You Owe Me, My Love Chapter 311 - 320

Chapter 311 Sea and Spring Blossoms

"And we'd also have three rooms downstairs as well: a kitchen, a storage room for firewood, and a dining room. Then, I'd built a two-meter-high wall outside and dig a well, too. So, our kids can play in the yard every day and we can also bring them to the beach. We would be so carefree and happy living here," Gu Mingchen said, sharing the life he was looking forward to with Bai Rong.

She listened to him attentively; his voice is soothing, just like a baritone.

A poem suddenly flashed through her mind: I have a house, facing the sea, where spring blossoms.

She moved the stone to his side and sat down beside him. Hugging his arm, she leaned her head on his shoulder and said, "We can't deny that we all have our own responsibilities. You have your parents, your army, and your promises while I have my parents, my promises, and my dreams. But as long as we shall live, there is hope for us. I promise you: after we're done with what we need to do, I'll come here again with you if your wish still stands."

Turning his head towards her, he gazed lovingly at Bai Rong and lifted the corners of his mouth. "I suddenly feel like thanking Lu Xingzhou. If it weren't for him, I wouldn't have known how you would torture me."

She cast her eyes down and landed her gaze on the vapor rising from the pot in front of them. Various complex emotions fleeted through her eyes.

I'd once resented the unjust of fate. But after I've found love, I realize that I should be grateful for what has happened. However, now that I think about his life after my demise, I start to hate the cruel fate again. But what's the point of indignation? Life is about choices and the decisions we make.

Only when she felt the tears streaming down her face did she realize she teared up again.

"Why are you crying?" Gu Mingchen asked worriedly, turning her over so that she was facing him.

Bai Rong looked at him with her red-rimmed eyes. "I thought of our son. I believe he's safe and sound. But we have no idea where he is right now. I really want to find him, but I'm not sure if my wish can come true."

"I've thought him as well. If his disappearance was caused by someone, it would not be Su Xuyan, your father, and my parents. In my opinion, it's most probably caused by someone I know. If we can go back safely this time, I promise you that I'll find him within a year."

"It seems like we still have a lot of things to do," she sighed.

He pulled her into his embrace and said, "No matter what stands in front of us, we'll face it together. I'm sure everything will be fine."

Bai Rong didn't say a word; she couldn't bring herself to tell him the truth. So, she closed her eyes and pretended to be asleep.

When Gu Mingchen did not hear her response, he glanced towards her and found that she seemed to be asleep. Therefore, he proceeded to bring her to bed.

But before he could bring her into his arms, she had opened her eyes.

Smiling at her, he said, "Go to bed if you're sleepy."

"Okay." She climbed up the bamboo ladder and lay down on the bed.

"It's cold tonight. You should sleep first. I'll add more firewood and come to you later." Before he left, he placed his shirt on her to keep her warm.

Bai Rong did not sleep as she waited for him. After he came up to the bed, she put his shirt back on him and hug him, nestling against his body.

She was not a clingy person, but he liked her to be clingy and taking the lead in their relationship so that he would feel loved and needed.

Gu Mingchen planted a kiss on her forehead and they fell asleep for the night.

Time passed, and morning came. When Bai Rong opened her eyes, the storm had stopped and there was no more pitter-pattering sound of the heavy rain yesterday. Now she could only hear the soft sound of rainwater dripping from the leaves above.

The fresh air of the island wafted into her nose, and she drew a deep breath in.

Gu Mingchen was also awake. "Good morning, sleepyhead."

"What's the time?" she asked.

Glancing at his watch, he replied, "It's 6:15 A.M. Do you want to sleep more?"

She shook her head in response.

Her pad was full and it was making her uncomfortable. It's time to change.

When he saw that she wanted to go down, he climbed down the ladder first and stood underneath to protect her.

After she came down safely, he turned around and added firewood to the campfire.

Peeking over his back, she saw the fire was still burning. He probably got up several times during the night to keep it burning.

"The road in the woods should be very difficult to walk after the storm yesterday. Shall we check them out again in the afternoon?" Bai Rong asked.

Gu Mingchen brought in the pot of water from outside and put it on the fire. "After breakfast, I'll go out to chop some trees by myself. There're many big trees on this island, so it won't be difficult to find suitable wood that can be made into a boat. I would be back before dusk. Stay at home and don't go out, okay?"

"Are you going out alone?" She was a little worried.

Gu Mingchen smiled softly and said, "I have a gun and a knife. Don't worry."

"Walk slowly in the woods, and beware of snakes and insects," she reminded.

"Relax. What shall we have for breakfast? Fish soup or pork ribs soup?"

"Let's have pork ribs soup. I have an idea. We can bring a sack of sand onto our boat later and put the fish inside it. If we put it under the hot sun, the fish would be cooked. But pork won't be. Am I right?"

He nodded. "You're right. Let's have pork ribs then. Everything is ready, and all we need now is a boat."

Bai Rong brought out the ribs and put them into the pot. They did not have enough water now, so she decided not to wash them since she had washed them before.

Meanwhile, Gu Mingchen went out and laid the wet wood on the beach to dry them under the sun. Then, he searched for a dozen of dry wood and brought them back to the shack.

"Can you find some fiber-rich plants? I want to weave more ropes," Bai Rong said.

"I think they're all damp. Is your abdomen still in pain? You can rest for a day." He felt worried about her condition.

"I'm feeling better. I can put the damp plants on a rock and dry them. Whenever you're out, I have nothing to do and I'd feel bored," she pleaded.

He nodded in response and went to chop the plants she wanted. After a while, he brought them back and placed them on a rock.

When the soup was almost ready, Bai Rong put all the leftover mushrooms into the pot and waited for the soup to brew a little while.

Then, he handed her some leaves.

"What are these?" she asked, perplexed.

"Put them in your mouth, chew, and spit them out. I found them yesterday. They're like toothpaste and they can also strengthen teeth." He threw a few pieces of the leaves into his mouth and spat them out after chewing for a minute.

She followed suit. It feels refreshing and cool, but it has a bitter aftertaste.

Gu Mingchen went out after breakfast. Before he left, Bai Rong took out most of the ribs in the pot, put them in a bamboo tube, and gave it to him.

"Wait for me at home." He pecked her on the forehead and turned to leave.

After a long while, when Bai Rong was weaving the ropes, she heard Su Xuyan's voice. "Rong."

Her heart skipped a beat as she raised her head in surprise.

Su Xuyan stood outside on the wooden planks. After several days of not seeing him, he seemed to have lost a lot of weight. And his cheeks and chin were even covered with stubble. He looked pleasantly surprised as he smiled with relief.

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Chapter 312 Kill Whoever It Is

Bai Rong was shocked to the core. She stood up immediately and the rope in her hand fell to the ground. "Why are you here?"

"Let's get out of here first. We'll talk about it later on the boat," Su Xuyan said as he went inside the shack.

When she heard his words, she froze. A deep frown formed on her face and she started to breathe irregularly.

Get out of here? How about Gu Mingchen? What if I tell him that Gu Mingchen is here? No, I can't tell him. He won't bring Gu Mingchen with us and he might even kill him. If I tell him I don't want to leave, he will get suspicious and continues to stay. By the time Gu Mingchen comes back, they'll definitely meet each other.

"Wait for me outside. I have something to pack before I go," she said.

Su Xuyan scrutinized the shack. He glanced from the bamboo fence to the firewood in the corner and the hams on the ground. The longer he looked, the angrier he became. His previous joyful expression was replaced with a livid expression.

"Who else lives here?" Su Xuyan asked.

"I live alone."

"These were all built by you?" He looked at her with disbelief and examined the emotions in her eyes.

She held his gaze calmly.

If I say that the shack is already here when I first arrived on this island, he certainly will not believe me. He can see that the shack is recently built through the color of the bamboo.

With such thoughts in her mind, she replied, "Yes."

He snorted with laughter and looked at the food. "Where did you get the ham? You hunted it?"

"I asked others for it. There are other people on this island. If you don't believe it, I will take you there now," Bai Rong said monotonously, staring at him. If he insists on going with her, I'd take him to the bamboo house and pretend to faint halfway. What to do after that? It depends on fate.

Su Xuyan smirked. Stretching his arm out to her, he pulled her to his side. "You've explained everything in detail. Is there any other reason not to believe you? Anyway, it looks like there's nothing to clean up here. Do you seriously want to bring these ham and fish?"

"I'm on my menses now. Is there any feminine product on your boat?" Bai Rong asked.

He felt even more shocked. "You're on your period? How do you deal with it here?"

