with anyone again.

Three years later, when Su Xuyan allows me to leave, I'll focus on bringing up Mingchen's son. Love isn't about possessing someone.

I need to let go so Mingchen can lead a better life.

I have no more regrets.

After the movie, Bai Rong had sorted out her thoughts.

They were the last ones to exit the cinema.

“I’m feeling a little hungry. Shall we go for supper?” Bai Rong suggested.

Gu Mingchen agreed. “Sure. What time are you leaving tomorrow?”

“Since I’m not going to work tomorrow, I’ll just go after I wake up.”

“I’ll be at Jadeborough the day after tomorrow. After checking in at your hotel, tell me which one it is. I’ll book the surrounding rooms.” Gu Mingchen was already making plans.

“Sounds great.” Bai Rong grinned. Spotting a barbecue shop nearby, she asked, “What should we have for supper? Seafood? Barbeque? Or street food?”

“Barbecue.” Gu Mingchen led her across the street.

The store was quite crowded. After ordering their food, they took a seat inside the store.

Bai Rong took two bottles of beers and two cups.

Gu Mingchen took the bottles and opened them. He filled Bai Rong’s cup.

Meanwhile, Bai Rong was gazing at him adoringly.

The man was indifferent and rarely talked, but he was perfect in her eyes. She felt safe with him.

Sensing her gaze, Gu Mingchen cleared his throat. "If you continue looking at me that way, I'm taking you to the hotel immediately."

Bai Rong burst out laughing.

He might be a man of few words, but he can be funny.

Bai Rong changed the topic and questioned, "There are five people involved in the village genocide. Besides Governor Cheng, Lu Xingzhou, and Lu Liangcheng, who else do you think is involved?"

"Based on my investigation, Lu Xingzhou has kept a low profile. He doesn't even contact Lu Liangcheng that often." Gu Mingchen seemed torn. "Well, there is someone suspicious. Your father, Xing Bachuan. Recently, they met up and chatted for a long time. It seems like they had known each other for some time."

"Oh?" Bai Rong's lips curled up. "It seems plausible. He's someone that left his wife alone and fed her antidepressants, after all. He's crazy enough to do that."

Gu Mingchen noticed the sorrow she hid under her disguise. Holding her hand, he promised, "No matter what happened, I won't leave you alone."

Chapter 237

Bai Rong's heart trembled in her chest.

So does that mean he'd still choose me even if Zhou Hailan came looking for him with their child?

But it makes no difference now since I'm the one who's giving up this time.

Even if we're not together anymore, he'll still be the man I love most; the man I'll love forever.

"Gu Mingchen, why do you even like me? Didn't you say that I'm not your type?" Bai Rong queried with a smile.

"You kept pushing me away before, so I said that on purpose. To be honest, you fit my preferences perfectly," Gu Mingchen replied in a deep voice. As he wasn't good at sweet-talking, his cheeks were slightly flushed with embarrassment.

"Well, I'm a rather mean person, and I don't like sugar-coating my words or flattering people either." Bai Rong humbled herself.

"People who sugar-coat words often have ulterior motives. Even if that's not it, using flattery on everyone is just desperate. I always keep my guard up against those kinds of people. I think what you said makes sense. Plus, I've seen some really mean people, and you're not it," Gu Mingchen explained.

Bai Rong giggled. "I also have a bad temper."

"The only even-tempered people are those who work in customer service. I have a bad temper too. Naturally, I don't expect others to be any better."

"I don't have a nice figure either."

Gu Mingchen took a sip of his drink. "That's right... you're too skinny."

Bai Rong was speechless.

Isn't he being a little too candid?

But I like his candor because it shows that I can believe whatever he says. It makes me feel all warm and fuzzy inside.

"Then, I'll make sure to eat more. Otherwise, you might get bored of me soon," Bai Rong joked.

"Those aren't the things I look for in a woman. Physical appearances can change, no matter if you're thin, fat, ugly, or pretty. What I value is chemistry, and I think the two of us have that," Gu Mingchen said, gazing at her with bright eyes.

His words were practically music to her ears.

Suddenly, a wave of sadness washed over her.

If only Gu Mingchen found our child first.

I wouldn't be torn between two choices, and he'd undoubtedly love our child. We'd be such a happy family.

