

MY SASSY PRESIDENT

From: Bravonovel



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"President of LK Corporation Mu Haoyu caught in a romantic affair with young debuting model Huang Mina. Photos of their intimate moments were captured while they spent a sweet night on a 300million yacht..."

Social media were bombarded with this explosive news and gossips were spreading like wild fire in A city.

A young lady sat silently on a Cambridge settee. She was wearing an ash blue uniform and her hair in a pleasant French twist. There was just something captivating about her eyes, one would say it is as dreamy as the sunset yet as serene as the morning dew. Even her still expression was mesmerising.

The exquisite young lady remained emotionless learning of this news.

The housemaid, Mrs Lee stood beside anxiously, greatly concern with the lady's afterthought.

"They have been married over a year. Yet the young master was never home. And oh dear! All these scandals from time to time..." Mrs Lee thought to herself, she just couldn't help but worry.

"Young lady, it must be those wicked paparazzi, please don't trust sources like this..." Mrs Lee tried her best to console the young lady.

However, regarding the validity of the news, Xia Yaxin had it clear as a bell. She did not say anything in response. With a faint smile, she lifted

up her phone and dialled the familiar digits.

At once, the call was picked up.

"Hello," A cold, deep voice emitted from the other end.

"It's me." Yaxin answered unhurriedly.

"What do you want from me?!" The owner of the charismatic voice growled in agitation.

"Are you coming home tonight? I wish to speak to you." Yaxin replied.

"Spill it through the call. I absolutely, truly, genuinely do not want to see your face. It makes me sick." Mu Haoyu said. His harsh words were insolent and purposeful.

Recalling Yaxin's appearance that day made his skin crawl.

Upon his unmannered words, Yaxin tightened her grip, "But we are married!" She said. Her tone suggested a simmering vexation.

"Xia Yaxin! Be warned. Do not spew the marriage nonsense to me, this is all just a sham! Just thinking of your looks makes me sick. How I wish to divorce you!" Mu yelled furiously.

A divorce?

"Mu Haoyu, throughout this marriage I have been faithful and up to mark. Nor did I ever wrong you.

What in the world are your excuses to divorce me!?" Yaxin retaliated in rage.

"Simply because you disgust me." Mu replied, slow and clear.

"You... Fine! Let's divorce then." Yaxin responded.

These words stunned Mu temporarily from the other end of the call. "You finally got it!?" He asked in exhilaration.

"You asked for it, you will be the one who pays the devil. However, do not mess with the Xia Group!"

"Absolutely, if that makes you sign the papers!" Mu promised hurriedly, everything else was irrelevant compared to this dreadful marriage.

"I will sign it. Make sure you honour your words!"

"No problem!"

silent beep

And the call ended.

Their conversation was burdening for Mrs Lee. She hesitantly approached Yaxin and asked, "My lady, a divorce... really?"

Yaxin turned her head towards her, her eyes sparkled with determination. "This is for the best. For him and for me."

"How about the master and madam...?" Mrs Lee

muttered.

"That would be his problem." Yaxin replied courteously.

Soon after, Yaxin decided to head upstairs. As she walked pass the dining table and saw the meticulously arranged food platters, she felt apologetic and called out to Mrs Lee, "Aunty, sorry but please kindly dispose of the dinner."

"Are you not going to eat anything?" Mrs Lee asked in surprise.

"It's alright. I don't have the appetite now." Yaxin told her and walked upstairs.

She carefully drew out the divorce agreement prepared by Mu earlier on and put her signature on it. As she looked through the lines prudently, a genuine smile blossomed on her face.

"Mu Haoyu, today I pull you out like a tooth that aches and throw you away. From now onwards, we walk our separate ways!"



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"Mu Haoyu, today I pull you out like a tooth that aches and throw you away. From now onwards, we walk our separate ways!"

Putting aside the divorce agreement, Yaxin rubbed her loured eyebrows and let her hair down.

