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Chapter 277 Reluctant To Leave

I have to go before I lose the will to.

"We'll keep in touch." Bai Rong's terse reply demonstrated her resolution.

Gu Mingchen's brows furrowed. He knew that she had made up her mind to go back and that there was nothing he could do to make her stay. Hence, he could only compromise. "I'll send you back."

Bai Rong did not reject him. After all, it was rather difficult to get a taxi here.

"I'm staying in Star Hotel near Winchester Street," Bai Rong stated.

Gu Mingchen knew that this meant she had agreed. "Wait for me while I get changed."

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After both of them got dressed, Gu Mingchen drove her back.

Bai Rong leaned against the seat and looked out the window. Both of them didn't speak during the entire ride.

After some time, Gu Mingchen slowed his car to the point that several people riding electric scooters turned back to give him the middle finger.

Bai Rong was the only one who could easily get a reaction out of him. Hence, he remained composed and did not even spare a glance at those people.

Bai Rong was so immersed in her thoughts that she only noticed that something amiss when a bicycle overtook them, shooting a quizzical glance at Gu Mingchen.

When he felt the weight of her gaze, he sped up a little and guiltily made up an excuse. "There's a red light ahead."

"Oh," Bai Rong replied curtly.

"When are you going to the military base?" Gu Mingchen asked.

Bai Rong's eyes sank. She had promised to help him do the test, but had delayed it until now.

She was afraid that going to Gu Mingchen's military base would anger Su Xuyan.

"I still have to think about this," Bai Rong gave an ambiguous answer.

Gu Mingchen flicked his eyes toward Bai Rong before pulling up the car by the roadside.

Bai Rong looked at him with perplexity. "What's wrong?"

Gu Mingchen grabbed her chin and went in for a kiss.

She didn't push him away, nor did she return his kiss. All she did was look at him, almost becoming cross-eyed from the proximity. When she retreated backward, he didn't follow. Instead, he gazed at her intently.

Afraid that Gu Mingchen's gaze would pull her in and cause her to drown in its depth, she turned her head away and feigned indifference to conceal her chaotic emotions.

"I'll just get down here. I need to go somewhere else first anyway."

She opened the door, but Gu Mingchen grabbed her arm.

Drawing in a long breath and keeping her emotions in check, Bai Rong looked back at him.

"Let's meet every day," Gu Mingchen uttered in a deep voice.

This wasn't a question, but a statement.

Bai Rong let out a mirthless laugh. For some reason, what he said made her heart ache and her eyes sting with tears. She hid her true emotions behind her smile and refuted, "Even married couples don't meet every day. There will be business trips and work every so often that prevent couples from meeting. And my job requires me to travel often."

"Four times a week. Nothing less," Gu Mingchen said domineeringly, leaving no room for objection.

If he'd used rescuing Liu Yan to threaten me, I would've had no choice but to meet him every day. Then, I'd just get more stressed, agonized and frustrated.

But he didn't use that to threaten me.

She was grateful that even then, he still respected and protected her feelings, not using her own words against her.

Gu Mingchen's current actions only made her all the more reluctant to leave this world.

"Three times. I'm afraid I can't make it four," Bai Rong compromised.

Gu Mingchen's eyes shimmered with emotion as he cupped the back of her head and pulled her toward him before placing a kiss on her forehead.

His kiss seemed to convey his trust, adoration, reluctance, heartache and deep love for her.

Bai Rong stayed motionless and closed her eyes, feeling his breath right above her head.

She had the strong urge to hug him and respond to his silent profession of love.

Unfortunately, she couldn't do that.

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Gu Mingchen looked at her and reminded in a tender voice, "Be careful on the road. I don't want to give you too much pressure. Call me if you need anything. I'm not weak and useless, you know? I'd give my all to protect you."

Bai Rong's eyes reddened. If she stayed any longer, she would fall apart at the seams and lose all her willpower. Hence, she hurriedly got down from the car and walked forward at a rapid pace. Tears were already streaming down her face.

She didn't need him to give his all to protect her. She only wanted him to find a new woman to live a normal and happy life together.

In a short amount of time, she had covered a distance of one kilometer and entered a shopping mall. She immediately went to the washroom and turned on the faucet. After splashing cold water onto her face, she lifted her head and stared at her reflection in the mirror.

Her fingers tapped rhythmically on the faucet and suddenly, she withdrew her hand and clenched her fist with a bitter smile.

Bai Rong couldn't bring herself to forget Gu Mingchen. Hence, she didn't use hypnosis to seal off her feelings for him and only locked that part of her up. However, though hidden in the depths of her soul, she still loved him very much. Hence, it was impossible that she wouldn't be moved by his actions.

