

## Chapter 241

“I’ll go with you. I’ve assisted the FBI in solving cases before, so I might be able to help you. Just take it as returning the favor for introducing a potential customer to me,” Bai Rong proposed.

Firstly, she genuinely wanted to help. Secondly, Cheng Jinrong’s ex-girlfriend’s father had a unique identity, and she wanted to use this opportunity to better understand things.

“In that case, I’ll have to trouble you then,” Cheng Jinrong apologized.

“It’s no trouble at all.”

Half an hour later, Cheng Jinrong drove into a private area located in the city center.

Bai Rong’s keen eyes took in their surroundings. The houses here looked very old from the outside and were about twenty meters apart from each other. The residents here had placed fences around their respective houses, creating parking space for their cars. There were also vegetable plantations, street lights, and surveillance cameras.

The police were stopped in front of Cheng Jinrong’s ex-girlfriend’s house and had also put up a barricade at the door.

Cheng Jinrong was about to go in, but an officer stopped him and said sternly, "The police are collecting evidence. This is the first scene of crime, so no one is allowed to enter."

"I'm the victim's boyfriend. I have the right to see her," Cheng Jinrong argued angrily.

"Jinrong! Jinrong!" the victim's mother called out.

Disregarding the police officer's warning, Cheng Jinrong rushed in.

When Bai Rong, who was following behind him all this time, noticed the officer hesitating, she quickly walked in as well.

"Jinrong, Wei died such a horrible death. Who would do this to her?" Chen Wei's mother sobbed violently.

"Where is Wei?" Cheng Jinrong asked solemnly.

"In her room," replied Chen Wei's father who had a frown on his face as he lowered his head.

Bai Rong cast a brief glance at Chen Wei's father. He was smoking, and the hand holding the cigarette was trembling slightly.

"Who would kill our daughter? We've never offended anyone." Chen Wei's mother just couldn't fathom who would do such a thing.

A complicated look flashed in her husband's eyes that moment. "I'm going outside to finish this cigarette."

Bai Rong side-eyed Cheng Jinrong and found that he had already gone into the room.

Wei was lying on her bed with a knife stabbed into her heart, which was no doubt what ended her life on the spot.

She was holding her phone tightly in her hand. Nothing in the room was out of place, and there were no signs of struggle either.

At that moment, Cheng Jinrong wanted to hug Wei, but an officer stopped him. "Please don't touch the victim. You'll destroy the evidence."

Cheng Jinrong paused in his steps to look at Bai Rong with eyes that were slightly red. "Is that true?"

Bai Rong nodded. "It's best not to touch anything at the first scene where the murder was committed. The more uncontaminated evidence collected, the better."

"For us to find the murderer as soon as possible, I'll have to ask you two to leave," the officer said in a clipped tone.

Without a choice, Cheng Jinrong walked out of the room in a daze.

"Jinrong, you have to help Wei find the murderer," Chen Wei's mother wailed as she clasped Cheng Jinrong's hand in hers.

“I will,” Cheng Jinrong reassured her and shot Bai Rong a pleading look.

Bai Rong nodded brusquely and went outside. There, she saw Chen Wei’s father talking on his phone. He was very agitated and even threw his phone onto the ground before smashing his head against a tree.

Seeing that, she instantly walked to a corner to dial Gu Mingchen’s number.

“How coincident. I was just about to call you. You should be in Jadeborough by now. Have you had your dinner?” Gu Mingchen asked caringly.

“No. Something serious happened. Cheng Jinrong’s ex is dead,” Bai Rong said gravely and glanced at Chen Wei’s father who was still hitting his head against the tree, seemingly in extreme agony.

“It couldn’t have been Lu Xingzhou. Firstly, the project is about to begin. If something were to happen now, it would affect the project’s progress. Secondly, the victim’s father is a geologist, and they could still use him, so they wouldn’t have harmed his daughter,” Gu Mingchen speculated.

“That’s what I thought too, but I’ve been observing Chen Wei’s father, and there’s all this guilt, self-blame, and anger in him. I have a feeling he might go to the police station and file a report against Lu Xingzhou.” Bai Rong found something amiss with Chen Wei’s father and slowly approached him.

“You have to stop him. He must not report Lu Xingzhou. At most, some people from the administration department would come forward to discuss the details with him. By doing this, he won’t only be alerting the murderer, he’d be reducing the chances of finding him altogether,” Gu Mingchen said with urgency.

“Got it. You should head to Jadeborough’s police station and make sure everything’s set. I’m going to intervene in this case.” With that, Bai Rong ended the call and ran toward Chen Wei’s father.

“Sir, please, stop it.” She held Chen Wei’s father back.

Chen Wei’s father was overwrought with grief. “This is all my fault. I went against my conscience to make dirty money, but Wei was innocent. My precious daughter could never even bring herself to kill a fish. How could God be so cruel to her? She was only twenty-five years old and had her whole life ahead of her.”

“Please, calm down. Give me three days, and I’ll help you find the murderer,” Bai Rong vowed.

Chen Wei’s father looked at Bai Rong in surprise. “Why would you help me? Who are you? I don’t know you.”

“My name is Bai Rong. You can find my information on the internet. I’ve helped the FBI in solving several major crimes before. I’ve also assisted many police departments in solving cases. I can promise you that the murderer will be found in three days,” Bai Rong elaborated.

Nonetheless, Chen Wei’s father still had a skeptical look on his face.

“I’m also Cheng Jinrong’s friend. On the way here, he told me that he still has feelings for Wei. Since he loves her, I’ll definitely find the murderer,” Bai Rong added when she noticed the distrust written on the older man’s face.

He looked at the door just then and met Cheng Jinrong’s gaze.

Noticing the strange atmosphere here, Cheng Jinrong walked over. "What happened to your forehead?"

"He slammed his head against the tree. He's in too much emotional distress," Bai Rong explained.

"Bai Rong is a well-known expert. She'll be able to help us find the murderer. Please calm down for now," Cheng Jinrong comforted.

"Give me three days," Bai Rong repeated in a serious tone.

Chen Wei's father nodded. "Alright. I'll calm down. I want to know who killed my daughter, and I want him to pay with his life."

"I'll walk him back to the house," Cheng Jinrong informed Bai Rong before wrapping an arm around Chen Wei's father's shoulder and leading him into the house.

After that, Bai Rong did not see the purpose of staying any longer, as she would be able to see all the evidence collected by the police tomorrow anyway.

She wasn't close to Cheng Jinrong nor Wei's family, so staying would only make things awkward.

Besides, since Cheng Jinrong knew that that piece of land had treasures, he would stop Chen Wei's father from acting rashly.

Only, he didn't know that Lu Xingzhou and Lu Liangcheng were in cahoots or that the latter basically owned Xingzheng Construction Company.

All his efforts would be for naught in the end.

Bai Rong did not go into the house again, but instead, she hailed a cab and sent a message to Cheng Jinrong: I'm leaving now. Let's get in touch tomorrow.

Cheng Jinrong replied with a cordial message: Alright. I'm sorry. I was supposed to buy you dinner, but I ended up letting you starve.

Bai Rong replied: I understand. You didn't ask for this either.

Following that, Bai Rong went to the hotel Gu Mingchen had booked a room for her. Upon checking into her room, she lay on the bed, feeling a little tired. Her mind wandered to Gu Mingchen, so she gave him a call.

"Have you arrived at the hotel?" Gu Mingchen queried.

"Mm-hmm, I've just arrived. Mingchen, we must find the murderer who massacred the village once and for all. Back then, before Tang Xiaojiu died, he gave me the evidence to prove your innocence, and we have to repay his kindness. We promised that we'd help him find the murderer. I've always had this feeling that if we failed, God would separate us from each other and our child," Bai Rong said anxiously.

“I’m already handling the paperwork here. As usual, it’ll be approved within three days. I’ll get in touch with some contacts to see if they can speed it up, and hopefully, it’ll be approved by tomorrow afternoon. I’ll call you once it’s done. If there aren’t any issues, I’ll probably be able to join you there tomorrow,” Gu Mingchen briefly described the situation.

Bai Rong grinned happily. She was excited just thinking about meeting him again tomorrow.

Clearly, they had only parted today, but she felt like it had already been an eternity.

Have you eaten?” Bai Rong expressed her concern.

“Yes. I’ve also made a call earlier. The director of Jadeborough’s police department will meet you at the front doors tomorrow. You’ll be taking full charge of this case.”

“Great. We’ll discuss the details after I’ve read the information tomorrow. I looked around the place today. There are surveillance cameras outside. If they’re still functioning, it won’t just make it easier to find the murderer, but we might come across some surprises too.”

“Yeah,” Gu Mingchen hummed a response. “There’s one minute left. Open the door.”