"Wait." She climbed up to the bed and tore open a sanitary pad. Hurriedly, she used the ash from the pad to write a word: Wait.

Then, she took the other sanitary pads down and said, "Let's go."

Su Xuyan eyed the bed skeptically.

As Bai Rong was afraid of what he would find if they stayed longer, she quickly left the shack first.

When she reached outside, she saw that he had brought six of his men and they were now standing in two rows.

At the seashore, Su Xuyan's white cruise ship glittered under the sunlight.

She estimated that it would take more than six hours for her to go back and it meant that it would be twelve hours later when Song Xiyu could fetch his son from this island.

If Gu Mingchen goes back to the shack after sunset, he might not be able to see the words I've left on the bed. If he couldn't find her, he'd think that she has gone out looking for him. I have to leave him a clearer message.

"Why are you still standing here?" Su Xuyan's voice came from her back.

Bai Rong turned and looked at him. "Those fish is not valuable since I simply caught them using a net. But the hams are quite rare. It'd be a pity if I don't take them with me. Besides, it'd take about six hours to go back, so I can make some pork dish for you while we're on the boat"

"Okay."

As she walked towards the shack, Su Xuyan glared sullenly at her back and gave an order to the subordinates beside him. "You and two of the others stay on the island and check who lives with Bai Rong. If the person is a male, kill him, no matter who it is."

"Yes."

When Bai Rong returned to the shack, she promptly took a piece of charred wood and wrote on the stone: I have left by boat. Wait.

She covered the stone with leaves, fearing that Su Xuyan would come in and find out the message she had left. Carrying the hams in her hands, she left the shack and saw Su Xuyan standing alone on the beach.

She cast her eyes down and walked towards him. He took the hams from her hands and looked at them. "These look good. Are there a lot of bushmeat on this island?"

"I've been here for four days and I haven't seen any wild animals yet. But there are a lot of fish and crabs on this island," Bai Rong said, walking towards the deck.

Su Xuyan followed behind her. After getting onto the boat, he handed the meat to his men.

Bai Rong walked straight to the cockpit and casually asked, "Did you drive the boat?"

He looked sullenly at her, but he did not stop her.

As she reached the door of the cockpit, she saw two people in uniform sitting inside. In a heartbeat, she landed her gaze on the instrument panel and noted the coordinates of the place.

"I see. So, you're not the one who drove it?" Looking at Su Xuyan, she gave him a slight smile.

He also smiled, but it did not reach his eyes.

Before they even reached the cockpit, he had already understood the reason why she came here. He asked, "Rong, do you remember what you've promised me before?"

She froze, looking at him solemnly. "I remember."

Then, he casually put his hand on her waist and said, "I was worried that you might have forgotten about it after such a long time. Don't do things that you'll regret. I have given you several chances and you've used up all of them. Do you understand?"

As she stared at the floor, shadows of her long eyelashes covered the fleeting emotions in her eyes.

I've decided. Even if my life has only twenty days left, I'd spend the nineteen days with Gu Mingchen. I don't want to hurt him anymore. Now I guess I need to obey Su Xuyan because I've no other choice. Besides, I need to go back to get someone to rescue Gu Mingchen.

"You haven't told me about how you found me," Bai Rong said, changing the subject.

"There was someone from a fishing boat called the police, saying that he saw a girl calling for help on an isolated island. He took a photograph and I thought the girl in the photograph looked like you. That's why I came over." Su Xuyan explained.

"He called the police? No wonder the fishing boat didn't approach me. I guess I can understand why he did it. It's safer that way."

"If you didn't ask for help, I would've thought you ran away again and I almost issued a global wanted order," he joked. But there was no humor in his eyes.

"I'm sure that the fisherman did not go to the police in the Zhonggu District. I was stranded on the island because of Chen Bin, the chief of police of the Zhonggu District Police Department. He works under Lu Xingzhou, and I knew that Lu Xingzhou was the one who was behind the murder case."

"Do you have evidence? If you don't have evidence, no one will believe it. After all, the people you're accusing are the chief of police of the Zhonggu District Police Department in Jadeborough and the governor of Jeradus County.

Bai Rong didn't want Su Xuyan to stand up for her. After I rescue Gu Mingchen, he would solve all the problems.

You Owe Me, My Love Chapter 313

Chapter 313 You Have Always Known

"No, I don't. Have you had your meal? Is there a kitchen here? I'll cook for you," Bai Rong said, diverting the topic again.

Now I only want to get to the shore safely and later find an opportunity to inform Song Xiyu.

"Not yet. Follow me." Su Xuyan turned and walked a few steps before he abruptly stopped.

When she saw that he had stopped, she also instinctively halted in her tracks and kept a safe distance from him.

He glanced sideways at her and instructed, "Take two steps forward."

With her knitted eyebrows, she did as instructed.

Su Xuyan took a big step towards her then held her waist and pulled her closer to him. "Why are you acting so distant?"

Lifting her head up, she looked at him. Three years had passed and he hasn't aged a bit. He was still attractive as ever with his enchanting eyes. Even now, I still remember the first day we met. My mom was ill and ran into him. Not only did he forgive her, but he also helped her to get better clinical treatment. Before we were married, he helped me find a job and solved the problems I encountered at work. Besides, he used to send flowers to my company every day. And whenever I worked overtime, he brought me supper. During winter, when my hands were cold, he would hold my hands and put them in his pocket. I remember everything he had done for me. But those things were deliberately done by him to win my heart. And after we're married, my life fell into endless darkness. Since we didn't get off to a good start, I'm sure we wouldn't have a good ending. What he has for me now is mere possessivity. Love? It had long faded in the mists of time.

"I haven't showered for several days. Do I smell bad?" Bai Rong asked nonchalantly.

Su Xuyan then leaned towards her and took a few sniffs. As if he had not had enough, he went closer and sniffed near her neck.

His breath fanned her neck, making her feel itchy. So, she instinctively took a step back.

Her action completely angered him. He straight away held her chin and kissed her lips.

Taken aback, she shoved him away.

A glint of rage flashed in his eyes. He stormed towards her and forcefully scooped her into his arms.

At that moment, Bai Rong realized that she was in danger and exclaimed, "Let me go."

Su Xuyan became even angrier. "Why should I? You're mine. And I've given you so many chances and time. From today onwards, I will never let you go again."

"Stop! Don't do this," Bai Rong snapped with her trembling voice.

He kicked open the door, threw her on the bed, and loosened his tie.

Her eyes widened in fear and panic. She hastily rolled off the bed and hid at the other side of the bed, staring at him warily.

He sneered and growled. "Earlier on, you said you had menses. And now it's been several days since you've left. I don't believe your period hasn't ended yet."

Bai Rong trembled, clenching her fists tightly. If I jump off the boat now, everything will be over. But Gu Mingchen is still on the island. If I can inform others to rescue him, at least my death will not be in vain.

"I really can't. My menses hasn't ended since I fell into the sea a few days ago. Su Xuyan, don't do this to me," she begged.

"Don't do this? Right." He curled his lip and inched closer.

In a flash, Bai Rong leaped up to her feet and stepped backward.

Giving her a vicious look, he raised his voice. "Are you trying to say you refuse to do this? All this while, you've never thought of giving yourself to me."

"Why do I have to give myself to you? Think of all the things you'd done to me when I was married to you!" she shouted back.

"I was blinded by vengeance when I was young. I've said that I've changed. Besides, you're saying about the way I treated you when we were married. How about Gu Mingchen? It's Gu Mingchen who've brought you more pain, not me. At least I don't have a b*stard with another woman. Look at Gu Mingchen. He even has a child with Zhou Hailan." Su Xuyan started to walk towards her while unbuttoning his clothes.

"You've forced me, hurt the people I love, and even injected poison into me. You've done all that to me. Do you think I'd fall in love with you? Gu Mingchen brings me pain, but that's because he has lost his memory. I don't blame him at all."

"To you, he is always fine and dandy. And I'm the bad guy here. What else can I say!" Su Xuyan was absolutely livid.

I genuinely love her. But she doesn't know that. Since the day she had gone missing, I haven't even closed my eyes until today. And I even mobilized all my subordinates to find her. I love her, so I tolerate and forgive her. I love her, so I risk myself and offend Gu Mingchen. With his powerful influence and background, he's not an easy opponent. However, she doesn't believe in my love at all. From her perspective, he's the good guy and I'm the villain. My heart aches terribly. Is this a punishment? A punishment for toying with so many people in the past, so I'm destined to lose the woman I love?