I only wanted to knock some sense into myself, so that I can become stronger or regain some semblance of normalcy.

"Then don't come out and cause trouble!" Enraged, Bai Rong smashed the mirror with a vase she picked up from the side.

The smooth surface of the mirror cracked, reflecting a few dozens of herself.

Looking at her many reflections, she gradually calmed down.

She was one of the two split personalities Bai Rong had. She needed to do what the other Bai Rong wanted to do instead of resenting her.

When the janitor came in and saw the broken mirror as well as the vase shards on the floor, she asked Bai Rong in surprise, "What happened here? Did you see who did this?"

Bai Rong looked at the middle-aged female janitor and answered, "I did this. Could you go ask your manager how much I need to pay as compensation?"

The janitor eyed her suspiciously, but she only gave her a cold and indifferent look in return.

"Then, you better not run off," warned the janitor.

"I won't. I'll go with you if you're worried," Bai Rong offered stoically.

"Alright. Come with me then."

Bai Rong followed the janitor to the manager's office. After a brief explanation, the manager inquired with the Purchasing Department and informed Bai Rong, "It's a total of one thousand."

"I only have four hundred in cash on me right now. I'm staying at Star Hotel, so perhaps you could get one of your employees to come with me and get the money?"

Bai Rong scored a few points with her pleasant attitude and willingness to pay. Not to mention, she was pretty too.

Hence, the manager offered, "I'll go with you."

He brought Bai Rong to Star Hotel and followed her upstairs.

Upon opening the door, Bai Rong found that Su Xuyan was already here. Playing with her phone in one hand, he glanced at her with a gloomy look on his face.

Bai Rong calmly walked toward him and took her phone out of his hand before going back to the door. "Is it alright if I transfer the money to you?"

"Oh, sure." The manager shot a fleeting look at Su Xuyan. Assuming that he was Bai Rong's boyfriend, the manager offered him a smile.

Su Xuyan didn't even spare a glance at him. His eyes stayed locked on Bai Rong the whole time.

The manager wisely left the hotel after Bai Rong transferred one thousand to him.

The moment Bai Rong turned around, Su Xuyan rushed forward and pinned her against the wall, locking her in place. "You're dressed like this and even deliberately left your phone in the hotel? Who did you meet behind my back?"

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Chapter 278 The Power Of Love

Bai Rong smiled and didn't shy away from his menacing gaze. "You haven't changed at all. You're still the same Su Xuyan I remember. Where do you think I can even go?"

Su Xuyan detected the sarcasm and hostility in her eyes.

You're still the same Su Xuyan I remember. The effect of her words was like a bomb being set off in his head, frying his nerves.

I've changed so much for her. Can't she see it?

"Where did you go? Tell me!" Su Xuyan spat angrily.

He looked as though he was a second away from throwing her into the pits of hell if she didn't answer.

Bai Rong maintained calm as she looked at him. "I went to do what I needed to do."

"And what exactly did you need to do?" Su Xuyan prodded.

"Oh, too many to count. Which one would you like to listen to first?" Bai Rong arched a brow.

Su Xuyan couldn't read her. He felt like there was a gaping distance between them and she would vanish into thin air at any moment.

Desperation clawed at him and he wanted to do something to prove that she was still his.

With that, he leaned in to kiss her lips.

Bai Rong instinctively turned her head to the side.

Her reaction only served to anger Su Xuyan. The next moment, he grabbed her chin and forcefully sealed her lips with his own. Making use of her surprise, he plunged his tongue into her mouth and brutally kissed her.

Being forced into a kiss, anger surged in her.

However, she couldn't push him away.

Her resistance only seemed to provoke Su Xuyan, causing him to become rougher. If he decided to force himself onto her, there was no way she could escape.

Hence, she took a gamble and kissed him back.

Startled, Su Xuyan's eyes widened as he looked at her in shock.

Bai Rong quickly closed her eyes before he could discern her true intentions. Otherwise, she would lose the battle before it even began.

Bright passion flickered in Su Xuyan's eyes and he kissed her even harder, his grip on her arms instantly loosening.

She took the opportunity to switch their positions, pressing Su Xuyan against the wall.

He grabbed her waist and pulled her tighter against his body.

When she felt his arousal press against her belly, she abruptly released him and took a step back.

Su Xuyan grabbed her waist again. The anger in his eyes had disappeared and was replaced by heavy desire.

"Rong, I want you," Su Xuyan said hoarsely. His Adam's apple bobbed and his lips parted as his breath came in shallow and uneven gasps.