“What?” Bai Rong’s heart galloped in her chest. Could he be here?

She hopped off the bed excitedly, went to the door, and looked through the peephole but found no one there.

“Did you arrive today?” Bai Rong asked directly.

“No. I guessed that you probably hadn’t eaten yet. Jadeborough’s braised pork balls, sticky rice dumplings, and roast duck are quite good, so I ordered some from Restaurant Zhuangyuan for you. Remember not to skip your meals from now on,” Gu Mingchen said gently.

“That’s quick. When did you place the order?” Bai Rong was bewildered.

“After we talked on the phone earlier. I estimated that you’d head to the hotel first. Besides, braised pork balls and sticky rice dumplings are Restaurant Zhuangyuan’s signature dishes, so they always have them prepared in advance. The duck is half ready too, so it won’t take long before the food arrives at your place.” As soon as Gu Mingchen finished speaking, the room’s doorbell rang.

His chuckle drifted across the line, right into Bai Rong’s ear.

“I think the food’s here. Go on and have your meal. If you can’t sleep after eating, you’re welcome to call me.” Gu Mingchen’s voice was full of love and adoration.

Bai Rong’s heart warmed at that.

Seeing how thoughtful he was toward her, she couldn't bring herself to keep him from sleeping because of her own issues.

"Okay," Bai Rong answered and ended the call before opening the door.

A man in a uniform stood outside and courteously stated, "Good evening. I'm here to deliver your food."

"Thank you." Bai Rong accepted the food and placed it on the table.

She found that Gu Mingchen had ordered sticky rice dumplings, braised pork balls, roast duck, spicy tofu, one serving each, as well as a bottle of milk.

This man can be really attentive when he wants to.

A silly grin spread across her face as she dug into her food, feeling immensely blessed.

After taking a shower, she crawled into bed but didn't call Gu Mingchen. Instead, she turned on the television to pass her time.

A moment later, the sound of her phone ringing snapped her out of her daze.

Seeing that it was an unknown number, she warily picked up the call.

"Why did you block my number? Have you changed your mind?" Su Xuyan asked bluntly.

“Gu Mingchen did that, not me,” Bai Rong explained.

“Haven’t the two of you separated? Why are you still listening to him then?” Su Xuyan asked in a cynical tone.

“Aren’t you Mr. Know-it-all? I just arrived in Jadeborough when my friend’s ex was found to be murdered, so I completely forgot that you’d been blocked,” Bai Rong retorted.

“Bai Rong, don’t tell me that the reason you requested for three more months is just to treat Lu Xingzhou’s son?” Su Xuyan asked suspiciously.

“He promised to pay me so much money. For my son’s sake, of course, I have to earn as much money as I can.” Bai Rong did not deny.

“You better not have any other ideas. Otherwise, I won’t be able to guarantee your safety. Tian misses you. Would you like to see him?” Su Xuyan’s tone softened toward the end.

“Yes.” Bai Rong immediately sat up on the bed.

“Switch it to video call,” Su Xuyan ordered.

Immediately, a little boy was displayed on her screen.

“Mommy, I miss you. Why didn’t come to visit me today?” Tian asked in his adorable voice.

“I’m sorry, Tian. I’m on a business trip to Jadeborough, and I’ll be here for three months. But after that, I’ll be back, and we can be together every day.” Bai Rong never grew tired of looking at him.

“Mommy, look what I’ve painted today.” Tian placed his painting in front of the camera.

It was a painting with a golden sun in the skies and vast grassland. There were trees with rosy red apples, colorful flowers, and butterflies fluttering around in the field.

Bai Rong also saw a road beside the field, and on it, a couple was holding hands with a child.

The words “Mommy,” “Me,” and “Daddy Su” were written below the figures.

Bai Rong drew in a sharp breath the moment she saw that.

Children had simple thought processes, and their emotions could be expressed through their paintings. When their paintings were colorful and vibrant, one would know that they were in a good mood. On the contrary, if their paintings were dark and dull, one would know that they were in a bad mood.

I can see that Su Xuyan treats Tian quite well.

But I believe that Gu Mingchen will treat him even better.

After all, Tian is our son.

“Wow, you did a good job!” Bai Rong praised.

“Mommy, Daddy Su didn’t just let me paint, he also taught me how to fight. From now on, I can protect myself and you too, Mommy!” Tian said sweetly.

“Where are you now, Tian?” Bai Rong asked.

“I’m-” The video call went dead before Tian could speak.

Frustration rose in Bai Rong. Crap... I shouldn’t have been so reckless.

Su Xuyan invited her to another video call.

Bai Rong answered it, but it wasn’t Tian whom she saw. Instead, it was Su Xuyan. “Where have you taken Tian?” She couldn’t hide the heavy disappointment in her tone or expression.

At the other end of the line, Su Xuyan sneered, picked up a syringe, and showed it in front of the camera. “Do you know what this is, Bai Rong?”

“What?” Panic surged in Bai Rong.

“To put it simply, it’s a virus. Those who are injected with it feel like they’re living in hell every day. After that, they’ll die from bleeding out through their orifices, so don’t try anything funny. Tian won’t even be able to survive one shot of this,” Su Xuyan threatened.

“Su Xuyan, are you freakin’ crazy? Tian likes you so much. How could you be so cruel to him?” Bai Rong started to get anxious.

“Well, I like you too, but look at how cruel you are to me. As long as you don’t get any funny ideas, Tian, you, and I will live happily ever after – just the three of us.” A smile stretched across Su Xuyan’s lips.

His smile seemed to have an underlying meaning, as though he had seen through something and was only waiting for her to fall into his trap.

Bai Rong’s heart dropped with a thump.

He has Tian, so my hands are tied. But what if I have some leverage over him? Would that improve my odds of winning?

“Fine. Whatever you say goes. I’m tired. Goodnight.” Without waiting for Su Xuyan’s response, Bai Rong hung up the call and chucked her phone on the bedside table.

Her initial good mood was utterly ruined because of one phone call from Su Xuyan.

Guessing that she wouldn’t be able to sleep tonight, she took out the pills from her bag. However, when she thought about what Gu Mingchen said, she stuffed the bottle of pills back into her bag.

She used to bear every single burden on her own and would suppress everything in her heart, regardless of how grave her situation was.

She had since changed and had finally found someone she could trust, someone she could confide in.

Bai Rong dialed Gu Mingchen's number.

He was quick to pick up the call. "I thought you'd call sooner," commented Gu Mingchen.

"Are you busy?" asked Bai Rong, who was worried about bothering him at work.

"I've already told you. You are the most important person in my life, and I will place you first before I consider anything else."

Bai Rong's lips slowly curved up as tears of joy welled up in her eyes.

She remembered that Gu Mingchen was never a romantic guy, but his words could always make her feel warm and fuzzy inside. Right now, she felt like a piece of melting chocolate.

“Mingchen, did your men figure out where Tian is?” asked Bai Rong.

“Not yet. I haven’t received any report about it.”

“Su Xuyan called me earlier. He was with Tian, and I even got to chat with Tian a little via video conferencing. Haven’t your men found him?” asked Bai Rong curiously.

Gu Mingchen found that to be weird as well. “Wait, did you just say that Tian is with Su Xuyan? Hang on, I’ll call you right back,” replied Gu Mingchen.

He hung up the call and dialed the number of the men in the Shadow Samurais organization.

In the meantime, Su Xuyan had taken his earphones off. He looked ahead with blatant sorrow shining in his eyes.

Even after everything, Bai Rong had chosen Gu Mingchen. She told him everything and abandoned Tian and me. If that’s the case, then there is no point in showing mercy anymore.

Su Xuyan’s lips curved into an evil smile at that thought.

The war starts now.

“Where is Su Xuyan now?” demanded Gu Mingchen.



“He’s at home,” replied the man on the other side of the line.

“Did he leave today? Are you sure he’s home?” asked Gu Mingchen suspiciously.

“I’m sure. What’s wrong?” asked the man.

“The kid is in his house. Break into the house and investigate the matter tonight. Remember to be discreet and don’t let anyone see you,” instructed Gu Mingchen.

“Understood.”

After giving his instructions, Gu Mingchen called Bai Rong back. “I suspect that the child had been with Su Xuyan the entire time. Sleep well tonight, and wait for my call tomorrow.”

Bai Rong murmured, “Okay.”

However, she missed Tian too much and worried about his safety, so there was no way she could sleep. Tossing and turning in bed, she eventually decided to go for a jog. With that, she also put on her sneakers, grabbed a bottle of water, and headed to the hotel gym. Maybe I can sleep better after exercising.

The night dragged on.

At that moment, the head of the Shadow Samurais infiltrated Su Xuyan’s house and entered his room. The former saw that the latter was sleeping soundly on the bed.