In the worst-case scenario, I'd accept Zhou Hailan's child. After all, Gu Mingchen didn't betray her. He just really didn't know about it.

Bai Rong was filled with so much bitter depression, but she couldn't voice it out. Hence, she decided to drink away her sorrows, downing her drink.

"Hey, take it slow. Drinking like that isn't good for your body, and you'll get drunk easily too." Gu Mingchen expressed his concern.

"I just feel so lucky that the person I love is also my soulmate. Gu Mingchen, you're an extraordinary man, and I'm grateful that you can find it in you to love someone so flawed like me." Bai Rong filled her glass to the brim again and raised it toward him.

Gu Mingchen clinked glasses with her. "When I couldn't find you, I tried so hard to retrieve my lost memories. When I finally found you, I realized that I have no regrets even though those memories are gone. After all, what's important is that you're by my side."

Bai Rong's chest tightened even more.

If I die in the next three months, Gu Mingchen will hurt as much as he loves me.

And after he finds out the truth, that love will probably turn into hate, right?

Bai Rong wanted to chug down her drink again, but Gu Mingchen snatched the glass from her hand. "We still have our lifetime to drink together, so don't drink like that. Take slow sips, hmm?"

She smiled at his doting gesture.

Previously, she had read a story. It was about a married woman who felt like she was living in purgatory because of her reserved husband. Hence, she went outside looking for passion and met a young and handsome man. At the same time, she reunited with her first love at a gathering, who had now become a big boss with a successful career.

These three men said that they loved her.

At that, she invited both her first love and the young man to her house for a meal.

It was a moment of truth because she wanted to divorce and make her final decision.

Halfway through the meal, she was scalded by hot water, and blisters formed on her hand.

The young man was in a daze, while her first love simply asked if she was alright.

On the other hand, her husband immediately went to the refrigerator to get ice cubes, wrapping them in a towel before holding them against her hand to relieve the pain.

In an instant, she understood which man loved her the most.

Since then, she returned to being a dutiful wife, becoming more patient, tolerant, and understanding toward her husband.

Gu Mingchen was just like that man. He was reserved, cold, rigid, and unexpressive. However, his every action showed his love and care.

“Gu Mingchen, I waited three years for you. Would it be too much if I asked you to do the same for me?” asked Bai Rong.

Gu Mingchen’s eyes narrowed a fraction as he looked at her in puzzlement, “What’s that’s supposed to mean? Wait three years for you? What are you planning to do?”

Bai Rong folded her elbows on the table. “I was just asking.”

“No way. I go wherever you go. You’re my legal wife, and we’re having the wedding after we return from Jadeborough three months later, so don’t have any stupid ideas.” Gu Mingchen sounded upset and polished off his drink.

Hearing that, Bai Rong started to worry. What if I die?

Is he going to follow me to his death as well?

The waiter served the barbeque meat they ordered.

Gu Mingchen blew on a chicken wing to cool it down before handing it to her. “Be careful. It’s hot.”

Bai Rong took a bite in a daze. "You should eat too."

Her phone rang just then. Seeing that it was Su Xuyan, irritation flared within her, and she declined the call.

Hence, Gu Mingchen took the phone from her. Seeing Su Xuyan's name on the screen, he immediately blocked his number.

"I don't think there's any reason the two of you should remain in contact," he said domineeringly.

Upon that, warmth surged in Bai Rong's chest, and she agreed, "You're right."

"Eat up. I'll send you home after we're done. It's getting late already."

Bai Rong then kept her phone in her bag and looked outside with a frown.

Su Xuyan can't be spying on me, right?

"What are you looking at?" Gu Mingchen asked suspiciously.

"I feel like having the eggplant dish. It looks really good." Bai Rong made up an excuse.

"Alright then. I'll order it for you." Gu Mingchen stood up and went to place the order.

After he left, Bai Rong took out her phone and sent a message to Su Xuyan: Gu Mingchen is here. We're having supper outside now, so I'll contact you tomorrow.

A few moments later, she deleted the message, with her heart pounding against her chest.

A sense of guilt rose in her as she felt like she had done something bad. However, she was more worried that Gu Mingchen's actions would irk Su Xuyan.

After eating, they stepped out of the restaurant only to come face to face with Su Xuyan.