Su Xuyan gritted his teeth. "Yes, I've never loved you, Bai Rong. I just don't want to lose my possession to others, especially Gu Mingchen. Even if it's destined for me to lose my possession, I'll destroy them and annihilate the person who takes them away from me. Let me tell you something, Bai Rong. You're just one of my toys. I don't care if you have your menses or not; I'm going to have sex with you now.

"Do you still think that I have no idea of what you've done? The person who lives with you on the island is Gu Mingchen. Besides him, you wouldn't want to live with other men. And you even went to the cockpit to note down the coordinates, planning to ask someone else to rescue him. Do you think that he can survive until tomorrow? I've ordered my subordinates to stay on the island and kill him, sorry but not sorry. If you obey me, I'll let you live. But if you disobey me, I'll let you and Gu Mingchen die. Even if both of you die, I'll make sure the two of you are buried far away from each other. Forever, you can't be together with him."

"Su Xuyan, you're so despicable!" Bai Rong roared hysterically.

"Hah! In your eyes, I am a despicable, unforgivable villain anyway. If I don't do something loathsome now, I would disappoint you. Am I right?" He rushed towards Bai Rong.

As soon as she saw him charging towards her, she jumped out of the window, and Su Xuyan ran after her immediately.

By the time he found her, she was straddling the handrail of the boat.

His heart sank in an instant. He halted in his tracks and shouted, "What are you doing? Do you not want to live?"

"You've always known if I want to live or not. In fact, I've given up on living since three years ago. Don't save me this time. Even if you save me, I won't thank you, let alone love you. If I have a chance one day, I'd still want to kill you," Bai Rong said resolutely.

If Gu Mingchen is dead, I have no desire to live anymore. Even if I choose to live, I don't want to be in Su Xuyan's hands.

You Owe Me, My Love Chapter 314

Chapter 314 I Will Kill You if She Dies

"Bai Rong, if you dare to jump down, I swear I'll let Bai Bing, Liu Yan, and everyone you care about die with you," Su Xuyan warned.

She smiled as tears streamed down her cheeks. "The people I care about...include you."

He was stunned. It was as if his soul was shaken by the words she had just said, putting him into a trance.

Without any hesitation, she leaped down the boat.

Her body crashed through the surface of the sea, and in an instant all she could feel was pain.

But it is nothing comparable to the pain in her heart. So, it doesn't matter.

She watched herself descend slowly down the water. The surroundings were so quiet that she could hear the gurgling sound in her ears, and the clear blue sea seemed to be able to wash away all the filth off a person.

Finally, I am dying. If I knew that I would still be suffering so much, I wouldn't have chosen to live three years ago. Too bad that I've dragged Gu Mingchen into this mess. It's all because of my obsession, my selfishness, my misfortune, and my fault entirely. If there is another life in the future, I would definitely not cause him any trouble again.

As more and more oxygen left her lungs, she instinctively inhaled and the seawater gushed down into her lungs, causing a surge of intense pain from her esophagus to her lungs, and brain, and the whole of her. Dying hurts.

The longer she stayed, the heavier she felt. She eventually let the water take her as the current pushed down on her from all sides. Before she let out her last breath, she vaguely saw Su Xuyan swimming towards her.

When Su Xuyan saw her figure in front of him, he immediately swam faster. The thought of her dying made his heart ached. Grabbing her shoulders, he swam towards the surface.

Two minutes later, Bai Rong was brought out of the sea.

She looked lifeless with her pale face and purple lips.

Su Xuyan started to panic. Shaking her shoulders, he said, "Bai Rong, don't die. I don't allow you to die. Do you hear me? if you die, I'll let Gu Mingchen pay for it. Wake up now and I'll ask them to let him go. Can you hear me?"

But she remained silent and motionless.

"Commander Su." His subordinate let down the ladder.

He held her with one of his hands and climbed up the ladder. With his subordinates' help, he successfully hauled her up the boat.

He immediately laid her down and performed ten rounds of cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Still, Bai Rong showed no sign of life.

Nonetheless, he persisted to resuscitate her. I won't stop until she wakes up.

After a long time, she finally coughed out a mouthful of water.

Su Xuyan looked at her, overjoyed.

But the glow in his eyes turned dim as he found that she was still unconscious.

Two days had passed.

Sitting by Bai Rong's bedside, Su Xuyan stared at her gloomily.

The doctor said that she was clinically well, and there was no accumulation of fluid in her lungs or brain. But she did not open her eyes.

"Rong, I have good news for you. None of my subordinates have returned from the island, so Gu Mingchen is probably still alive," he said.

Yet, she gave no response and continued to stay still like a beautiful sculpture.

He sighed and stroked her head. "Previously, I wanted you to be by my side and leave Gu Mingchen. You're finally here now, but you decide to stay with your condition like this. You've said that I don't love you. But if I don't have feelings for you, why do I do so many things for you? There are many people out there who are better than you. They're prettier, younger, and fitter. Besides, you're bad-tempered. All in all, you're not qualified to be my toy. We're no longer young; I don't have time to play games anymore. Rong, I really love you, so don't worry. I won't let you die. Even if you're in a vegetative state, I will stay with you forever."

All he got was silence.

Right then, someone knocked on the door.

He looked at the door, displeased. "Come in."

"Commander, Gu Mingchen is back. He's now outside with his people and he's asking for somebody from you," Su Xuyan's subordinate, Hu Lan, reported.

He smirked. "Who does he think he is? This is my place. I'm not going to listen to him. How many people and weapons does he have?"

"There are about hundreds of people and all are equipped with weapons. He even has ten tanks outside." Hu Lan looked worried.

"What are you afraid of? Are my people and weapons not powerful? Kill anyone who dares to enter my villa," he ordered sternly.

"Commander." Hu Lan immediately lowered his head and voiced out his opinion, "I don't think that an unconscious person is worth the fight."

When Su Xuyan heard his words, he stood up and slapped him. "Not worth the fight? The unconscious person lying on the bed is my wife. Listen to my order and be prepared for the battle."

Just then, Su Xuyan's phone rang, interrupting their conversation. Upon seeing that it was a call from the commander-in-chief, he answered it.

"Xuyan, what's happening? I know Gu Mingchen is outside your house now with his army. Who are you hiding in your place?" the commander-in-chief asked, perplexed.

"He wants my wife. If I give him my wife, I will lose my dignity. I won't give him what he wants, so let's fight the battle," Su Xuyan replied determinedly.

"No, Xu Yan. Listen to me. Internal conflict will not only affect our unity and attract speculation from other parties, but also cause unwanted global attention and other countries might take advantage of it. Ultimately, A City's reputation would be tarnished. Therefore, I'm against having a battle with Gu Mingchen. Both of you should talk it out. Besides, he is very stubborn. He insisted that I was the one who ordered you to make him a scapegoat for the previous issue. After all, he is the leader of the Special Forces, and your actions represent my stand. Hence, if you can't settle the issue with him within half an hour, I'll withdraw my armed forces from you."

Su Xuyan read between the lines at once. "You mean you'll help Gu Mingchen instead of me?"

"I'm not helping Gu Mingchen, but the battle between you and him will definitely affect our internal unity. So, the only thing I can do to maintain peace is to withdraw the armed forces from your side."

Su Xuyan understood his words and snorted.

The army of the Special Forces only listens to the orders of Gu Mingchen. Not even the commander-in-chief can mobilize them. That's why he is more afraid of offending Gu Mingchen than me. To put it bluntly, I'm just a pawn of the commander-in-chief and I know that many people can substitute me to work for him. Thus, at a critical moment like this, no wonder the commander-in-chief will sacrifice me.

With such thoughts, he strutted out of his villa.

Gu Mingchen also got off his car when he saw Su Xuyan arrived.

He stood in front of Gu Mingchen and cut to the chase. "Do you know why Bai Rong doesn't choose to be with you after you're released?"

"Bai Rong has chosen to stay with me. But now you've forcibly imprisoned her. Su Xuyan, I must take her away from here today," Gu Mingchen said firmly.

"Take her away? Do you want to bring away a corpse?" he said insidiously.

Gu Mingchen's eyes flashed with anger. "If she dies, I'll kill you."

"Earlier on, she begged for my help to save you. And one of the conditions I had for her was to inject her with poison. Now I'm the only one who can save her. If you want her to die, take her away. But if you want her to live, get out of here!"

You Owe Me, My Love Chapter 315

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Chapter 315 I Will Protect My Woman

Just as Su Xuyan finished speaking, Gu Mingchen swung a forceful punch at the former's face. It was so fast that his fist became a blur at that point in time.