The man then opened the door at the side of the room and noted that no one was there. However, he examined the entire room to search for any signs of the kid but found none. Thus, he thought that everything was a bit too odd.

Just then, he heard some strange noises echoing in the dark.

He crouched down and put his ear on the floor. The noise became more distinct, and it was obviously the sound of water running.

The member of the Shadow Samurais followed the sound and crawled for over an hour before he found a door that led to the basement.

He later left Su Xuyan's place and got into his own car to call Gu Mingchen.

"How did it go?" asked Gu Mingchen. He never went to bed and had been waiting for the call all this time.

Gu Mingchen checked the time and noted that it was three in the morning.

"I found him. Su Xuyan's room has a hidden compartment that led to the basement. It is likely that the kid is locked up in there. Should I go ahead and rescue the kid right away?"

"Yes, but don't let Su Xuyan discover you," instructed Gu Mingchen.

Su Xuyan was a trickster, so Gu Mingchen had to be careful at every turn.

The man then went back into Su Xuyan's house once more and headed to the basement. As expected, he found a kid, who was sleeping on the bed at that moment. However, he was worried that the kid would suddenly wake up and alert Su Xuyan.

Hence, the man put a little sedative on his handkerchief and covered it over the kid's mouth and nose for ten seconds before leaving.

Tian was still sleeping when he was taken out of the house and placed in the car. After that, the man called Gu Mingchen. "Chief, I've rescued the kid. Where should I take him now?" asked the man.

Gu Mingchen hesitated for a moment. He worried that Su Xuyan would go after the kid if they went to the Blue Sky Apartment. The kid is our biological son, and Bai Rong is also my legitimate wife, anyway. He'll be safer in the military base... thought Gu Mingchen before he instructed, "Take him over to the military base."

Two hours later, Gu Mingchen finally saw Tian. He looks just like Bai Rong, but he also resembles me a little. Still, he mostly takes after Bai Rong.

"Anything else, Chief?" requested the member of the Shadow Samurais.

"You've worked hard. Go home and rest," said Gu Mingchen as he scanned Tian.

"Understood," replied the man before he left Gu Mingchen's apartment.

After he left, Gu Mingchen draped a blanket over for Tian. The former later checked the time and saw that it was already half-past five in the morning. I wonder if Bai Rong is up.

Gu Mingchen thought about it for a while before he decided against it. Instead, he sent her a text: Tian has been rescued. He is safe in the military base now.

Unbeknownst to him, Bai Rong couldn't sleep at all. She jogged for an hour before she returned to her room and lay on her bed. Still, she tossed and turned without ever falling asleep.

When she saw Gu Mingchen's text, she sprang up. Her eyes glowed with immense excitement, and she called Gu Mingchen immediately.

Seeing Bai Rong's call prompted Gu Mingchen to turn his phone's volume off immediately. After that, he went out of the room to pick it up and spoke in a soft voice, "Did I wake you up?"

"No, did you check how Tian is? He's not injected with any viruses, is he?" asked Bai Rong nervously.

"I don't think so. He's sleeping soundly. If you weren't woken up, then did you stay up all night?" asked Gu Mingchen, his heart broken into pieces at the thought.

"No, I just woke up early, that's all. Can I see Tian? Even for just one minute? One minute will do," requested Bai Rong. She couldn't believe that it was all real – that Tian was rescued that easily.

This is too surreal. Am I... dreaming?

"Okay, let's switch to video call," replied Gu Mingchen sweetly.

With a tap of a button, Gu Mingchen accepted the call. He later pushed the door open and entered the room to point the camera at the sleeping Tian.

Bai Rong covered her mouth in astonishment. A smile lit up on her face, and she was so happy that tears of joy were rolling down her cheeks.

Sighing in relief, she was glad that it was all finally over, and she could be with Gu Mingchen.

Previously, she had always felt unsettled because they hadn't rescued Tian.

Gu Mingchen grinned when he saw Bai Rong crying with happiness. He got up and walked out of the door before saying, "You should feel better now that you've seen him. It's still early, so go get some sleep."

"Okay," replied Bai Rong.

"Go on," reminded Gu Mingchen before he hung the phone up and kept it away.

He planned on sleeping for two more hours because he had something important planned for the day.

Just as he was ready to hit the sack, the security rushed in at that moment. "Chief, something terrible happened. The Central Commission for Discipline Inspection sent their people over. They are looking for you."

Gu Mingchen had a bad feeling about it. It wasn't even six in the morning yet, so the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection would not be there unless they had concrete evidence.

The Central Commission for Discipline Inspection was responsible for monitoring and identifying enemy spies.

The Shadow Samurais' mission to rescue Tian went too smoothly.

Everything was so perfect that Gu Mingchen thought that something might've been off. I guess I was right.

"Let them enter," replied Gu Mingchen grimly.

The Central Commission for Discipline Inspection sent eight people over. Every single one of them looked grim and displeased as they showed Gu Mingchen their credentials. They claimed, "We received an anonymous tip about how you stole a list."

"List? What list?" asked Gu Mingchen in confusion.

The people from the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection shifted their gaze to the security guard.

Gu Mingchen waved his hand and ordered, "You may leave."

The security guard knew that they were about to discuss military secrets, so he didn't dare to hang around. He left quickly and closed the door as he did so.

The people from Central Commission for Discipline Inspection only answered Gu Mingchen's question after the security guard had left. "It is a list of the names of our spies who are operating outside the country," said one guy.

"Why would I have any use for that list?" refuted Gu Mingchen.

"You don't. That is why we suspect that you are working as a spy for our enemy," replied the people from Central Commission for Discipline Inspection.

"My father is the Deputy Commander, while I am the Chief of the Special Forces Military Base. I have a good shot to be the commander-in-chief, so what makes you think I'd go and work as a spy?" refuted Gu Mingchen again.

"Sorry, Chief. We still have to carry out our orders," claimed the people from the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection.

"Fine. Go ahead," replied Gu Mingchen before he sat down on the sofa and closed his eyes.

The others went to inspect his room.

The head of the team stayed in the living room to keep an eye on Gu Mingchen. The former looked especially grim because Gu Mingchen's identity was unique.

"We found it," called out one of the men as he walked out of the room where Tian was napping. The man had a vase with him when he reported, "It's hidden inside the vase."

The head of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection fished the list out of the vase and turned to Gu Mingchen. "Please follow us to the office, Chief," said the man.

Gu Mingchen turned to the head of the team and frowned before asking, "How are you so sure that this is what you're looking for? I mean, even I have no idea what this is."

"The list is wrapped up in a special package, and the paper itself is special as well. We received the intel on the shape of the paper and its general characteristics before we came over," answered the head of the team.

"Did you guys plant the list in my vase to frame me?" growled Gu Mingchen angrily.

The member of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection turned pale and claimed, "No, I wouldn't dare to. Besides, I have no way of getting my hands on the list either, so how could I have done it?"

"Please follow us to the office, Chief. We will definitely clear your name if you're not a spy. On the other hand, if you refuse to come with us, you'd look extremely suspicious," said the head of the team.



Without a choice, Gu Mingchen stood up and straightened his clothes a little before he fished his phone out and made a call. He then instructed clearly, "Help me take care of the kid in the apartment and wait for me to come back. We'll talk then."

Meanwhile, Bai Rong was finally feeling sleepy after seeing Tian, so she slept until ten in the morning. She was woken up by a call from Cheng Jinrong after that.

Since Bai Rong didn't sleep well, she had a splitting headache when she got up abruptly. She massaged her temple before she picked the call up.

"Are you in the police station now? I'm here," asked Cheng Jinrong nicely.

Bai Rong recalled that she was supposed to go to the police station that day, so she replied, "Sorry, I'll head over right now."

After that, she hung up and went into the washroom. Splashing some water on her face to wake herself up, she then brushed her teeth and put on some make-up. She also tied her hair up and was ready to leave the house when her phone rang again.

Seeing the unknown number, Bai Rong suspected that the call was from Su Xuyan, so she hung up immediately.

Tian was finally rescued. Hence, she didn't want to have any interaction with Su Xuyan anymore.

At the other end of the phone, Su Xuyan was infuriated being hung up upon. He scoffed as an evil glow flashed past his eyes, and hatred burned within him.

Bai Rong is abandoning me after using me, huh? Fine, then I won't need to show her any mercy either.

Su Xuyan was harsh when he sent a text message over: Do you want to see Gu Mingchen dead?

Seeing that text got Bai Rong's heart to grip. She called Gu Mingchen right away.

The line was soon established, but no one picked up.

Bai Rong had a bad feeling about this, so she called Su Xuyan immediately.