He was leaning against his car with a wicked smile playing on his lips. His gaze was sullen as he stared meaningfully at Bai Rong. "Rong, you left my place in such a haste last time. Did you forget something?"

Bai Rong's heart skipped a beat. Her brows furrowed as she eyed Su Xuyan with doubt.

What is he up to now?

Gu Mingchen glanced at Bai Rong in surprise. There was a trace of displeasure in his eyes, but he quickly concealed it and asked in a grave tone, "When were you at his place?"

Bai Rong's eyes glinted sharply as she shot Su Xuyan a withering stare. "I don't understand what you're getting at, Su Xuyan."

Su Xuyan smirked and said, "I was just joking. Don't take it seriously. Anyway, I'm meeting some friends nearby. Gotta go."

After that, he got into his car and sped off.

Bai Rong finally understood that he had come here to remind her that he was always around.

"I don't like him. Just walk away when you see him next time," Gu Mingchen ordered.

"I don't like him either," Bai Rong answered firmly.

Both of them went back after that.

Gu Mingchen drove while Bai Rong leaned against her seat, looking out the window to watch the night view zooming past.

“You can take a nap if you’re tired. I’ll wake you up once we’re at the military base,” Gu Mingchen suggested.

“Mm.” Bai Rong closed her eyes, but sleep remained out of reach due to the worries plaguing her mind. Hence, she opened her eyes again. “I was thinking, the five people involved in the massacre knew each other. As long as we get to one of them, we’d be able to lure the remaining three out. Should we set hide some treasures as traps?”

“This idea crossed my mind too, but there’s no rush. Once I get that piece of land, we’ll have plenty of time to plot our next course of action,” Gu Mingchen reassured.

At that moment, Bai Rong felt deeply connected to Gu Mingchen. True soulmates had compatible personalities and a similar way of thinking. Not to mention, they would be open to each other’s opinions and always compromise with each other.

She had the sudden impulse to tell Gu Mingchen about Tian.

“Gu Mingchen, is there a monitoring device in your car?” Bai Rong asked tentatively.

“All vehicles are inspected upon entering the military base. Hence, a monitoring device may have been installed after we left the car. What’s wrong?” Gu Mingchen cocked a brow.

“Nothing. I was just asking.” Bai Rong stopped talking and leaned back to look out the windows again.

She wanted to fight for herself one more time.

If I tell Gu Mingchen about Tian and he manages to rescue him, I'll be able to reunite with Tian. Not to mention, I wouldn't need to leave Gu Mingchen at all.

We'd be able to live happily ever after.

But if we lose...

Bai Rong's heart lurched as the image of Tian's pitiful state flashed across her mind.

If we lose, Gu Mingchen will still find a way, right?

After they entered the military base, Gu Mingchen stopped the car in the garage. Almost immediately, Bai Rong saw someone approaching them to check for hidden surveillance devices.

As soon as they entered the house, a security officer came over to report, "Chief, a listening device was found under your car seat."

Gu Mingchen glanced at Bai Rong instantly.

Meanwhile, Bai Rong exchanged looks with Gu Mingchen before asking, "Take care of that first. What about my apartment? Is there anything unusual?"

"Everything at your apartment appears to be normal," reported the security officer.

Gu Mingchen held Bai Rong's hand and led her back to the room. "Tell me. What have you been hiding from me today?"

“I went to Su Xuyan’s place this afternoon,” Bai Rong confessed.

“And?”

“He found Tian, our son. And our son is in his hands now,” Bai Rong revealed, feeling an odd bitter sorrow and guilt in her heart.

“What did he tell you to do?” Gu Mingchen’s brows knitted into a frown. With seconds, his gaze sharpened, and he exuded a murderous aura.

“To choose between you and Tian,” Bai Rong answered.

Gu Mingchen finally understood why she was acting so strange the whole day. “You did the right thing.”

With that, Gu Mingchen strode toward the door.

Bai Rong grabbed his arm with worry gnawing at her chest. “Su Xuyan said that if I told you, he’d take Tian to a place I’d never be able to find. Gu Mingchen, I think Su Xuyan has some influence in your army, so don’t act rashly. If we can’t find Tian, I’ll never be able to forgive myself.”

Gu Mingchen turned around and looked at her intently. “How long did he give you?”

“Three months. After that, he’ll fake my death.”