With that, Su Xuyan staggered backward. Sensing the trickling blood, Su Xuyan wiped the corner of his lips. He let out a chuckle and had a vicious look in his eyes. Without hesitation, he thrust his fist back at Gu Mingchen's face. As the punch made its way through the air, a strong gust of wind simultaneously came gushing in the direction of the punch.

Su Xuyan had been wanting to do so for a long time because Gu Mingchen cuckolded him before the former got a divorce from Bai Rong.

However, Gu Mingchen quickly turned sideways and managed to avoid the blow aimed by Su Xuyan. He then held the latter's arm and pushed the latter in the direction of the punch.

Realizing Gu Mingchen's intention, Su Xuyan held back his strength and did a back kick as he rushed over. Again, Gu Mingchen backed away and managed to dodge it. At the same time, Su Xuyan escaped from his grip.

Then, Su Xuyan threw a punch at Gu Mingchen again. This time, the latter retaliated by raising his fist and sending it flying into Su Xuyan's face.

Su Xuyan managed to avoid the punch, but his elbow hit Gu Mingchen, and in the meantime, the latter's kick landed on him too. Soon after, they got entangled in a fight.

Their men looked at each other, then looked back at them, slightly stupefied.

Bang! Suddenly, a gunshot rang out.

At that moment, everyone turned their gaze toward the person that fired the gun.

Both Su Zheng and Gu Tianhang reached there with a group of people.

"What on earth are you doing here?" queried Gu Tianhang angrily.

"Get up now!" Su Zheng instructed sternly.

Su Xuyan got up languidly and dusted off his clothes.

Gu Mingchen stood up too. He clenched his jaw and looked at the former with an icy gaze.

"Follow me," said Gu Tianhang to Gu Mingchen.

"Leave! Go home and drink your milk!" Su Xuyan jeered.

Hearing that, Gu Mingchen darted a piercing gaze at the former.

Now, he knew the reason why Bai Rong wanted to leave him, leave the deserted island, and even asked him to promise her to live on cheerfully after she died.

He knew Su Xuyan was a despicable man, but he had never expected that the latter would poison Bai Rong.

"Come at me if you want! Don't involve Bai Rong in this!" Gu Mingchen roared.

"She is my woman. Of course, I can do whatever I want. It's none of your business. Also, what do you mean by go at you? Excuse me. I don't know who you think you are, but in my eyes, you're nothing. I won't waste my time on you!" Su Xuyan retorted.

At that, Gu Mingchen grabbed Su Xuyan's collar and queried, "Where is Bai Rong now? I want to see her."

Su Xuyan raised his chin, twitched his mouth as he said cheekily, "She is my woman! Why should I let you meet her? Listen carefully. I won't let you see her, not only today but forever!"

Gu Mingchen clenched his teeth at Su Xuyan's words. He pulled the latter in front of himself and said with a sharp gaze in his eyes, "You attempted to murder me. If I sue you, you will definitely be sentenced by the military court."

Su Xuyan was completely undeterred upon hearing the former's words. He pried away Gu Mingchen's grip and fixed his suit as he replied, "Go ahead to sue me if you have any solid evidence for that. But, don't say I didn't warn you. If I die, I would definitely bring Bai Rong down with me."

Hearing that, Gu Mingchen fixed his gaze on Su Xuyan.

The latter got it right.

Firstly, no one could prove that he attempted to kill Gu Mingchen. Secondly, Bai Rong was the latter's weak spot. He knew that Gu Mingchen wouldn't sue him for Bai Rong's sake. At that time, wrath arose in Gu Mingchen's heart, but he couldn't vent his anger. He clenched his fists tightly that his veins protruded.

Su Xuyan looked at him knowingly and sneered, "What's mine will always be mine. Nobody can take it away from me."

Once again, Gu Mingchen flung his fist at Su Xuyan in a flash.

The impact made the latter cough out blood, together with a tooth.

"Damn it!" Anger welled up in Su Xuyan's chest. He picked up the gun, pointed it at Gu Mingchen's head. Click.

Upon seeing that, Gu Tianhang frowned. He grabbed his gun and pointed at the former. "Don't treat us like a doormat!"

Their soldiers sensed that things might turn awry. Hence, they immediately raised their guns. Cold sweat dotted their foreheads and noses, then dripped down their faces at that time.

Once any of them fired a shot, the amount of bloodshed caused would be unfathomable.

At that moment, an ominous silence engulfed the scene.

Su Zheng looked at Gu Tianhang, then looked back at Su Xuyan. Suddenly, his phone rang. Upon seeing that it was a call from the commander-in-chief, he answered it immediately.

"Um... Gu, Mingchen, Xuyan, it's commander-in-chief. He wants us to go to his residence. There's something urgent," said Su Zheng.

Gu Tianhang took his gun away after hearing Su Zheng's words.

However, Su Xuyan still looked at Gu Mingchen coldly, unwilling to take his gun away from the latter.

Gu Mingchen pursed his lips together and looked at the former straight in the eyes fearlessly, exuding a powerful aura.

Suddenly, Su Xuyan recalled the commander-in-chief's words.

If he couldn't make peace with Gu Mingchen in half an hour, the commander-in-chief would withdraw the armed forces from his side.

He knew very well that power was important for him to win the battle.

Hence, when the thought crossed his mind, he kept his gun away.

"Great! Commander-in-chief wants us to go to his residence now. I've arranged a flight. Let's go!" said Su Zheng.

The thunderous rumbling of the airplane's engine approached from afar.

A sense of despair flashed across Gu Mingchen's eyes as he looked at the window of Su Xuyan's villa.

If I'm not mistaken, Bai Rong is in there. I should've protected her! I wonder how her condition is now.

In the commander-in-chief's residence.

Su Xuyan, Gu Mingchen, Gu Tianhang, Su Zheng and Shen Yiyan were there.

The commander-in-chief said with a smile, "What are you fighting for? You're brothers in arms. Just sit down and have a peace talk. You don't have to take up arms!"

"Su Xuyan kidnapped my wife. I was there to look for my wife. Did I go overboard?" Gu Mingchen asked coldly.

Hearing that, Su Xuyan laughed. "She is your ex-wife, and also mine. Now, she chooses to follow me. Are you trying to snatch her away from me?"

"Bai Rong follows you because you injected poison into her body! If she really wants to be with you, do you have to inject her with the poison?" Gu Mingchen queried in an icy tone.

"She did it willingly."

"Let her say it herself. If she isn't willing, please give her the antidote immediately and stop holding her in captivity. Are you okay with that?" Gu Mingchen queried with a resonant voice.

"But, the problem is she can't say it now. She fell into the sea a few days ago, and she is in a vegetative state now," Su Xuyan replied coldly.

"What? What happened? Why would she fall into the sea?" Gu Mingchen was shocked when he heard that.

"You should be asking yourself that question. Bai Rong wanted to go with me, but you didn't allow her to and even pushed her into the sea," said Su Xuyan.

Upon hearing that, Gu Mingchen slammed his fist on the table and yelled, "You're lying! Are you the one who pushed her into the sea?"

Su Xuyan leaned back on the chair languorously and replied, "If I am the one who pushed her into the sea, then why should I jump into the sea to rescue her?"

"Su Xuyan!" Gu Mingchen was fuming so much so that he was about to explode at that point in time.

All of a sudden, Su Xuyan's phone rang. Checking the caller ID, he saw that it was Hu Lan. Hence, he picked up the call immediately. "What's the matter?"

"Commander Su, Ms. Bai has gone missing," Hu Lan reported.

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Chapter 316 Life Is Like A Dream

"What?" Su Xuyan walked to the side with the phone in his hands. Then, he lowered his voice as he whispered, "You said Rong has gone missing? How did she disappear?"

"I don't know. I went to Ms. Bai's room just now, but she wasn't there," Hu Lan stammered in fear.

"Did she regain her consciousness? Comb the villa for her. I think she hasn't gone too far," said Su Xuyan hastily, with his voice filled with nervousness.

"I have scanned every corner of the villa and checked the CCTV. No one came out of Ms. Bai's room."

Now, Su Xuyan understood. He hung up the phone, strode towards Gu Mingchen, and grabbed the latter's collar.

Gu Mingchen pushed the former away and roared, "Get lost!"

"Gu Mingchen, are you crazy? Without me, Bai Rong has only one month left to live. Why do you send Shadow Samurais to take her away?" Su Xuyan said angrily.

Hearing that, Gu Mingchen knitted his eyebrows together. "What do you mean? Rong is abducted by someone?"

Upon seeing Gu Mingchen's response, Su Xuyan's heart skipped a beat. He had a bad premonition at that point in time. He felt a chill down his spine as he asked the former, "Isn't that your doing?"