However, Su Xuyan hung up on her.

At that moment, Bai Rong's heart was thumping with worry. She called Su Xuyan again, but he had already turned his phone off.

She went out of the hotel in a daze before she unblocked Su Xuyan's old number and dialed it.

Su Xuyan picked it up this time. For some reason, he sounded off when he commented, "Not so sure about Gu Mingchen now, are you?"

"Su Xuyan, what is the meaning of the text you just sent? What do you plan on doing to Gu Mingchen?" interrogated Bai Rong. She was on the verge of losing her temper.

Ugh! He is like an annoying poltergeist that never goes away!

“I’ve warned you not to do anything out of the line. I gave you my heart and soul, and even waited for three years. But how did you repay me?” yelled Su Xuyan, who was even angrier than Bai Rong.

“I can’t control my heart. Besides, I waited for you for three years, too. You didn’t like me then, but did I go after you? Did I ever hurt the women you were with?” challenged Bai Rong.

“That is only because you do not have the power or the will to hurt anyone. You are nothing but a coward.”

“What do you want? And what did you do to Gu Mingchen?” demanded Bai Rong as she raised her voice.

“Have you considered what the consequences would be when you told Gu Mingchen that Tian is with me? You should’ve known that this is how things would turn out to be when you and Gu Mingchen played me for a fool. I am not someone you can trick. Let me share the truth with you right now. The Central Commission for Discipline Inspection has already taken Gu Mingchen away, and his reputation will be tarnished soon. If he’s lucky, he’ll only be stripped of his military title. If not, he will be found guilty of being an enemy spy and will be sentenced to death,” shared Su Xuyan with a sinister grin on his face.

“Bulls\*\*t! Gu Mingchen is not a spy,” insisted Bai Rong. She didn’t believe in a word Su Xuyan said.

Gu Mingchen is the most responsible and bravest soldier I have ever met.

How could he be a spy? Hell, I’d sooner believe that I’m the spy.

“He stole an important list from me and was engaged in spy activities. How is he not a spy? He even insisted on confiscating and using a piece of land yesterday. Did you know that there are military-grade weapons buried there?” asked Su Xuyan as he grinned.

“The land he used yesterday had military-grade weapons? How is that even possible?” blurted Bai Rong, who was in shock.

“That piece of land is in Jadeborough, and you’re in the area. You can go take a look and see if the officials are there clearing the weapons out. You’ll know if I’m telling you the truth then,” said Gu Mingchen confidently and firmly.

Bai Rong finally realized that Su Xuyan’s words were all true. After all, he had no reason to lie about something that could easily be verified. Her mind went blank, and she stumbled backward until she was leaning against the wall...

## Chapter 245

How can this be? How can it be! Shouldn’t a treasure be buried under that piece of land? How did it become military-grade weapons?

Unless... the treasure indicated on the map are actually military-grade weapons? But that doesn’t make sense either. The map is ancient, and there weren’t any military-grade weapons back in the day.

Is this entire thing Su Xuyan's trick? Where did we go wrong?

With that thought in mind, Bai Rong steeled herself up and said, "I'll call you later."

She hung up the call and exited the hotel as she called Cheng Jinrong.

"Cheng Jinrong, I'd like to ask you a question. Where is the piece of land that you wanted to buy earlier? Can you text me the address?" asked Bai Rong hurriedly.

"Why? Is that piece of land crucial to solving the case?" asked Cheng Jinrong in a confused tone.

"They found a lot of military-grade weapons buried under that piece of land. Did you know about it?" asked Bai Rong as she walked to the side of the road.

"Wait, did you just say that they unearthed a lot of military-grade weapons from that piece of land? How is that even possible? Wait... when you say military-grade weapons, are you talking about swords and spears or guns and missiles?" asked Cheng Jinrong, who couldn't make heads or tails of what had happened.

"I think they unearthed guns and missiles, but I don't know the specifics. That is why I want to go check the place out," replied Bai Rong.

“Okay, I got it. Where are you now? I’ll go pick you up, and we can head over together,” said Cheng Jinrong as he walked towards his own car.

“I’m at the entrance of the Jadeborough Hotel.”

“Alright. I’ll be there in ten minutes.”

Bai Rong hung up the call, then dialed Gu Mingchen’s number again. Once again, no one answered.

She then called Song Xiyu, who picked up the call.

“Bai Rong, bad things have been happening to my boy, Mingchen, ever since you got together with him. He almost died three years ago, and now his life is on the line again. To make matters worse, his reputation might be tarnished! Are you trying to kill my son? Are you happy now?” reprimanded Song Xiyu as soon as the line was established.

Bai Rong’s heart dropped with a thump. Looks like Su Xuyan was telling the truth.

“Umm... How is Mingchen now?”

“His situation is none of your business. Can you help him even if I tell you? No! You will only hold him back and be his burden. Also, did you intentionally hurt Mingchen?” demanded Song Xiyu, who sounded even more furious.

“Gu Mingchen is my husband. Why would I hurt him?” replied Bai Rong in a firm tone.

“Then did you tell Mingchen that Tian is his son?” asked Song Xiyu again.

Bai Rong was taken aback, but she replied, “Yes, I told him that. How is Tian?”

“Oh, you’re still thinking about that bast\*rd? Mingchen claimed that he went to Su Xuyan’s place to get his son back and that he wasn’t there to steal any list. However, the DNA results came back, and the kid isn’t Mingchen’s. Now they’re thinking that Mingchen is probably lying about the list too. Also, were you the one who asked Mingchen to use that piece of land in Jadeborough?” interrogated Song Xiyu angrily.

Bai Rong’s mind went blank instantly.

Tian isn’t Gu Mingchen’s son? B-but... How is that possible? Could it be that the man who raped me six years ago... isn’t Gu Mingchen?

Bai Rong felt like her entire world was instantly crumbling in front of her.

“Are you too cowardly to admit it? That piece of land had tons of military-grade weapons buried underneath it. Mingchen refused to tell them why he used that land, and I spoke to many lawyers. The probability of Mingchen being found guilty is as high as ninety-five percent. You’ve destroyed him, Bai Rong! I hope you die a horrible death!” cursed Song Xiyu.

Upon hearing that, Bai Rong’s arm gave way, and her phone fell onto the floor.

How could this be? How could this be? How could this be?

Gu Mingchen, Gu Mingchen... I can’t let anything bad happen to him.

Bai Rong picked her phone up instantly and called Su Xuyan. "Just what do you want!" demanded Bai Rong.

Su Xuyan scoffed and asked, "Bai Rong, why don't you ever trust me? Why must you call around and investigate the matter before you believe in what I say?"

"Why isn't Tian Gu Mingchen's son?" demanded Bai Rong in shock.

"If you hadn't lied to me and actually came back to me, you would've been able to see your biological son. Tian is just a test I set up for you. For three years, I sent Tian to countless plastic surgeries just to make him look like you and Gu Mingchen. It's not an easy feat for me, you know?" said Su Xuyan evilly.

Bai Rong suddenly felt a chill run down her spine.

It's me. This is all my fault. I killed Gu Mingchen.

I was conned and was like an idiot. I judged Tian by his appearance and assumed that he is the son I have with Gu Mingchen. I didn't even bother doing a paternity test.

It's my fault. This is all my fault!

"And what about that piece of land? What is wrong with it?" asked Bai Rong. As she did so, she tapped the record button on her phone.



Su Xuyan chuckled on the other end of the line and answered, "How would I know? Gu Mingchen is a spy and the head of a terrorist organization. It's only normal that he has some military-grade weapons hidden."

"You're lying! I asked Gu Mingchen to buy that piece of land. Does that mean that I am a spy, too?" growled Bai Rong angrily.

"Rong, I know you're recording this phone call. Are you still trying to betray me, even at a time like this? It's fine for you to betray me, but Gu Mingchen will surely die because of it," shared Su Xuyan calmly.

Bai Rong was utterly crushed that Su Xuyan knew about every move she made.

How does he do that?

Bai Rong turned the record feature off and demanded, "How did you know that?"

"Your phone is a special device that I made. It doesn't have a chip, so the connection is actually established via Wi-Fi. There are anti-hacking systems installed at the military base, so I can't eavesdrop on you. However, if I contact you via a landline, no one will be aware of it. Still, the second you leave the military base, I will have twenty-four-hour surveillance on you. The state of your phone, your conversations, your texts to Gu Mingchen... I can hear and read everything," explained Su Xuyan. He was completely open at that moment because he had lost all hope of being together with Bai Rong. All he felt was sorrow and abandonment.

Her distance and distaste fanned the flames of his hatred and inspired him to seek vengeance. This may be for the best. I will no longer be held back by my emotions, and I can go back to doing whatever I please. Showing no mercy to Xing Bachuan... that would make things right for my father, too.