Gu Mingchen sneered, filling nothing but disgust for Su Xuyan. “How clever of him. Going as far as faking your death. Don’t worry. I’ll make the arrangements and save our son.”

Despite that, Bai Rong felt no relief. She knew that she was making a dangerous gamble. If she won, it would be a happy ending; if she lost, she was afraid she wouldn’t be able to take it.

Sensing Bai Rong’s worry, Gu Mingchen stepped forward and placed a feather-light kiss on her forehead. “Just act like you didn’t tell me anything and do whatever you want. You might arouse Su Xuyan’s suspicion if you keep behaving this way.”

Bai Rong nodded.

She knew that Gu Mingchen was right, but remaining calm was easier said than done.

“In that case, I’ll go pack my things first,” Bai Rong stated before turning around to head to the room.

After a while, Gu Mingchen came in.

“Have you taken care of it?” Bai Rong asked worriedly.

“I have a team of Shadow Samurais. They’re experts at covering up their tracks and remaining hidden. I’ve already given them the orders.”

“What if there are Su Xuyan’s people among the Shadow Samurais? What are we going to do then?” Besides Gu Mingchen, Bai Rong trusted no one.

“I gave the orders to the team leader, and he’s trustworthy. This is a secret mission, so it won’t get out. Don’t worry. I’ll let you know when there’s any news. Besides, It’s our son who’s at stake here. I swear I’ll save him.” Gu Mingchen made a vow.

At that, Bai Rong felt slightly more relieved now.

Even so, she tossed and turned in bed, unable to fall asleep.

Gu Mingchen gently wrapped his arm around her waist and pulled her into his arms. “Rong, get some sleep. Only when you’re well-rested will you have the energy to fight. You won’t be any help if you don’t sleep now.”

With that, Gu Mingchen coaxed her in a low and raspy voice.

She knew that he was right, but no matter how much she told herself to sleep, her body just wouldn’t listen.

“I need to use the bathroom.” Bai Rong got up and grabbed her bag before heading to the bathroom. Then, she poured out a pill and popped it into her mouth.

When she looked into the mirror, she found Gu Mingchen standing just a distance away.

He was looking at her with concern lining his features.

Trying to ease his worries, Bai Rong cracked a small smile at him. “Sleeping pills.”

“You might develop a dependency if you take them for a long period of time.”

“I know. I’ll try my best to control my intake from now on, but not today. My mind is all over the place, and I can’t sleep.” Bai Rong brushed past Gu Mingchen to lie down on the bed again.

Then, Gu Mingchen lay down and hugged her from behind. “How long have you been taking sleeping pills?”

“More than three years.” Bai Rong did not want to lie to him. Soon, her head felt heavy, and she closed her eyes.

A crease formed between Gu Mingchen’s brows, and his eyes darkened. Kissing her forehead, he said, “Don’t take them anymore. If you can’t sleep, I’ll stay awake and keep you company. You’ll slowly get better.”

However, what he received in return was the sound of her soft breathing.

Unable to tell if she was asleep or passed out, Gu Mingchen felt a pang in his heart.

Quickly, he rummaged through her bag and poured out one pill from all the bottles he could find into a sealed bag.

When Bai Rong woke up, it was already ten in the morning, and Gu Mingchen wasn't beside her.

She rolled out of bed and went through her morning routine before heading out.

Oddly, Gu Mingchen wasn't in the living room either.

However, she wanted to bid him goodbye, so she gave him a call.

"When are you leaving?" Gu Mingchen asked before she could speak.

"In the afternoon. It's already ten now, so I'll leave after eating. Are you coming back for lunch? If you are, I'll cook something for you," Bai Rong said in a gentle voice.

"Okay. I'll be there in an hour." Gu Mingchen ended the call and read the test report in his hand.

There were two types of medicine in Bai Rong's bag. One was sleeping pills, while the other one was chlorpromazine.

Chlorpromazine was the key component in tranquilizers, and it was mainly to treat patients with mental problems such as mania.

Why would Bai Rong carry around such a drug?

He recalled that she seemed to have said something about being hurt as well back then when they quarreled with each other.

At that time, he thought she was referring to her chest injury. Right then, it seemed like she was talking about some kind of mental illness.

What did I do before that hurt her this deeply?

Upon reaching the apartment, a pleasant aroma filled his nose.