Her long lustrous hair cascaded down her back, contrasted strongly with her fair, marble-like complexion. Her sultry figure was like a masterpiece, gorgeously beautiful!

And at that moment, her aura radiated warmth and colours of hope. Her gaze was doubtless and serene.

Finally, it's time to leave this wretched place!

Yaxin made no delays and immediately dressed herself up. She tossed her dull clothes on the bed and changed into a canary yellow bow dress and put on her favourite Brigitte heels. Instantly she looked like a top model. She picked and packed few of her favoured clothing, tidied her room and rolled on with her luggage.

Mrs Lee was keeping the house when she heard Yaxin coming down. She was then awestruck by her dissimilar look.

This lady of completely different vibe, are they really the same person? Mrs Lee couldn't help but wonder.

Yaxin approached Mrs Lee and greeted her cheerfully, "Aunty!"

"My...my lady!" Mrs Lee exclaimed, still finding it difficult to accept all these abrupt changes.

With a joyous tone, Yaxin explained, "Me and Mu are divorcing. I should go my own way now. I sincerely thank you for your care all these while!" Yaxin bowed her head respectfully to this conscientious and kind woman.

"Oh dear don't, serving you is my responsibility. However my lady, are you seriously leaving this place?" Mrs Lee asked.

Yaxin nodded earnestly. Her face looked absolutely stunning now with flawless make up.

"Of course!" She replied.

"If Mr. Mu saw you now, I daresay the divorce is not going to happen." Mrs Lee stared intensely at her and blabbed.

Listening to her words, Yaxin giggled like a schoolgirl and said, "Aunty, please keep this a secret!"

After all, her effort was to blind Mu from the truth.

After a long pause, Mrs Lee can only concur. "Alright, please be sure to take care of yourself, my lady..." She urged with sincere care.

"Roger that! You take care too!" Yaxin said gently and gave her a tight hug. In this cheerless place, Mrs Lee has been her one and only console, assisting and caring for her like a mother. Yaxin

wholeheartedly thank her for her grace and kindness.

"See you, aunty."

"My lady, can I send you off?"

"It's alright, my lift is here. Please have an early rest today." Yaxin persuaded.

At last, Mrs Lee insisted to accompany her at the doorway.

Yaxin threw a disliking glimpse at her dull wear and hurled it into the dustbin before she got into the cab.

Aha! Am I lucky or unlucky, that it is so undemanding for me to say goodbye and leave all these behind!

As the cab disappeared in sight, Mrs Lee let out a heavy sigh, "if Mr. Mu find out about this, he is definitely going to regret."

Sometime later, Yaxin arrived the airport. She looked out the glass door at the enchanting night view and bid them farewell.

Goodbye A city!

Goodbye misery life!

Que Sera Sera!

2 years later. London.

"Congratulations for your award, Miss Xia. Do you feel like saying something?" The host asked politely.

Yaxin wore a yellow darling bias gown that day. Her silky black hair with mild natural perm ruffled gently in the breeze and she held a pleasant smile tirelessly. She lifted her slender crystal trophy and moved her lips to the microphone, "Yes I do. First of all I must thank my tutors and all my supporters. This recognition does not belong only to me, but to each and every one that supports me. Thank you so much!"

Well, a minimalistic, but pertinent speech.

The host continued on, "This award is an esteemed honour, an admirable acknowledgement! May we know what are the future plans for Miss Xia?"

The question brought her mind off. She recollected herself and responded, "Actually, I have decided to return to my home country. I plan to work for the Yun Rui Corporation!"

Her response threw the audience into a commotion.

The Yunrui Corporation had been a rising star for the past two years. In merely one year after being listed, they showed unequalled results and were authentically promising. However, this novelty of newly developed company does not justify her

ditching her golden ticket in London and fly back!

Yaxin made no further response and left the stage.

.....

The following day.

10am. City A arrival hall.