Bai Rong was eerily quiet. Fate had finally broken her down, and she rose her white flag. "What do I have to do to get you to let Gu Mingchen go?" asked Bai Rong.

"I'll let Gu Mingchen go if you end it with him and make him marry Zhou Hailan," replied Su Xuyan cruelly before he added, "You better do it quickly. Gu Mingchen will surely be sentenced within the week."

"How would I know if you'd keep your word?" asked Bai Rong, who didn't trust Su Xuyan.

"You don't have a choice, Bai Rong. You don't trust me, and similarly, I don't trust you either. What would I do if you stay with him after all this? That is why I will inject you with the virus before I save him. I am the only one with the antidote, and if you agree to my terms, you can come to my place. If you don't, then you can do whatever you want. I'm hanging up now," said Su Xuyan before he hung up.

She didn't actually care about whether she'd get the antidote because she wouldn't want to live in a world where Gu Mingchen was dead.

Only that, he can't die. Gu Mingchen is like the Sun which brings warmth and hope to people who are trapped in a sorrowful life. A great man with such amazing accomplishments is about to die with dishonor attached to his name... Even hearing this is pathetic enough.

Chapter 246

"Bai Rong."

Bai Rong had been standing at the side of the road and was in a stance for a long time. She didn't come around until Cheng Jinrong called out to her. Despite that, her mind was still scrambled when she shifted her gaze to Cheng Jinrong's car.

Right then, she started thinking about all of her past mistakes.

The source of confidence and satisfaction is ignorance.

I thought that I am smart and assumed that telling Gu Mingchen about Tian is the right thing to do.

But I've never even imagined that this is all a ruse.

I was the one who was too ignorant and egoistic. I'm weak and worthless! How can I be so dumb that I actually believe I have the capability to analyze things in a clear manner?

Bai Rong suddenly felt like everything she had done in the past simply made her look like a fool.

She struggled and barely survived, but all that was under someone else's control.

Nonetheless, she didn't care if she died. Her life was miserable, so she had nothing to look forward to, anyway. Death was just an end to all that.

But Gu Mingchen trusted me, and it's my fault that his life is hanging in the balance, and his reputation is on the verge of being destroyed.

This is all my fault.

I should never have shown up again. Song Xiyu was right. Bad things had been happening to Gu Mingchen ever since I showed up.

If I had stayed away, Gu Mingchen would not have fallen for me once more. He and Zhou Hailan would've naturally gotten closer together, and they would've found their child soon.

Zhou Hailan is a soldier as well. Given how the two of them used to date, it is easy to see that they are attracted to each other and cared about each other.

He would've been happy, and his career would've grown smoothly.

As for me, I only bring misfortune to those who are close to me.

Cheng Jinrong saw that Bai Rong was behaving oddly, so he walked towards her. Indeed, at that moment, she was not moving at all.

"Bai Rong," called out Cheng Jinrong.

Bai Rong turned to him. Instantly, her sorrow turned to tears, and they rolled down her cheeks.

Guilt overwhelmed her that instant. She could not take it anymore.

“What’s wrong?” asked Cheng Jinrong in a concerned tone.

Bai Rong shook her head and suggested, “Let’s head over to that piece of land and check things out.”

“Okay,” replied Cheng Jinrong before he opened the door to the passenger’s seat.

Without another word said, Bai Rong got into the car and buckled herself up.

Cheng Jinrong drove as he informed, “It’ll take us about half an hour to reach the place.”

“Okay,” replied Bai Rong. Keeping mum, she looked out the window, and tears kept rolling down her cheeks.

Cheng Jinrong shot a look at Bai Rong before asking, “Did you get into another fight with your husband?”

Nevertheless, Bai Rong didn’t answer him.

“Let go of that relationship if it’s really that tough, or your illness will just become worse. There are tons of great men out there, and life is a journey one should take with someone they could stay together forever.

“Time will make everything better, and the intense love you feel will slowly fade away. You will also start accepting the person you are with because the heart can change.

“Your love for your ex-husband had faded when you fell for your current husband, right? It’s the same thing. The love you have for your current husband will fade when you fall for someone else.

“In a year, you’ll look back at the matter and see that it’s not a big deal at all,” said Cheng Jinrong to comfort Bai Rong.

Bai Rong grinned bitterly at that.

She would never be with another man again, even if that meant that she had to spend the rest of her life alone.

Her heart and love would always be with the man named Gu Mingchen, and that would remain true, even if they couldn’t be together. All I want is to see him happy.

When Bai Rong was a teenager, she read a lot of romance novels. The contrast between the happily ever after and her current reality showed her how cruel things truly were.

How many could stay together as couples? How many couples were genuinely in love with one another? Can love last forever even after they become a couple?

Bai Rong wanted to cry aloud, but her tears could not change anything.

She thought about how things would've been if her neighbor never rescued her when Bai Bing tried to commit suicide and take her along for the ride. I won't live to see how cruel the world is, and I will die with my mom. At least I would still have a shred of warmth in my heart, and at least I wouldn't die lonely since I had my mom with me.

I won't be suffering like I am now. I won't be living an agonized life where there is no hope.

Cheng Jinrong could tell that Bai Rong was upset, so he parked the car at the side of the road and turned to Bai Rong while looking concerned.

At that instant, Bai Rong's sobs become louder and louder until even Cheng Jinrong felt like crying.

"If you feel horrible, you can talk to me about it. You'll feel better afterward. How about we compete against one another and see who has had it worse? Maybe you'd feel better," suggested Cheng Jinrong with a grin.

There was a time when she wanted to kill herself because she felt like the whole world had wronged her.

At that moment, she was sad because she had wronged Gu Mingchen.

This is all my fault. I didn't trust Gu Mingchen in the past, and that was why I was upset. But now... now I'm upset because Gu Mingchen trusted me.

Humans often contradicted themselves, and it was usually too late when they finally came around and saw through everything. All that was left was even more sorrow and regret.

Bai Rong wiped her eyes before she insisted, "Let's head over to that plot of land."

Cheng Jinrong stared at Bai Rong with worry glowing in his eyes. Still, he started the engine and drove.

Bai Rong heaved a sigh. She found it strange that her illness didn't act up at that time. Was it because I've already made choice?

"Wei and I grew up together. We went to the same kindergarten, the same middle school, the same high school, and even the same university. We were close when we were in middle school and started dating when we were in high school. She wanted to get married after we graduated, but I wanted to start a business first. She waited year after year, and my temper became worse with each passing year. I never got to apologize or ask her to stay when she left," shared Cheng Jinrong as he recalled his past.

"Looks like she never really intended to leave you. She just wanted you to care a little more and change a little for her," guessed Bai Rong.

"I never changed. One time, I got drunk and slept with my subordinate. That subordinate was Wei's best friend, and we ended up being in a relationship afterward. I tried my best to reel my temper in, but I never knew just how terrible I was to Wei until the last time you and I spoke."

"She had been waiting for you the entire time. Is that why you wanted to turn over a new leaf and get back together with her?" asked Bai Rong.

"Yes, I want to go back, so I broke up with my girlfriend, Yang Ni," replied Cheng Jinrong.



Bai Rong stared ahead.

In novels, the male lead would often remain loyal even if there were some misunderstandings between him and the female lead. They would eventually find their way back to one another and live happily ever after.

The reality, however, was that men would end up sleeping with another woman, and when he finally turned over a new leaf, the woman he loved would already be murdered.

“I will definitely help you catch the killer. Let’s head to the police station once we’re sure that military-grade weapons are found buried there.”

Earlier, Su Xuyan had given her a week to decide, and Bai Rong would, at most, need three days to solve Wei’s murder.

Since Bai Rong made a promise, she didn’t want to go back on her words.

Half an hour later, they reached their destination.

A lot of soldiers were stationed there, and no one was allowed to get too close.

Cheng Jinrong then walked up to a local resident and shared a cigarette with the guy before asking, “Hey, why are there so many soldiers here?”

“They came in the middle of the night and found a lot of military-grade weapons in there. It was so scary. I can’t believe that those weapons were buried right there, and we didn’t even know about it despite living in the area,” replied the man.

Bai Rong finally got her confirmation. Maybe it was because she had been expecting that answer, so she was rather calm to hear it. Thus, she simply said, "Let's go."

## Chapter 247

Bai Rong bought a new phone before she went back. Just to be safe, she even changed her number. She copied everybody's phone number into her new phone as she headed to the police station. Those numbers included Su Xuyan's, to which she sent a text to soon after.

Su Xuyan called her as soon as he received Bai Rong's text, and she picked it up.

"So you changed your phone and your number, huh? Are you trying to run away?" said Su Xuyan in distaste.