He went to the kitchen and saw Bai Rong busy cooking with an apron tied around her waist.

He then walked over and hugged her thin frame.

Bai Rong looked at him with a soft smile. "You're back. I'm almost done here. Go and have a seat. I'll serve the food in a bit."

"Rong," Gu Mingchen called out in a rich voice. His eyes gleamed as he studied her shimmering eyes and pearly white teeth, "I'll never let you down again from now on."

Bai Rong's heart swelled with emotion. "I know. You're a man of your word. Now go sit at the table and try some food."

“Let me bring it to the table. It’s hot,” Gu Mingchen offered in a doting tone, releasing Bai Rong’s waist.

Bai Rong watched him serve the dishes with red-rimmed eyes that were tearing up slightly.

The current Gu Mingchen might have lost his memories, but she could finally see the man she loved shining in him.

Gu Mingchen put down the dishes and went back to the kitchen. Seeing tears in her eyes, he worriedly held her hands and asked, “What’s wrong? Were you scalded? I told you to leave it to me.”

He turned on the faucet and moved her hands under the running water.

Bai Rong’s urge to cry intensified. “I didn’t scald myself. I just remembered that you used to be like this too.”

Gu Mingchen turned off the water and wiped her hands with a small towel. “Maybe you awakened the humanity in me. During the three years you went to the United States, even I admit that I was a cold-blooded man.”

“We promised Tang Xiaojie that we’d help him find the murderer and bring him to justice. If we fail, we won’t be able to be together, so we have to find the murderer,” Bai Rong said while brushing her tears away.

“Alright. We’ll find the murderer,” Gu Mingchen promised.

Bai Rong wrapped her arms around him and buried her face into his chest, soaking in his warmth and listening to his strong heartbeat.

It took her a total of six years before she could finally be with him. From now on, they would never want to separate from each other again.

Gu Mingchen placed his arms on her waist as sadness flashed across his eyes. "Rong, did I hurt you very deeply last time?"

"It was just my own thoughts getting the best of me. All is well now that you're back," Bai Rong answered while being cocooned in his arms.

"Mm." Gu Mingchen did not continue probing. "The dishes smell so good, I was practically drooling while putting them on the table."

"Oh, right. I made your favorite braised pork. Try it." Bai Rong took the lid of the steamer.

"Allow me." Gu Mingchen used a towel to take out the plate of braised pork.

She had also made spicy tofu, Kung Pao chicken, and pork ribs soup.

As Gu Mingchen took a mouthful of the braised pork, Bai Rong watched him intently, trying to read his expression.

Gu Mingchen nodded. "It's really good. It tastes even better than the one I had nearby your college earlier. I must have loved your cooking last time."

Bai Rong broke into a smile. "Since you like it, I'll cook for you more often."

"And also for our son," Gu Mingchen added before taking a few mouthfuls of rice.

At the mention of their son, Bai Rong's heart froze. "How's the investigation going on your end?"

"Our son's probably not at Su Xuyan's place, but my men are shadowing him twenty-four-seven. The moment he goes to see Tian, they'll immediately carry out a rescue mission. All you need to do now is stay under the radar," Gu Mingchen explained.

Bai Rong nodded in understanding and joined him in eating.

Right then, her phone rang with an incoming call from Zhou Hailan, to which she answered right in front of Gu Mingchen.

"Hello, Bai Rong. This is Zhou Hailan. May I know if you've found my child?" Zhou Hailan asked gently.

Bai Rong pondered for a moment before replying, "I'm sorry, but for the time being, I'm not in the mood nor do I have the time for this. I'm outstation and will only be back in about three months."

"You need three months?"

"Yes, I need three months. Sorry," Bai Rong affirmed monotonously.

“It’s fine. I understand that you’re in a tough spot as well.” Zhou Hailan ended the call after that.

Her tone was amiable, and Bai Rong couldn’t help but pity her. She then glanced at Gu Mingchen and stated, “That was Zhou Hailan.”

“You don’t have to worry about her. I’ve found a place for her to recuperate. When we return after three months, you can treat her there. We have our own priorities, and she understands that. Besides, her matter can’t be rushed either,” Gu Mingchen explained.

“I received a piece of information from Su Xuyan.”

“Forget about whatever he told you. He speaks half-truths and is nothing but trouble. I don’t trust him,” Gu Mingchen interjected.