Gu Mingchen was extremely worried when he knew that something had happened to Bai Rong. He responded to the former with other questions, "Where is Rong? Who would abduct her? Su Xuyan, how many people have you offended?"

At that, Su Xuyan slumped back into the sofa. He blinked rapidly, and his face turned pale.

I did offend many people. But, none of them has the ability to abduct Bai Rong. "It's really not you?" asked Su Xuyan again.

Gu Mingchen was anxious and worried at that point. He rushed toward the door as he warned Su Xuyan, "I will get back at you later!"

Seeing as Gu Mingchen had left, Su Xuyan nodded graciously and said, "Commander-in-chief, my wife was abducted by someone. I've got to go now."

Before the commander-in-chief could reply, Su Xuyan had already run towards the door.

Staring at Gu Mingchen's back, Gu Tianhang said angrily, "How unlucky of me to have encountered a jinx like her. What a jinx she is!"

Then, Gu Tianhang stood up, too. He wanted to find Bai Rong and kill the latter before them so that he would be free from worry after this. "Commander-in-chief, I'll take my leave now."

Seeing that, Su Zheng followed the former, "Gu, wait for me."

Now, there were only Shen Yiyan and the commander-in-chief in the residence.

"Who on earth is that woman? Why are both Su Xuyan and Gu Mingchen mesmerized by her?" The commander-in-chief asked curiously.

At that, Shen Yiyan smiled wickedly. "That actually a good thing. Let Gu Mingchen and Su Xuyan be at each other's throats so that none of them will lord over everything. If Gu Mingchen marries Su Zheng's daughter back then, I won't be the current commander-in-chief. It will be Gu Mingchen instead."

"That's true. But, in the long term, I'm afraid that it would affect our internal unity. Gu Mingchen is good at winning over people's hearts and minds, while Su Xuyan is vicious. Both of them are no pushovers. Although you'll be taking over my position as the new commander-in-chief this year, you are not powerful enough yet. Don't take the risk for now."

"What if I have some dirt on them?" said Shen Yiyan confidently as he twirled the wine glass elegantly in his hand.

"What do you mean?" the commander-in-chief asked confusedly.

At that, Shen Yiyan flashed the former a meaningful smile and stared at him with a confident look.

Seeing as Shen Yiyan didn't answer his question, the commander-in-chief nodded his head in response.

Actually, he was quite pleased with his son's performance throughout these years.

"It's good that you have your own plan. Remember my words, 'a little impatience spoils a great plan'. You must be decisive and don't be soft-hearted. You are a leader. You have to put our country first. Use the carrot and stick method and balance the men's power. As the saying goes, one should always keep one's friends close and one's enemies closer."

"Okay," Shen Yiyan replied.

"Oh, by the way, when you take up the position, marry Princess Anna from Kille. Kille is a very important part for us to stabilize our international market. Besides, it serves as a pillar strength that gives us diplomatic support. Moreover, Anna's mother is the eldest princess of Spaunia. That country is a mineral-rich and oil-rich country. So, you have to connect more with her uncle in the future," the commander-in-chief instructed.

Shen Yiyan lowered his gaze. Putting down the glass of wine in his hands, he asked, "Dad, have you ever thought of marrying Su Xuyan's mom?"

The commander-in-chief shook his head and replied, "I know what's important. I have to take responsibility for our country."

"If mom wants you to cut Xiong Daini off, will you do so?"

"Of course. But, Your mother is a virtuous, well-educated, and generous woman. I'm so lucky to be able to marry a woman like her," said the commander-in-chief. His smile radiated with warmth and tenderness when he mentioned his wife.

Hearing that, Shen Yiyan let out a chuckle and said, "I've heard a joke before about a young couple. A lady asked her husband, 'If your mother and I fall into the river, who would you save first?'. Then, the husband asked her in return, 'If your dad and I are arrested for visiting prostitutes, and you have only enough money to bail one of us out, who would you bail first?"

"What does it mean?" asked the commander-in-chief.

Shen Yiyan grinned and replied, "Since you said you're lucky to be able to marry her, you should treat her better. That's all. I'll go now."

The commander-in-chief didn't know what to say when he heard the former's words.

Shen Yiyan stood up, tidied up his clothes, and glanced at the former as he queried, "You are retiring soon and don't have to take the responsibility for the country anymore. Will you marry Xiong Daini?"

The commander-in-chief shook his head in response.

With that, Shen Yiyan didn't say anything and just left.

Time flies.

It's been two years since Bai Rong went missing.

Both Gu Mingchen and Su Xuyan still couldn't find her.

That year, Gu Mingchen managed to catch Chen Bin, the fisherman, and the assassins. In the same year, Lu Xingzhou, Lu Liangcheng, and the workers of Xingzheng Construction Company were sentenced to death.

Xing Bachuan, who abused his position and embezzled funds of up to one billion and three hundred million for his personal gain, was sentenced to fifteen years of imprisonment, and he was deprived of political rights to the end of his days. While Xing Jinnian was sentenced to thirteen years of imprisonment, and all his assets were confiscated.

The odd thing was, Lu Xingzhou and Lu Liangcheng didn't mention anything about the massacre of the village even though they had been sentenced to death.

So, besides Governor Cheng, Lu Liangcheng, Lu Xingzhou, and Xing Bachuan, Gu Mingchen had no idea who was the other person involved in the village massacre.

I have a faint suspicion that the person who disappeared must be an extremely powerful man. That's why even a vicious man like Lu Xingzhou didn't dare to reveal him.

Could it be that Rong has been taken away by that person?

But unfortunately, that person disappeared like Rong. It was as if they had vanished into thin air.

In the first year of Bai Rong's disappearance, Gu Mingchen always woke up from nightmares. In his dreams, Bai Rong was covered in blood and asking for help from him. But, after he woke up, he found that he had no idea what he could do about that.

Over time, alcohol and cigarettes became his daily necessities. He drank so much it caused gastrointestinal bleeding, and he almost died from that. At that time, in his subconscious mind, he hoped that he could die with Bai Rong.

After he was saved, he continued to drink, smoke, and lived a decadent life. Until one day, a farmer brought a child to him.

That was his child with Bai Rong...

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Chapter 317 Days Without Bai Rong

Gu Mingchen asked how his and Bai Rong's child ended up with the farmer.

The farmer said that about six years ago, a man entrusted him with a child to raise. The man had even offered to pay a monthly allowance of three thousand. Some time ago, the man ordered him to send the child to a person named "Gu Mingchen." But that was all the farmers knew.

Gu Mingchen asked if the farmer could describe the man's appearance.

The farmer shook his head, not saying anything more.

Gu Mingchen couldn't tell if the farmer had no clue at all about what the man looked like or if the farmer was simply unsure if he remembered correctly.

Gu Mingchen ran a background check and asked around about the farmer's identity. After interrogating the villagers, everything checked out. The honest farmer had lived in the remote village on the mountain his whole life. But the villagers didn't know where the child had come from, nor have they ever seen the man from the farmer's story.

He wondered, Why am I getting news about my child now? Is it because someone doesn't want me to give up on myself?

If that really was the case, then the child must have been taken by someone close to him.

He decided to visit the chief from his previous mission, Old General Cai. But sadly, when he got there, the chief had already passed away three months ago.

Everything felt like a mystery to Gu Mingchen. There were no clues, no hints or guidelines to help him.

Gu Mingchen named the child Gu Yan. "Yan" to signify a lasting relationship, one with unyielding love.

He also took some time off from the military base to inherit his family's business. He thought that if he ever chanced upon Bai Rong again, he would travel the world with her. Then they would spend the rest of their lives harmoniously.

Unfortunately, another year passed and Bai Rong was still missing.

Zhou Hailan had been diagnosed with diabetes, so Gu Mingchen took over custody of his other child, Gu Ruoxin. He figured that the two children could keep each other company.

Today was the first day of school for Gu Ruoxin and Gu Yan. They were both going to be first graders.

The school allowed first graders to attend a day in advance so that they could get to know each other. They also organized a meeting for the parents in the assembly hall.

There, Gu Mingchen saw Su Xuyan.

Su Xuyan also noticed Gu Mingchen's presence. They held gazes for some time before Gu Mingchen turned to face the other way, ignoring Su Xuyan, and walked past him.

But Su Xuyan wasn't going to let him off that easily. Su Xuyan blocked Gu Mingchen's way and asked, "Why did you leave the military base? Bai Rong will undoubtedly die because my antidote research has failed... Why didn't you end me then and there?"