"If I was trying to run, I would not be texting you now, would I? I've already decided. I will agree to your terms, but I have some things I need to deal with first. I should be back on the day after tomorrow, and I'll go to you once I return," replied Bai Rong in a distant tone.

"You're still struggling, aren't you? You won't break free this time. I have control of everything, and he will die if I deem fit," growled Su Xuyan arrogantly and firmly.

“Su Xuyan, you really are arrogant sometimes,” commented Bai Rong.

“That is not a shortcoming,” refuted Su Xuyan nonchalantly.

“Cheng Jinrong is my friend, and his ex-girlfriend was murdered. I promised I’d help him find the murderer, so I’ll be staying here for a few days,” explained Bai Rong.

“How nice of you. Gu Mingchen is about to die. Yet, you are focused on helping someone else. I wonder how Gu Mingchen would feel if he learns about this. What a poor sap. He fell for a heartless woman and is doomed to suffer,” dissed Su Xuyan gleefully.

Bai Rong looked ahead calmly.

She didn’t care how he thought of her, so she didn’t bother explaining any more than she already had.

“I’m hanging up now if there’s nothing else you’d like to say,” replied Bai Rong coolly.

“See you tonight,” said Su Xuyan before he hung up.

Bai Rong’s heart skipped a beat. What does he mean by that?

Meanwhile, Cheng Jinrong had noticed how Bai Rong was holding her phone with a stunned expression, so he asked in an apologetic tone, "Is that your husband? You don't have to help if he's unhappy with it. This has nothing to do with you anyway, and I feel bad for causing a fight between the two of you."

"That's not my husband. Besides, I've promised to help you out, so I will keep my word. Let's discuss further after we reach the police station," said Bai Rong as she put her phone away.

The truth was that she was still a little worried.

She asked Gu Mingchen to pull some strings and get her into the police station so she could be a part of the investigation team. Now that Gu Mingchen is in trouble, will I still be able to do so?

Bai Rong was nervous when she walked into the police station and went to the director's office. She knocked on the door and introduced herself, "Hello, I am Bai Rong."

"Hey, the expert is here. Welcome, welcome. I thought you'd be here in the morning. Come in," said the director warmly.

Bai Rong sighed a breath of relief. Looks like the director is still unaware of Gu Mingchen's issues... Or maybe Gu Mingchen had his men come to talk to the guy beforehand.

It's good that Gu Mingchen's issues haven't been publicized.

"I'd like to look at the files of the woman who was murdered at home last night," requested Bai Rong directly.

“Ah, you’re talking about Chen Wei’s case. They’re discussing that case right now. Thank you for looking into this matter with us, Ms. Bai,” said the director nicely.

“It’s nothing. It’s my job, after all,” replied Bai Rong politely.

The director later led Bai Rong into the conference room.

There was a moment when Bai Rong thought about Gu Mingchen’s issues, that sorrow and pain welled up in her soul to the point that it was almost hard for her to breathe.

No, I must keep my head in the game. I have to solve this case quickly.

“Guys, let’s put a pause to it. I have an announcement to make. This is Bai Rong, and she is the psychology expert recommended to us. She will participate in the case, and you guys can discuss it with her. Please cooperate with her to solve the case together,” said the director.

Bai Rong nodded then took a seat.

No one spoke, and they merely stared at one another.

“Please tell me more about the content of her text. The victim was holding her phone at the time. Who did she last communicate with?” asked Bai Rong.

“It’s actually kinda strange. The victim died between five o’clock and six-thirty in the evening. She never went out of her room during dinner time when her parents called for

her, thus leading to them discovering her death. At that time, her windows were locked from the inside.

“Her parents were inside the house all day, and they claimed that no one ever went in. Thus, this homicide actually looked more like a suicide. The drugs we found in her system could cause its victim to hallucinate or faint, but the victim showed no such symptoms when she hung out with her parents just an hour ago.

“With that, we think that the victim had accidentally taken the wrong medication, leading to hallucination. That, in turn, caused her to commit suicide. The victim texted her ex-boyfriend at five in the afternoon. She was simply asking where he was, but he never replied. Still, there was nothing suspicious about it,” answered one detective.

“Don’t they have any security cameras in their neighborhood?” asked Bai Rong.

“We’ve checked. No one went in or out of Chen Wei’s place during the time of death, and we saw no signs of a struggle in her room,” replied the detective.

Bai Rong narrowed her eyes and pointed out, “I don’t think it’s a suicide. Who would hold a phone in one hand and a knife in another just before they commit suicide? Especially if there isn’t any special content in there?”

“She accidentally took some sedatives. It’s normal for her to act strangely under those circumstances,” refuted a detective.

“And where did that sedative come from? How did she end up accidentally taking it? Was the sedative found at her place? If not, then none of this makes sense. Also, if something strange had happened in the room, wouldn’t her parents have heard everything? She couldn’t have taken the wrong medication, lay on her bed with her phone in one hand, and then killed herself with the other,” shared Bai Rong.

The detectives found that to be strange as well, so they turned to one another.

“Are Chen Wei’s parents still here?” asked Bai Rong.

“They’re taking a break in the other room.”

Bai Rong got up immediately to head over to that room.

At the same time, Cheng Jinrong was there with Chen Wei’s parents.

“Mr. and Mrs. Chen, I’d like to ask you some questions. Did either of you notice anything off after Chen Wei went into her room?” asked Bai Rong.

“No, we were watching TV. Wei is a good girl, and we thought that she was reading in her room,” replied Chen Wei’s mother.

“What are Chen Wei’s hobbies and habits?” asked Bai Rong.

“She’s an introvert and rarely goes out. She doesn’t really offend others either,” answered Chen Wei’s mother.

All of a sudden, Cheng Jinrong seemed to have suddenly recalled something. He then told Bai Rong, “Wei loves freshly ground coffee. She drinks it regardless of how her mood was. I gave her a coffee machine back in the days, and she kept it in her room. I don’t think I saw it at the crime scene, though. Could there be something to that?”

“Does she still drink coffee every day?” asked Bai Rong.

“She does. She would grind the coffee beans every evening around five o’clock and drink some,” replied Chen Wei’s mom.

“Did she buy any coffee beans or take the machine somewhere else yesterday?”

“No.”

“Then this is definitely murder. Someone knew about Chen Wei’s coffee-drinking habit. They broke into her room after she went to bed on the previous night, then put some sedatives in the coffee machine.

“Chen Wei texted you, then had some coffee. She was holding her phone because she was waiting for your reply, but she got more and more tired until she eventually passed out. “Someone broke in at that moment to stab Chen Wei’s heart with a knife before leaving with the coffee cup and the coffee machine,” shared Bai Rong with Cheng Jinrong.

“Who is the culprit?” demanded Cheng Jinrong suspiciously.

“Come on, let’s go check the security footage,” replied Bai Rong before she turned around. She had the police officer get the footage for her, so she could examine the footage between 9 p.m. the night before the murder and 5 p.m. on the day of the murder.



Chen Wei's parents joined them.

No one visited Chen Wei's house between the suspected time frames, and there were no suspicious individuals lurking around. Everything was quiet.

Bai Rong watched the footage three times, but she never saw anyone suspicious.

"Did Wei buy those sedatives herself? That doesn't seem possible either. Wei is a very obedient child, and she would never buy something like that. She's not depressed either," commented Chen Wei's mom in a confused tone.

"I am going to kill that son of a b\*tch!" growled Chen Wei's dad angrily.

Bai Rong could tell what Chen Wei's dad guessed. He must have assumed that someone harassed his daughter.

"Calm down. The chances of your daughter taking the drug on her own is zero. If she had taken the drug out of her own free will, it would not make sense for her to hold on to her phone like that. It'd make even less sense that she'd take it with her coffee. We must've missed something," said Bai Rong.

“We’ve watched the footage in its entirety three times. There is no murderer or anyone suspicious. It’s not like the murderer could’ve crawled up from under the ground,” said Chen Wei’s father grimly.

Bai Rong immediately had an epiphany. “You’re right. The murderer might have crawled up from under the ground! Let’s go. If they climbed into the room, then there had to be a hole there somewhere. It hadn’t been that long since the crime took place, so the culprit may not have filled the hole yet. Let’s hurry over.”

With that, Bai Rong rushed out of the conference room with Cheng Jinrong close behind. Chen Wei’s parents and the other detectives followed them.

They soon reached Chen Wei’s room, which was not that big.

Everyone started examining the place.

“Move the closets and all other furniture aside,” instructed Bai Rong.

The police officers moved the furniture out of the way and discovered a dark hole underneath one of the closets.

Seeing that got Chen Wei’s mother to break down immediately. “My baby!”