Bai Rong bowed her head and ate two mouthfuls of food but still felt that she had to let him know. “Su Xuyan said that Zhou Hailan gave birth to a child and that it’s yours.”

“Impossible. I’ve never touched Zhou Hailan,” Gu Mingchen refuted with certainty.

“Six years ago, you forced yourself onto me after being drugged by an enemy. I passed out after that, so I don’t know what happened. Su Xuyan said they collected your sperm and got Zhou Hailan to conceive your child. Once the child was born, they were going to use him to threaten you. All you have to do is perform a paternity test to determine whether the child is yours,” Bai Rong said while observing Gu Mingchen’s expression.

Gu Mingchen clasped his hand over hers and gently said, “No matter who the child belongs to, you’re the only one in my heart, and I will never let you down.”

This was the second time he had said this to her.

Bai Rong squeezed his hand in response. "I'm your wife, but that's also your child. Even though he came into this world a little bit under different circumstances, if you decide to keep him by your side, I'll treat him as my own and love him wholeheartedly."

"Rong," Gu Mingchen uttered.

He remembered her saying that she was a very jealous person.

Bai Rong smiled faintly. "You're willing to put up with all of my flaws, so I should also do the same for you. Nothing can tear us apart anyway. We may very well run into many hurdles down the road, but we'll walk through it all, hand in hand."

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What she said warmed his heart considerably. We may very well run into many hurdles down the road, but we'll walk through it all, hand in hand.

After all, marriage was only the beginning of a new life, not the end.

After eating, Gu Mingchen drove her to the train station. He greeted the ticket master and bought her a first-class seat in the earliest train to Jadeborough.

Before walking to the platform, Bai Rong found herself reluctant to leave and turned around to look at him.

The corners of Gu Mingchen's lips turned up slightly. Even though he wasn't in the military base, he remained poised and calm as he looked at Bai Rong, giving her a sense of security.

No matter how reluctant she was to part with him, she had to.

Bai Rong made her way to the platform. Just a while after boarding the train, her phone pinged with a message.

She tapped it open and saw that it was a message from Gu Mingchen: I've booked the presidential suite room 2106 in Jadeborough Hotel for you. I'll be staying in room 2108 tomorrow, which is right next to yours. I've booked the entire 21st floor and surveillance will be reorganized today. If you can't sleep tonight, I'll be here. Don't take sleeping pills.

As Bai Rong read his message, her eyes stung with tears.

Even though it was only a message, she could imagine him saying those words to her in his steady and gentle voice.

He had always been a man of action.

Bai Rong texted back: Okay, I won't take any sleeping pills. Be careful on your way back. Contact me once you're free.

When the train jerked into motion, she turned to peer out the window.

A trace of warmth made its way into her frozen heart, and she was no longer as sorrowful as before. Slowly but surely, she found joy and meaning in life.

She made an overseas call to her senior, and it was answered after a few rings.

"Hey, this is Bai Rong. There's something I need your opinion on. You see, a friend of mine suffered a head injury and lost his memories due to an explosion three years ago. Can his condition be treated with hypnosis?" Bai Rong asked earnestly.

"There are a few possible causes for memory loss. Psychological trauma, brain damage, and nerve compression.

"If it's psychological trauma, it means the patient himself is choosing to forget and this can be treated with hypnosis.

"If it's brain damage, then you should seek help from neurologists.

"If it's nerve compression, it depends on what's compressing the nerve. It could be a tumor, a blood clot, or residuals from the earlier incident.

"Hence, I suggest visiting a neurologist to determine the problem first."

“Alright, I understand. Thank you. I’ll hang up now,” Bai Rong said politely.

“Good luck. Oh, and by the way, I have a seminar in A City next month. You should come,” her senior invited.

“Next month? Sure. Don’t leave right after the seminar. Free up some time for me because I need your help,” Bai Rong implored.

“Hehe, you’ve far exceeded me now. What do you need my help for?”

“Very funny. How can I ever compare to you? Alright, alright. I gotta go now. Call me before you come here next month, and I’ll free up my schedule to attend the seminar. See you soon.” Due to the weak phone signal, Bai Rong swiftly said all the important points.

“Alright. See you soon.”

She ended the call and leaned back in her reclined seat.