Gu Mingchen's icy gaze stared at Su Xuyan. "Kill someone like you? If Bai Rong is still alive, I'll make you watch us live a happy life together. But if she's dead, I'll make sure you live a long, long time. You don't deserve to die just like that after what you've done. You're not worthy of accompanying her in death."

Su Xuyan lowered his gaze. "She's already dead. If she were still alive, those holding her captive would have already threatened you or me by now. But they haven't."

"She'll always live on in my heart," Gu Mingchen said solemnly.

Su Xuyan lifted his head, meeting Gu Mingchen's eyes. "Rong is really dead. I personally poisoned her and failed to develop the antidote... There's no way to save her.

"That day on the cruise, I wanted to force myself on her. But she jumped ship and sank into the sea. By the time I rescued her, she was already on the brink of death.

"At the end of the day, it was all my fault, mine alone. I single-handedly killed her. Gu Mingchen, you must avenge her by punishing me! Why do you keep leaving me hanging on a thin thread?"

His words were ignored by an uninterested Gu Mingchen who pushed him aside. Gu Mingchen walked past him and sat on a chair at the very far end of the room.

Su Xuyan trailed along, sitting down on the chair next to Gu Mingchen's. His eyes were full of self-hatred and regret.

He had thought that if he threatened her life, he could keep Bai Rong by his side forever.

He wasn't seeking her love; all he wanted was for her to stay beside him. Look where that got me. Even in death, Bai Rong would rather die somewhere I don't know, somewhere I can't get to her...

If only I had known she would disappear from my life forever, I would have let her go before it was too late.

I made a grave mistake...

"Gu Mingchen. You mustn't let me off so easily. I'm the one who killed Bai Rong! I'm the culprit!" Su Xuyan words grew heavier with a solemn weight.

Gu Mingchen kept silent. Although it looked like he was focused on the teacher who had just entered, his thoughts had drifted elsewhere.

He remembered how Bai Rong had told him all her pretty wishes and glittery dreams. Now he knew that she had probably done it to persuade him from taking his life.

He understood that.

Now that his and Bai Rong's child had returned to his side, he finally had a purpose to live.

There was just one thing missing. Where are you, Rong?

"Gu Mingchen. Did you hear a word I said?" Su Xuyan's brows knitted together.

"I don't care about what you said. I won't kill you, but that doesn't mean that I'm fine with your presence. From now onwards, I want you to get out of my sight," Gu Mingchen responded coldly.

"You'll regret not taking your revenge against me," Su Xuyan warned. Irritated, he coiled his fists and left through the exit.

The teacher glanced at the departing Su Xuyan. Her lips twitched before she continued giving her lecture, "It's crucial for first-grade students to develop and maintain good habits. Parents, I ask that you supervise their learning habits at home. Make sure that they complete their homework before allowing them to do other tasks. Also, in kindergarten, many parents simply informed the teachers that they were going on vacation then left with their children. But in elementary school, such actions are not allowed.

"If you want a half-day off school, you can request it from me. If it's a full day off, I'll have to submit your request to the principal. But if you need two or more days off, you must have a valid reason or a medical certificate entailing a compulsory sick leave.

"From this point on, we'll be responsible for your children's education as you entrusted them to us. However, parents are the best role models for children, so we hope that you'll lead by example."

Involuntarily, thoughts of Bai Rong whirled in Gu Mingchen's mind. Hearing the teacher's words, he couldn't help but think that if Bai Rong were still alive, she would be a great mother to their child, that she would raise their child to be an outstanding person.

Gu Mingchen's chest ached. Bai Rong's absence choked his heart like rigorously knotted ropes. It was as if his sorrow had split his body into two.

You're too cruel, Rong. Disappearing like that without even leaving a single message...

Once the parents' meeting ended, Gu Mingchen picked up his two children and headed for his office.

There, his assistant knocked on his door. "Mr. Gu, you have interviews with ten tutors scheduled for today."

"Have them gather in the meeting room," Gu Mingchen ordered.

"Yes, sir."

Gu Mingchen was late by five minutes. The ten interviewees had already arrived when he entered the meeting room. He sat at the head of the table and straightened his back as if he were a soldier. This was a habit from his military days that he couldn't quite shake off. He announced, "I need tutors who can stay overnight with my children. Apart from sending them to and from school on weekdays, they also have to work full-time on weekends. If this schedule isn't appropriate for you, you may leave now."

Immediately, seven out of the ten interviewees got up to leave. Only three were left—one man and two women.

Gu Mingchen's eyes scanned them, analyzing one face after another. He finally said, "Tell me what you can do. What are your strengths?"

"I'd like to know what's the salary that you're offering us as tutors, Mr. Gu?" the only male interviewee said.

"Let's talk about your strengths first. What's the point of telling you the salary if you're not good enough for the job?" Gu Mingchen retorted.

The interviewee paused. He recomposed himself before saying, "I'm a guy. As far as I know, your sons will relate better to a male tutor. I'll help train their passion for studying and exercise at the same time. They'll learn efficiently, maintain healthy bodies, and have no issues communicating their needs with me."

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Chapter 318 It Has Been A While

Gu Mingchen nodded, fairly satisfied with the man's answer. His vision shifted to the woman in the middle.

A gentle smile spread across the woman's face. "I worked as a language teacher in elementary school. I taught first to fourth grade, so I have more insight into primary school curriculums. I am more than capable of teaching your sons."

Her answer also elicited a slight nod from Gu Mingchen. Finally, he turned to look at the last woman.

At first glance, she was stunning. There were no flaws to her delicately carved features. She had fair, porcelain skin and a pair of azurite eyes that looked like the ocean. Despite her beauty, she was very calm, unlike the impetuousness of modern-day attractive women.

If compared to the modern aesthetics of beauty, she didn't conform either. Her body shape was plump and curvier than most women.

"Hello, Mr. Gu, my name is Wu Nian. I'm twenty-eight and was previously working at an orphanage in Coldbridge City. I disagree with the others. I don't think your children lack education. In fact, they have access to a better education than many other children. They may even be quite intelligent. So I can only offer two things. One, I can help them develop good lifelong habits. Two, I'll support them mentally and emotionally so that they don't feel like they're taking on the world alone."

Gu Mingchen's brows scrunched together. "And how will you ensure that they don't feel emotionally isolated?"

"I'll redesign their mentalities by helping them set their desired goals and guide them to achieve those goals. By filling their time with meaningful tasks, they'll be focused on bettering themselves instead of feeling lonely. This is my approach to supportive guidance," Wu Nian explained.

"What if no amount of trying could improve the ending? Won't the person feel more and more mentally isolated?" Gu Mingchen asked.

"That's because the goal they set is unattainable. Only when an appropriate goal is set will you be more motivated to put in the work, then you'll eventually achieve your goal. One won't feel as emotionally or mentally isolated with the right methods. Of course, if it still happens, I'll be there to guide them out of the rut. So, Mr. Gu, I hope you'll give me a chance."

"I'd like you to stay. Everyone else may leave now," Gu Mingchen announced as he continued to examine Wu Nian.

Wu Nian's eyelids lowered as she remained silent.

The other interviewees stood up and left.

Gu Mingchen looked at her. "How much is your expected salary?"

Wu Nian boldly met his gaze. "A thousand for the first month. Each month thereafter will increase by one thousand, so two thousand for the second month and so on. There will be a cap of one hundred thousand, but we can discuss more once we get there. Of course, Mr. Gu, you may fire me at any point if my performance is lacking."

"Confident, aren't we? When can you start?" Gu Mingchen inquired.

"It's the weekend tomorrow so your children should get a day off," Wu Nian said thoughtfully. "I'll come over on Sunday. Will that be convenient for you?"

Gu Mingchen nodded at this. He agreed, "It's best that you get acquainted early. Sunday morning, eight o'clock. Wait at this company's entrance and I'll send someone over to pick you up. You get four days off each month but you'll have to request for it in advance."

Wu Nian's lips mouthed everything he said, processing the large amount of information quickly. "Understood."

"Are you married?" Curiosity nipped at Gu Mingchen.

"No."

"I would assume a girl of your age to have a boyfriend," Gu Mingchen questioned as he subtly raised a brow.

"I had one but we broke up," she stated plainly.

"I see. You may leave now," Gu Mingchen stated. He flipped through Wu Nian's resume. Orphan. Parents unknown. Grew up at Daoren Orphanage in Coldbridge City. Worked at the orphanage after graduating from a normal university.

He dialed his assistant's number. "Call Daoren Orphanage and inquire if they had a teacher named Wu Nian. I want to know why she resigned from her post there."