Bai Rong’s heart was especially heavy as well.

When someone is spying on you, no one would feel safe even if they're home with their family. And these people would not stop until they achieve what they tend to – even if that meant killing the person.

How can anyone prevent bad things from happening or be vigilant about something like that?

“Go check the tunnel out and see where it leads,” instructed Bai Rong.

Some police officers went down, but they returned soon after to report, “It’s a dead-end down there. Someone has blocked it.”

“What’s going on?” asked Chen Wei’s dad as he looked at Bai Rong.

“The killer blocked it to keep his or her identity hidden,” answered Bai Rong.

“What do we do now? Did Wei die in vain?” asked Chen Wei’s mother with a broken heart.

“The murderer didn’t get to fill the tunnel completely. How big is the tunnel right now?” asked Bai Rong.

“It’s about thirty feet deep and three feet wide,” replied the police officer.

“From the volume, it seems that the culprit has quite a bit of soil left to get rid of. Besides, all those dug-up soil has to be stored somewhere, and the culprit couldn’t dig the tunnel in public. Hence, the murderer must be staying somewhere nearby!” said Bai Rong.

She turned to the police officers and instructed, "First things first – bring the security footage of the area over. Next, get as many officers as you can to investigate this neighborhood. Any place with excess soil around would indicate that the murderer lives there. But do hurry up and try to get into the houses even if the residents refused to let you into their place or if no one is home. Check to see if there is any dug-up earth stored at their house compounds."

"Understood!" said the police officers before they started working on it immediately.

After they left, Bai Rong sat on Chen Wei's bed and thought about the situation.

"We'll find the murderer soon, won't we?" asked Chen Wei's mother nervously.

"Yes, it is likely we will apprehend the killer soon. This person knows about Chen Wei's habits and planned the murder ahead of time," said Bai Rong rationally.

"Who would hurt my daughter? She has always been a good girl and has never offended anyone," cried the elderly woman between sobs.

Half an hour later, a police officer ran over and reported, "We've found the culprit. The person is staying behind this house."

Chen Wei's father was the first one to rush over with Cheng Jinrong close behind. Bai Rong ran over as well.

Even from a distance, she could see a thin person in a black hoodie. The person had her head down, so no one could tell what she looked like, but she was covered in dirt.

Cheng Jinrong rushed over and pulled her hood away. He gasped in surprise, "You?"

"It's all her fault for seducing my boyfriend. You broke up with me for her!" roared Yang Ni, who seemed mentally unstable.

"I thought you'd understand," replied Cheng Jinrong, who couldn't calm down either.

"Cheng Jinrong, you are nothing but an ass\*le! I was there when you started your business, and I slept with your clients to help you boost your career. You treated me like a tool, then discarded me once you were done with me. Heck, you didn't even hesitate to dump me. I am not someone you can bully, you know? I am simply unlucky to have been caught. If I wasn't, I would've killed you next," growled Yang Ni angrily.

"Take her away," instructed Bai Rong solemnly.

"You really are something else. It only took you a few hours to help us find the killer. If we were even a day late, she could've flushed all the soil down the toilet, and all the evidence would've been gone. What a crafty murderer," said the police officer, who smiled as he praised Bai Rong.

Bai Rong nodded politely at the officer, but she felt terrible.

Love... must it always be either self-destruction or the destruction of another? If so, who on Earth would still want love?

The police officers left soon after, and everyone became lost in their own thoughts. No one could speak.

Bai Rong was the first to come around. She turned to Cheng Jinrong and said, "My condolences. You can't turn back time now, so you should just do what you are supposed to. I'll take my leave now."

"It's late. You haven't eaten yet, right? Let me treat you to a meal," suggested Cheng Jinrong as he suppressed the pain in his heart.

"No, that's not necessary. Take care of Chen Wei's parents. They just lost their daughter, and you're like a son to them, so they are your responsibilities now," replied Bai Rong, who spoke in a meaningful tone.

Cheng Jinrong nodded and replied, "I understand."

Then, Bai Rong turned to Chen Wei's father, who was still in a daze. She said, "If Chen Wei was still around, she'd wish that you'd live a happy life. Don't be too sad."

He slowly shifted his gaze to Bai Rong and asked, "Can I speak with you in private?"

"Sure," replied Bai Rong.

The man then led the way while Bai Rong followed.

He went into a room and fished out a notebook from a locked drawer to hand it to Bai Rong.

Bai Rong didn't know what he was trying to do, so she didn't accept it.

"I truly appreciated your help in seeking justice for my daughter. Thank you," said Chen Wei's father in a voice thick with tears.

"Just doing my job."

He then shoved the notebook to Bai Rong and advised, "Don't tell anyone about it and don't show it to anyone. Also, you should leave."

Bai Rong had a strange feeling about it.

She felt like the notebook had something to do with the treasure. But Su Xuyan has already gotten his hands on that piece of land... Is there something more to it?

"Luckily, I deliberately shared the wrong address. Haha, I really did dirty to the one who helped me," said Chen Wei's father as he grinned bitterly and wiped his tears off. He walked out of the room before Bai Rong did.

Deliberately shared the wrong address... Could it be... that the treasure wasn't hidden at the land Su Xuyan procured?

## Chapter 249

Feeling thoroughly sorry for what had happened, Cheng Jinrong stood outside the entrance and looked into the room.

Chen Wei's father closed the door, leaving Cheng Jinrong where he was.

Bai Rong could surmise that the traitor whom Chen Wei's father mentioned was probably Cheng Jinrong.

If the treasure was somewhere else, it might be because Chen Wei's father was being cautious. Instead of the mastermind, Cheng Jinrong was on the receiving end of the message. Chen Wei's father was hoping to muddle the mastermind and at the same time coax Cheng Jinrong into marrying his daughter. Once things were done, he would disclose the exact location.

What he had planned and done was all for his daughter.

Sadly, she died in the hands of her love rival.

He must have been furious with Cheng Jinrong and himself.

If he hadn't cajoled Cheng Jinrong with the treasure, he wouldn't have broken up with his daughter, and she would still be alive.

That was why he gave Bai Rong his notebook that contained crucial information about the treasure.



She wasn't in it for the fortune. All she wanted was to fulfill the promise she made to Tang Xiaojie by tracking down the murderer, having the person incarcerated, and returning the treasure to the country.

As for Gu Mingchen and her, only fate would know if they would still end up together.

Since she had fulfilled her promise to Cheng Jinrong, it was time for her to deal with her own issues.

After she slotted the notebook into her bag, she trudged to the entrance. "I shall take my leave then, Mr. Chen. Take care."

With tears brimming in his eyes, he nodded and opened the door for her.

Cheng Jinrong didn't move an inch.

"It'd be better if you leave. Seeing you would only make Chen Wei's parents feel worse. Wait till they're over it, and then you can make up to them by supporting them to the best of your ability." Bai Rong went up to him and offered her advice.

"You're right. Well, I guess I went for wool but came home shorn. I deserve this." He let out a bitter sigh. "Anyway, where are you headed? Need a ride?"

"No." There were some things that she had to deal with on her own.

"Okay, then."

As she walked toward the main road, she drew her phone out and gave Su Xuyan a call.

“What’s up? Missing me so soon?” He chuckled vilely.

Despite the chills running down her spine, Bai Rong pulled herself together and snapped, “My work here is done, and I’ll be going back to A City now.”

“Are you playing me for a fool?” Su Xuyan was enraged as he was already on the train to Jadeborough.

“It’s not me who decides when a case is solved. If you think that’s what I’m trying to do, so be it. Bye.” She hung up, took a cab to the hotel, and proceeded to check out.

As she walked past the room which Gu Mingchen had booked, she paused. Their plan to meet here had dissolved into thin air as things unfolded. All the hopeful outlook they had was just a pipe dream now. “Wait for me, Gu Mingchen.” She turned to the door and murmured as her heart wrenched in pain.

On her way to the train station, she phoned Lu Xingzhou.

“Speak up!” It was evident that the man wasn’t in his best mood.

Bai Rong totally understood where that came from. After all, the land which he thought was riddled with treasure had fallen into the hands of the officials. It’d be a tough row to hoe for him to take over now.

“I’m sorry, but I have to return to A City to handle an emergency. It might take me a couple of days before I can get back here again.”

“Cheng Jinrong told me everything. Give me a buzz once you’re back in town.” He hung up right after the last word.

It was already 6:48 p.m. by the time she got on the train.

Taking her seat, she had just taken her first bite of the day when someone sat down across from her.

She looked up and was flummoxed to see Su Xuyan. Her appetite was instantly gone.

“I see that you’re still in the mood for a feast. Hmm, you’re indeed a cool-blooded creature, seeing how you’re so indifferent to anyone who is treating you well.” Su Xuyan cast his steely eyes upon her and pursed his lips.