"I can't right now. It's that time of the month," Bai Rong replied with knitted eyebrows. Worry crept into her heart because she had forgotten to wear a sanitary pad. If Su Xuyan were to unravel her deception, there would be no escape for her.

She peered at Su Xuyan with wariness.

It was obvious that his lust had overpowered his rationality when he brushed his thumb across her plump lips and said, "Use this."

Bai Rong was a grown woman after all, so she immediately caught his meaning.

She looked away and rejected, "Three more months."

"Did you use your mouth to relieve Gu Mingchen when the two of you were together?" Su Xuyan asked in a low voice that kept his emotions well hidden.

Why is he asking me this?

Although she couldn't see through his intentions, she knew that Su Xuyan would get mad if she told him the truth and she would be in danger again.

"I've always had a more passive character," Bai Rong offered him a cryptic reply.

A grin spread across Su Xuyan's lips. "Then I'll make sure to slowly teach you in the future. I'm gonna go shower. Change your clothes. I'm bringing you out tonight. Also, I still hope you'll tell me where you went."

It was the same question, but he was much calmer and easier to talk to as compared to earlier. His dangerous aura had also diminished significantly.

Bai Rong nodded.

Su Xuyan let go of her waist and turned to go into the bathroom. He took a cold shower and felt slightly helpless. It had been many years since he had been with a woman. His engorged lower region felt uncomfortable and the cold shower did not seem to be helping. Thus, he closed his eyes and recalled the way Bai Rong had kissed him just now, jerking himself off to the memory.

...

While he was in the shower, Bai Rong quickly changed her clothes and wore a sanitary pad.

All the while, she racked her brains to come up with a believable explanation for his question.

Fifteen minutes later, Su Xuyan came out of the shower and looked at her with bright eyes that were filled with tender warmth and the remnants of his earlier desire.

Bai Rong tried her best to remain calm where she stood.

He grabbed her waist again and pulled her toward his body that was still damp from water vapor. "I think it's time you told me where you went today."

"To visit my mom," Bai Rong answered.

Su Xuyan frowned, finding it hard to believe. "You visited your mom dressed like that?"

"She's still receiving treatment now, but she's recovering well and looks much better, so I don't think it's the right time for her to see me yet. Not until she's fully recovered."

Su Xuyan still did not believe her as he scrutinized her expressionless face. "Why didn't you bring your phone then?"

"I didn't want to be disturbed," Bai Rong boldly claimed.

"By me? Or are you lying to me now?" Su Xuyan asked solemnly.

Bai Rong's lips tugged into a smile that didn't reach her eyes. Instead, there was a hint of ridicule in it. "Do you know why I didn't want to tell you?

"Many people believe what they want to believe and instinctively reject everything else. To them, the truth doesn't matter. What matters most is their own version of the truth.

"So, Su Xuyan, since you've already made your own speculations and settled on your version of the truth, you won't believe me no matter what I say. And honestly, I don't care."

Sensing the anger radiating off her, Su Xuyan coaxed, "Alright. Let's just forget about this then. I just get really anxious every time I can't find you. While I was waiting here with your phone in my hand, countless possibilities flashed across my mind and every one of them didn't only made me feel worse. I felt like I was going crazy with worry. You know, I used to be a very confident person, but you made me lose my confidence."

Bai Rong lowered her gaze.

The world was full of liars, hypocrites and schemers. Unwittingly, she had become all three of those.

Because of the person she loved, she was willing to hurt others. Hence, she wasn't some kind of noble person.

"You should give up on me, Su Xuyan. I'm not worth it," Bai Rong uttered frostily.

Su Xuyan held Bai Rong's hand and kissed the corner of her mouth before flashing a devilish smile at her. "I'm willing to spend my entire life just to get you back. Even if I fail, we're bound for life."

She withdrew her hand and kept her eyes down, concealing the thoughts that threatened to overwhelm her.

"C'mon. Let's go out for dinner."

Bai Rong followed him to a private lounge in the hotel. Upon seeing Xing Bachuan and the whole family, her gaze turned chilly.

Su Xuyan always liked to arrange unpleasant surprises for her. The worst part was that he seemed to find pleasure in it.

What little guilt she had toward him for lying dissipated in an instant.

"Xuyan, why did you bring her here?" Xing Jinnian was the first to express her discontent, standing up to point at Bai Rong whilst glaring vehemently at her.

"Didn't you all invite me to dinner? Am I not allowed to bring my female companion?" Su Xuyan curled an arm around Bai Rong's waist and leaned down to peck her on the cheek. This was to demonstrate his relationship with Bai Rong in front of Xing Bachuan and the others.