"Right away, sir."

Wu Nian exited the building. She turned back and looked at Gu Mingchen's company that towered over her. "Gu Mingchen," she whispered to herself as her lips curved into a small smile. "It's been a while."

She crossed the road whilst calling Liu Yan.

"How did it go? Did you get the job?" Liu Yan's eager voice buzzed from her phone.

"Yep, I got hired. I start this Sunday." Wu Nian grinned.

"Congratulations! Don't be a stranger if you need any help." Liu Yan patted her chest confidently.

Sadness gathered in the form of tears in Wu Nian's eyes. "You've already done so much for me. Even though I was the one who hurt you..."

"Nonsense! At first, I was upset that he manipulated me. But now you're helping me get even, so all the pain he caused is worth it."

Liu Yan was always quick to forgive. Wu Nian felt guiltier at the thought of this. "I'm sorry, Yan... You could've achieved greater things if it weren't for me. I'm so sorry."

"Oh, pish-tush! I have my son now. All right, enough of that. Tomorrow's Saturday and since you're in town, let's have a meal together." Liu Yan's bubbly voice was laced with a giggle.

Wu Nian couldn't help but smile. She spoke with a gentle voice, "Okay, I'll head over to yours after I visit the hospital."

"Be careful and don't get caught." Liu Yan's voice sped up worriedly.

"I know. Okay, I gotta go now." Wu Nian hung up the phone and boarded a taxi for the psychiatric hospital.

The sun's warm rays pierced past the window and shone onto her peacefully quiet self.

I'm still alive...

They arrived half an hour later. Wu Nian paid for the fare and got off the taxi. She approached the hospital gates to register herself. It was a hospital rule to do so before visiting a patient inside.

She wrote Bai Bing's name on the patient list but intentionally left the visitor's name blank. Unbothered, she entered the ward.

Bai Bing was kept in a locked room. The only way to see her was through a glass window. The elderly woman sat stiffly on a chair, as if she had been frozen.

A nurse was passing by, so Wu Nian hurriedly waved for her attention.

Wu Nian asked the nurse, "What's wrong with this lady?"

The nurse took a glance at Bai Bing and sighed. "She was doing well last year. Exercising a lot, reading happily, and keeping a positive attitude. Then one day, her ex-husband's wife visited. She found out that her ex-husband had died in prison and that her daughter was also dead. After that, her condition worsened day after day."

Wu Nian knew that Xing Bachuan had died as Liu Yan had told her that he had been assassinated.

"Can I go in and see her?" Wu Nian politely met the nurse's eyes.

"You can, but be alert in there. She tends to have violent fits and aggressive tendencies," the nurse reminded. The nurse's features tightened, indicating how gravely serious her warning was. Then she pulled out a key and opened the door.

Wu Nian approached Bai Bing, sitting down in the chair opposite her.

Bai Bing's eyes trembled slightly as she looked at Wu Nian. She started mumbling to herself, "Rong told me that if I get better, Bachuan will be impressed with me the next time we meet. Now he's dead. What's the point of getting better anymore?"

"He may be dead, but there's still his soul. Maybe he's looking at you right now in this room. Do you want him to see you get better? Or do you want him to see this haggard version of you?" Wu Nian soothed.

"Is it true? Do people's souls stay behind when they die? My husband's dead and my daughter is too!" Bai Bing grew more emotional by the second. She gripped Wu Nian's hand tightly.

Though Wu Nian's face softened at this, her brows furrowed. "Death symbolizes that a person has paid off the sins from their previous life. Therefore, those who have redeemed themselves will ascend to heaven. However, those who commit suicide cannot. Your husband and your daughter are already gone, so you have to live a better life for their sake. Then when your time has come, they'll be waiting for you in heaven."

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Chapter 319 Unrecognizable

Bai Bing's features loosened into a blank stare. "Will they really wait for me in heaven?"

"Yeah. Yeah, so you have to get better because they're in heaven, watching you and cheering you on."

"Heaven," Bai Bing uttered as she looked upwards. Her gaze was deep but hollow.

Wu Nian's heart ached in her chest. She stood up and walked back outside to the nurse. "Can you show me what Bai Bing's diet consists of?"

"Sure, follow me." The nurse walked ahead.

Once Wu Nian got hold of Bai Bing's dietary records, her eyes carefully scanned through the list. "It's really well planned," she complimented.

The nurse chuckled lightly. "Of course. Although that lady's daughter has passed, she still has a rich son-in-law named Mr. Gu. Every month, he sends someone to settle her hospital

fees and take her out on strolls. Sometimes, they also go out to buy clothes, or other necessities. This lady is really fortunate to have such a great son-in-law."

Wu Nian's eyelids lowered as she took in this information. Then she opened her eyes and turned towards the nurse, cautiously pleading, "Actually, a friend entrusted me with privately visiting Madam Bai. If anyone asks... can you not mention my visit today?"

As Wu Nian explained, she pulled out an envelope from her bag and placed it into the nurse's hand.

The nurse pushed Wu Nian's hands away. "I cannot accept this, but my lips are sealed. I won't say what shouldn't be said. Don't worry," the nurse promised.

Wu Nian thanked the nurse. She left the psychiatric hospital, feeling like a weight had been lifted from her shoulders. Her gait was easy and relaxed as she gently placed one foot before the other.

The city had been urbanized over the past two years. A lot had changed in A city's economic status. Property prices had increased by fifty percent and there were now various luxury cars speeding along well-paved roads.

Wu Nian regretted not buying a house earlier in life. Now, she could only reside in a hotel room.

After walking for more than an hour, the sky had dimmed and the street lights flickered on. Her stomach rumbled just as she noticed a restaurant. Feeling hungry, she walked in.

Inside the restaurant, people were swarming around. Since when did the citizens here like this type of food?

Wu Nian found an empty table and sat down. After scanning the QR code, she accessed the menu on her phone.

She ordered some vermicelli rolls, steamed dumplings, and some soy milk. After placing her order, she swiped onto the latest news broadcast.

She suddenly remembered a joke that she had once heard. It was about two people who were comparing their lonesome experiences. One said that the loneliest thing was to eat

alone whilst the other argued that watching a movie alone was more lonesome. The first person retorted, "If you go to the washroom during a movie, the seat would still be yours when you come back. But if I do the same whilst eating at a restaurant, someone else would occupy my table by the time I get back from the washroom."

Wu Nian found it funny. Ironically, she had gone to the movies alone. And now, she was eating in a restaurant alone.

"Here on your own?" a familiar voice sounded.

Wu Nian looked up in surprise. Seeing Gu Mingchen, she shot out of her chair in shock. She exclaimed, "Mr. Gu! What are you doing here?"

"I live nearby. No one cooks at home so I often take my children out for meals. Since we're already here, let's eat together. It'll also be good if you got to know them better." The words glided out of Gu Mingchen's mouth in a calm manner.

Wu Nian did not shy away. She nodded, "Okay. I already ordered a meal for myself. Where is your table? I'll have the waiter send my order over."

"Table 48," Gu Mingchen stated. He tilted his head, indicating table 48's location which was not that far away. It was placed diagonally across the room.

Wu Nian informed the waiter before turning to get a glimpse of Gu Mingchen's two children.

"Gu Yan is the older one, he's seven years old. Next to him is Gu Ruoxin, he's also seven this year," Gu Mingchen introduced.

Wu Nian's eyes glimmered at the sight of Gu Yan as her lips curled slightly into a soft smile. There was a gentleness in the way she looked at Gu Yan adoringly. "Your boys are both fine young men."

"I'm handsome because I look like my mother. She's really pretty," Gu Ruoxin emphasized.

Wu Nian glanced at the proud boy.

He was, indeed, the spitting image of his mother, Zhou Hailan.

Gu Yan tilted his head, taking Wu Nian in from top to bottom. "Is she going to be our new mother?"

A bright pink tinged across Wu Nian's cheeks, burning a brilliant red on her nose. She flashed a shy smile and said, "I'm not here to be your mother. I'm Ms. Wu, and I'll be taking care of your needs from now onwards. I'll help wash your clothes, cook your meals and send you to school. If there's school work that you don't understand, you can also ask me."

"A housemaid," Gu Ruoxin said. He pressed his lips into a thin line. "My mother can do all those things. I don't want you."

"If I do these things, then your mother will have more time to spend with you." Wu Nian words were sincere and unthreatening.

This shut Gu Ruoxin up. He stopped whining and bowed his head in shame.