Previously, when she thought that Gu Mingchen liked Zhou Hailan, she did not care whether or not he remembered her. Perhaps she was even afraid that he would because that would make her feel more ashamed, and her dignity wouldn’t be able to handle it.

Now that she knew she was the one Gu Mingchen liked, she wanted him to remember the beautiful and intimate moments they had in the past so that their days to come would get better day by day.

Bai Rong's mouth curved into a faint smile, and she closed her eyes.

After approximately three hours on the train, her phone rang at half-past five in the evening.

Seeing that it was Cheng Jinrong calling, she picked it up and answered. "Yes?"

"Have you arrived in Jadeborough?" Cheng Jinrong asked enthusiastically.

"Not yet. I'm still on the train."

"What time will you be arriving? I'll pick you up from the train station and book a hotel room for you," Cheng Jinrong offered with a grin.

"It's okay. I've already booked a room online, but thanks anyway."

"Fine. I won't insist if that's the case. But this is your first time in Jadeborough, so it's only proper that I buy you dinner. After all, you're coming here because of me."

Bai Rong smiled. "Good point. This huge business opportunity was introduced by you, so I'm the one who should be buying you dinner. I'll be reaching Jadeborough in about an hour. Come pick me up. You can choose the restaurant, but dinner's on me tonight."

"Let's talk later then." There's no way I'll allow a woman to pay the bill.

Bai Rong hung up the call.

She actually had a good impression of Cheng Jinrong. He was a simple businessman, and his ex-girlfriend's father was a geologist, which would come in handy later on. I'll think about what to do once we meet.

An hour later, Bai Rong dragged her luggage and exited the station.

Upon spotting her, Cheng Jinrong waved excitedly in her direction.

Bai Rong smiled and walked toward him.

He took her luggage from her and suggested, "I'll bring you for dinner first, then send you to the hotel. This is your first time in Jadeborough, right?"

Bai Rong only maintained the smile on her face but otherwise remained silent.

She had actually visited Jadeborough three years ago. At that time, Gu Mingchen was on a mission here. This was where he lost his memories and also where she had almost died. Hence, this place held sad memories for her.

Cheng Jinrong placed her luggage in the trunk of his car before opening the front passenger door for her.

Then, Bai Rong slid in and fastened her seat belt.

Cheng Jinrong circled the car, got into the driver's seat, and then began to introduce the local delicacies. "Jadeborough is famous for its braised pork balls and sticky rice

dumplings. And Restaurant Zhuangyuan is known for these two dishes. Is there anything in particular that you can't eat?"

"No," Bai Rong replied curtly. Looking straight ahead, she paused for a moment before asking, "Is your ex-girlfriend's father the best researcher on ancient sites in the industry? Is there anyone else besides him?"

"It's more of a closed circle than an industry. As for the details, my ex-girlfriend's father would know more than I do."

Bai Rong took a side glance at him and casually asked, "Why did you and your ex break up?"

"I have a bad temper. After a while, she couldn't stand it anymore after so long, so she suggested a breakup, and I agreed." Cheng Jinrong's answer was concise.

Bai Rong's lips quirked up slightly. "Does your current girlfriend know about your ex-girlfriend's existence?"

Cheng Jinrong fell silent for a while. "Are you interrogating me?"

"I'm sensing some regret from the look on your face. You probably still have feelings for your ex. Since you're still keeping in touch with her father, not to mention both of you are on friendly terms, it means that either your ex or her family still cares about you. So, I'm just really curious whether your current girlfriend knows about all this."

Cheng Jinrong's expression turned sullen. "She does. My current girlfriend is my ex's bestie and also my subordinate."

He glanced fleetingly at Bai Rong and continued explaining, "But when I went to A City to look for you, I already broke up with my girlfriend. I'm single now."

"It looks like you're planning to get back with your ex?" Bai Rong surmised.

Cheng Jinrong's eyes glinted with an indecipherable emotion. "Not necessarily. We'll see."

His phone rang just then, and he answered it.

Immediately, Bai Rong noticed his gradually darkening expression but couldn't catch what the other person was saying.

After a while, Cheng Jinrong hung up the call and looked at Bai Rong. "I'm sorry. I won't be able to take you out for dinner anymore. My ex had been murdered."

Bai Rong was shell-shocked at the news.