She shoved down a spoonful of food and snarled, “You’re the one who drained what little warmth I had in me. I don’t get it. Why are you so hung up over a heartless woman like me? For you to orchestrated so many trickeries...”

Su Xuyan leaned back against his seat and threw in his explanation. “As you can see, I’m very petty, or perhaps spiteful is a better word. You’ve wasted three years of mine so I’m going to do the same to you.”

Bai Rong couldn’t stand it any longer. She slammed her chopsticks on the table and asked, “Tell me. If I fulfilled all your demands, how do you plan to set Gu Mingchen free?”

“I’m the person in charge of the witness protection program. It’ll be my words against or for him.” Su Xuyan smirked.

She knew from the start that he had another identity.

“What if you failed to free him?”

“If I can put him in, I can easily pull him out. Why? You don’t trust me? Let’s end this conversation then. Honestly, between you and Gu Mingchen, I’m more inclined to kill him. In other words, you have no leverage here, Bai Rong.” Su Xuyan shrugged.

“Can I at least see him one last time?” she asked.

“Of course. And before I forget, talk him into a divorce and make him promise to marry Zhou Hailan. Only then I’ll agree to let him go.” He then plunked a stack of documents on the table.

Bai Rong knitted her brows and looked at him in silence.

Su Xuyan put on a sly grin. “Go on, finish up your meal and go through these papers. I’ll take you to see Gu Mingchen tomorrow.”

With that, he got on his feet and paced toward the first-class cabin.

Bai Rong took the stack of documents and saw that it was a divorce agreement meant for Gu Mingchen and her. Aside from that, there was also a copy of a prenuptial agreement for Gu Mingchen and Zhou Hailan. On the prenuptial agreement, it was stated that either party who asked for a divorce would have to leave the marriage with nothing.

Su Xuyan was indeed a malicious rogue. Not only did he rewrite their fate, but he was also going to make her hurt Gu Mingchen one last time.

Bai Rong got frustrated and started losing herself. Her mind plunged into chaos, choking on all her nerves. A wave of her hand sent her dinner crashing to the floor.

Sensing something was wrong with herself, her quivering hands ransacked her bag for the pills. She popped one into her mouth and slumped onto the seat. A minute passed, and her mind was clear again.

Whatever. I'm just a crazy b\*tch by now. These pills won't last me much longer. I can't even have a baby with Gu Mingchen. Sooner or later, I'll be a burden, just like my mother.

All Bai Rong wanted was for Gu Mingchen to be happy, even if it meant giving up her life.

With that thought in mind, a smile crossed her face.

No matter what difficulties lay ahead, she would be happy as long as he was happy.

## Chapter 250

Bai Rong followed Su Xuyan to his apartment during the wee hours of the night.

He took a syringe from the fridge, sat at the dining table, and gestured for her to sit next to him.

Bai Rong went with the flow and rolled up her sleeve. Her eyes were affixed to the turquoise fluid-filled syringe.

“Doesn’t the probability of death worry you? I told you before that once the pernicious virus spreads, not only will you feel that your muscles are being ripped apart, but you’ll also be bleeding from your eyes and ears.” Su Xuyan curled his lips.

“I thought you’re the one who wanted this?” Bai Rong turned toward him insouciantly. She would rather die on her feet than live on her knees. She was ready to give up her life for Gu Mingchen’s.

“Huh,” he tittered.

She’s right. I was the one who wanted this. Perhaps I’m expecting her to beg for my forgiveness? But even if she did, I’m still going to go through with this.

Jab! He drove the needle into her arm.

She trembled, and sweat dotted her forehead. As her head began to spin, all she could hear were the echoes of her breath.

She plunged into total darkness and lost all her senses.

The only thing she held dear to was her belief. Despite the loneliness she was about to face, she had no regrets.

As her sight gradually recovered, the sound of the clock ticking away rippled into her ears.

She threw Su Xuyan a sidelong glance.

“You have to take this once a month. If you feel excruciating pain all over your body, and blood starts to come out from your nose, eyes, and ears, that’s the end,” Su Xuyan explained.

“How long more can I live for?” Bai Rong was as calm as a millpond.

Su Xuyan’s tensed up at the thought of her death. His feigned calmness couldn’t conceal the anxiety that had surfaced in his eyes. “As long as I want.”

Hearing that, there weren’t any changes to her expression. To her, living longer wasn’t something that would gladden her.

“Take me to Gu Mingchen now. I’ll have him sign the papers, and you will let him out tomorrow.”

“At this hour? Are you sure?” Su Xuyan was perplexed.

Gu Mingchen was locked up and accused of being a spy. He must've missed her so badly, and Bai Rong could imagine him worried sick.

Another day in the cell would add another blanket of anxiety and pressure.

She needed to get him out, the sooner the better.

“Am I sure? Aren't you the one who wanted this?” Her words were brimming with derision.

“Gu Mingchen is a doomed man. What's there for me to worry about? But it's definitely better to have the contract signed as soon as possible.” Su Xuyan stood up and straightened his shirt.

“If he signed it today, he's going to be released tomorrow, right?” Bai Rong needed assurance.

“Hmm... should be.” Su Xuyan sneered and walked toward the door.

Once they got into the car, Su Xuyan had Bai Rong blindfolded.

“What's this for?”

“Due to Gu Mingchen's remarkably unusual status, the organization feared that someone might come to his rescue, and that would bring dire consequences. Thus, the secrecy. Even his parents aren't allowed to see him.”



The lines on Bai Rong's forehead deepened as she got more worried.

That must mean that countless interrogations awaited him every day. Even if he was innocent, to have his loyalty doubted by the country he served must've filled him with exasperation.

She lowered her head, closed her eyes, and allowed her tears to wet the blindfold as she bottled up her feelings.

An hour later, she was pulled out of the car and led toward the underground cell.

Blindfolded, she tripped over a step and dipped her knee onto the ground. Upon hearing her muffled grunt, Su Xuyan slapped his man, who was tugging her. "Are you dumb? Why didn't you make her aware of the step?"

"My a-apologies, commander. I d-d-didn't notice."

Su Xuyan pulled Bai Rong up and removed her blindfold.

While holding on to his hand, she was confounded by how Su Xuyan was addressed. A commander?

After pondering for a while, however, she thought it was nothing to be surprised about. After all, he always had an unspoken identity.

Numerous armed guards stood tall at the entrance, forming an impenetrable barricade.

Behind them was an unusual building with the structure of an arch bridge that bore no windows.

Su Xuyan flung Bai Rong's hand away. "Keep up."

She followed him into an enclosed corridor and down a flight of stairs.

Halfway through, Su Xuyan turned around and grabbed Bai Rong's arm but was shook off by her subconsciously.

Ticked off, he gritted his teeth, gave her a vicious glare, and strode ahead.

Bai Rong picked up her pace, and after a couple of minutes, they came to a sizeable chamber under the surveillance of two guards.

Su Xuyan stopped in front of a door and turned his head toward Bai Rong. "He's in here."

She clenched her fist and walked toward it.

"You need company?"

"No, thanks." Her face was as pale as a ghost.

"Hmph." Su Xuyan gave the door a few knocks and stood aside.

When the guard pushed the door open, a gush of cold air sent her heart trembling.

She was stupefied by how unbearable and dim the cell was.

In the ill-lit room, she saw Gu Mingchen lying on a wooden bed behind the metal bars. No blanket was given.

“You can keep asking the same question, and I’m going to give you the same answer. The firearms buried under that land aren’t mine.” He let out a low hum and stacked his arms on his forehead.

Bai Rong gripped tightly onto the bars, and tears started welling up.

“Gu Mingchen.” She did her best to hold her tears in.

Gu Mingchen jumped up at the sound of her voice and lunged toward her. He wrapped his hands around hers and started asking questions. “Why are you here? Did you go to look for Su Xuyan? Or did he come to you? What are his conditions?”

“I was the one asking to see you as I want to know what’s going on. Mingchen, why are there weapons hidden under that land?”

“I’ve been framed. Su Xuyan must’ve known that I’ve acquired that land and thus, planted those weapons to set me up.”

“Do you have any evidence to prove your innocence?” She looked at him, hoping for a yes.

A fifteen-second long silence ensued before he finally replied, “My conscience is clear.”

Bai Rong knew then what she had to do next.

In this world, having a clear conscience wouldn't keep you in the game. It was up to the others to decide if you were right or wrong. They decided if you were lying or speaking the truth.

If you were believed to be innocent, you would still be a free man, despite all your evil deeds.

If they trusted that you're guilty, your head would be on the chopping board regardless of your innocence.

Bai Rong knew what the best course of action ought to be.