Gu Yan examined the scene before him. He looked at Gu Ruoxin, then at Wu Nian who flashed a warm smile at him. Gu Yan spoke excitedly, "You're welcome to visit our home, Ms. Wu. Do you draw? I love drawing."

"That's great, Yanny! Can you teach me to draw too?" Wu Nian beamed at the boy.

"Who said you could call him 'Yanny?' You should call him 'Young Master,' and I'm 'Second Young Master.' Also, you can't even draw? You're asking us, children, to teach you? How funny!" Gu Ruoxin complained.

"I may be a master of my own specialized field, but there's always more to learn. So even though I'm older than you, there are things that I will humbly ask for your advice on. As for the terms of address..." Wu Nian turned to look at Gu Yan. "Yanny, how would you like me to address you?"

"Call me Yanny, it sounds friendlier. 'Young Master' is just too formal," Gu Yan decided.

"What do you mean, 'formal?' She was hired by Daddy to take care of us. She should address us in a way that respects our higher status in life," Gu Ruoxin declared proudly.

Wu Nian's expression remained tranquil. In an amused tone, she asked Gu Ruoxin, "Aren't you the order-seeking judge? Alright, then who do you think has a higher status: the boss or the employee?"

"Obviously, it's the boss," Gu Ruoxin proclaimed.

"Is a teacher higher in rank or a student?" Wu Nian questioned again.

"The teacher, of course." Gu Ruoxin stared her down with extreme confidence.

"Then what if the employee hired by the boss is a teacher?"

Gu Ruoxin's lips pursed tightly. His eyes darted around as he struggled to think of an answer. Eventually, he responded, "The boss. Whomever pays the other is more powerful."

"I see. What if the boss needed the teacher's guidance to help him, otherwise his company would go bankrupt?"

Gu Ruoxin hesitated for some time. Annoyance took form in his puffy cheeks and clenched fists. "You're speaking nonsense! I'm telling you about respect and inferiority, why are you changing the topic?"

Gu Mingchen simply glanced at Wu Nian. He remained outside of their conversation, curious about what Wu Nian would do next.

Surprisingly, Wu Nian only laughed gently before saying, "The food's here. You boys can dig in; I'll go wash my hands first."

She got up and headed to the washroom. Whilst scrubbing at the suds on her fingers, she noticed Gu Mingchen's reflection appear in the mirror. He was standing beside her.

"I'm curious as to what you would've chosen," Gu Mingchen stated, his words a blend between a harmless question and a forceful statement.

Smiling politely, she cautiously responded, "Because he's your child, I didn't want to say certain things in front of him. But I'd like to have an in-depth discussion with you regarding the matter. Can I have thirty minutes of your time on Sunday?"

Gu Mingchen's expression remained unbothered. His words were transactional like a businessman's. He said, "Then I'll see you on Sunday. If your methods don't meet my standards, I may terminate your employment contract early. I assume that's alright with you?"

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Chapter 320 Sweet Child

A smile appeared on Wu Nian's face. "Not a problem at all."

Gu Mingchen frowned slightly. "You're very confident?"

"I have no other ways. Will you let me stay if I beg? Furthermore, I'm not asking for much. The first month is a thousand while the second and third month is two and three thousand respectively. If you can dismiss me within these three months, let alone the future," she said plainly.

Gu Mingchen went into a trance. Her voice sounded just like Bai Rong's. He felt as though that woman was right here beside him.

It was so familiar it made him want to initiate a conversation with the former.

"Do you know how to sing?" he asked suddenly.

The abrupt change of subject startled Wu Nian. She did not react for a while. "I know a little. Why?"

"Let's go to the KTV tonight. Take the chance to know the children better." Without waiting for her affirmative reply, he left the room. His attitude was as domineering as ever.

She also wanted to spend time with the children, so she followed him.

The two children and Wu Nian sat beside Gu Mingchen.

"Hi Aunt, what's your name?" Gu Yan asked curiously with his head tilted and eyebrows arched.

"Wu Nian. Nian means missing or longing," she replied gently.

"Wu Nian? This name feels a little sad, even heartbroken. Unlike my name, Gu Yan, which means to continue. My mommy is missing, so Daddy gave me this name, hoping he can find her again." Gu Yan smiled innocently as he explained.

Wu Nian's fingers quivered slightly, and she crossed both palms together, looking towards Gu Mingchen.

Their eyes met as he studied her expression.

Out of a guilty conscience, she blushed immediately. "Mr. Gu, your wife is missing?"

"I did not manage to protect her; she must be blaming me. It's been two years, and she still refused to appear," he said in a sorrowful tone.

She chuckled at those words.

"What are you laughing at?" Gu Mingchen asked in surprise.

Wu Nian gave her two cents' worth. "Mr. Gu, you're a wise, stable, and mature man. If a woman blames you because you could not protect her, I think you would not love such a woman. But if you indeed think you love such a woman, then I think you are not worthy of her love. Since you are not worthy of her love, why would she return to you?"

Gu Mingchen narrowed his eyes and stared at her with a darkened expression. He did not say a word.

"I think Nian is right!" Gu Yan interrupted suddenly.

Wu Nian turned to him in astonishment.

"What did you call her?" Gu Mingchen asked sternly.

Instead of being intimidated, Gu Yan's eyes glittered as he declared, "I think 'Nian' sounds better."

"She is twenty years your senior. And you called her 'Nian'? It's very rude. Next time, use 'Ms. Wu'," Gu Mingchen instructed.

"Yes, Daddy. Hi, Ms. Wu," Gu Yan said sweetly in his childlike voice which melted Wu Nian's heart.

"Hi, Yanny." She responded with a warm smile.

"Let's eat." Gu Mingchen said monotonously, even more downcast.

He knew Bai Rong would not blame him. But if she didn't, why did she refuse to appear? Could it be...

He dared not overthink. It was better to convince himself that she was missing because she blamed him for not protecting her. He felt a stabbing pain in his chest and lost his appetite. He put down his cutleries. "Excuse me. I'll be outside."

Gu Mingchen stood up and left the table.

"It's all your fault. Why did you mention your mother? She's a jinx. Every time you talk about her, Daddy becomes sad," Gu Ruoxin chided Gu Yan.

"Daddy is not unhappy. He misses my mommy, that's all. Even if I don't talk about her, he will still miss her," the latter rebutted.

"So what if he misses her? Your mother is dead, but my mommy is still alive. Daddy should marry my mommy. I'm no longer eating with all of you." Gu Ruoxin glared at Wu Nian and stood up.

She grabbed him straight away and said, "You are still young, don't run away by yourself. What if a bad person catches you?"

He shoved her away. "You are the bad person! Go away! I don't like you! Don't come to my house."

She did not expect a child to be that strong. The edge of the table hit her waist, and she crouched in pain.

Gu Ruoxin ignored her and ran.

"Ms. Wu, are you alright?" Gu Yan asked concernedly.

Wu Nian nodded her head. "I'm alright. Quickly, go and find your father. Tell him to bring your brother back."

"OK!" Gu Yan ran out anxiously.

A layer of cold sweat had covered her forehead.

Gu Mingchen rushed over and helped her up. "Are you alright?"

There was an unmistakable tobacco smell on his body. She guessed he must be outside smoking earlier.

He smokes only when he is unhappy.

Her eyes became teary at the thought. "I'm fine. You do not need to mind me. Ruoxin ran out earlier. You must go after him. It is dangerous for a child to be running outside alone."

Gu Mingchen noticed the irregularity of her expression and lifted her off the floor.

She held onto his arm in surprise. "What are you doing?"

"You look terrible. I'll take you to the hospital," he said solemnly. "Yanny, keep up."

"I'm fine. I only knocked on the edge of the table. The pain will go away in a while. Your son is still outside," she said worriedly.

"He runs away from home every few days to his mother. He can find his way there with his eyes closed. That's how well he knows the route. I will send someone to fetch him back later. You don't have to worry." Gu Mingchen reassured her.

She understood immediately. "I guess he is trying to bring you and his mother together."

"I only have my wife in my heart." He placed her in the car.

Gu Yan sat beside her obediently, and Gu Mingchen drove the car off.

"Ms. Wu, you don't have to worry. The hospital is just nearby, and the medicine is very advanced now." Gu Yan consoled her with a bright smile on his face.

Wu Nian caressed his little head. "Thank you. I feel so much better after hearing this from you."

She looked at Gu Mingchen. "Mr. Gu, you can drop me off at the hospital entrance. I will enter myself. The two of you have only eaten a little earlier, and Gu Yan is still a growing boy. It will not be good to make him go hungry."

He ignored her words. "You have always been in Coldbridge City. Why did you come to A City?"