Xia Yaxin strolled along with her luggage. She was wearing a gigantic shade as an attempt to cover up her face. However, her slender figure and outstandingly fine temperament still caught a lot of attention.

Yaxin lowered her shades and gaze gluttonously at the nostalgic view, feeling joyous.

At last! After two long years, I am finally back!

Yaxin took a breath and ambled off.

She arrived at her pre-booked suite, collected her keys and settled in. It took her less than half a day to tidy up a cozy place. She had become independent and headstrong after these two years.

Just when she was about to unwind, her phone vibrated.

"Hey Yaxin, have you reached!?"

It was Tuan Tuan, an adored childhood friend of hers. Her bestie that she held more darling than

blood.

"You kidding me? Calling now after all the hard labour is finished!?" Yaxin lolled on the couch, trying to catch a break.

"Sorry babe~ I was too occupied..." Tuan said coyly.

Upon hearing her sweet voice Yaxin couldn't help but giggle, "Alright, you are pardoned!"

"When do you plan to start work?" Tuan Tuan asked.

"Immediately tomorrow!"

"Great! Dinner tonight, we gotta celebrate!"

"OK!"

"Catch ya later, bye."

"Bye."

Ending the call, Yaxin reclined on the couch and treated herself a little shut off. However she was too weary from all the travelling and eventually fell sound asleep.

Ring...

Yaxin's rest was interrupted by a sudden call. She drowsily picked it up, "Yes...?"

"Miss Xia, I am calling from the HR department of

Yunrui Corp. May I ask if you will commence work tomorrow?"

"Yes I will." Yaxin confirmed, feeling more attentive.

"Perfect! Please proceed directly to the HR department upon reaching the company. Thank you."

"Noted. Thank you."

Ending the short conversation, Yaxin did a lazy stretch and checked the time. It was already night time.

Just when she was about to give Tuan Tuan a call, her doorbell rang. Thus Yaxin stood up, gently tidy her dress and slide over to open the door.

"Xia Yaxin!!" Tuan pounced on her as soon as the door was opened, full of exhilaration.

Yaxin was made jolly too, "I thought you will be occupied again!"

"Even if the sky falls, I will still come for you my darling! Let's go, my treat!"

Yaxin nodded with a satisfying grin, she quickly wore a pair of sneakers and followed along.

"Oh right. Yaxin, you returning... Aren't you afraid to bump into Mu Haoyu?!" Tuan suddenly blurted out during dinner.

"Oh right. Yaxin, you returning... Aren't you afraid to bump into Mu Haoyu?!" Tuan Tuan suddenly blurted out during dinner.

This abrupt question dimmed the atmosphere. And Yaxin was caught off guard, but she continued to savour her food without care.

"So what if that happens? We are divorced!" Yaxin said slowly.

They now should cross paths as strangers.

"Umm... What you say isn't wrong, but are you truly not worried?!"

Yaxin contemplated, and then spoke consequentially to Tuan Tuan, "I would be lying if I say it didn't cross my mind. However, it's been 3 years! I believe he has no recollection whatsoever."

Moreover, it was merely a sham marriage. Without sentiment nor interactivity. It was impossible for him to remember.

In addition, with Mu's "exceptional" personality, he would only bother himself with attractive ladies... Casting her mind back to how she used to look, she undoubtedly believed that she had him completely horrified, like how the clown did to the kids in the movie IT.

"Well," Tuan twisted and twiddled the legs and claw from the spicy crab, greedily sucking on them, "3 years ago, you... no problem! However now..." Tuan Tuan squinted her eyes cheekily.

"If he had known your true appearance, I dare say he wouldn't allow the divorce!"

"HA! What done is done!"

That's right, the ship has sailed!

"Speaking of which," Tuan asked curiously, while continuing to feast greedily on the mouth-watering gourmet, "Yaxin, your actions were bizarre. You were willing to go through such length to change your appearance for an entire year! What more, Mu was one of the most eminent, the top dog in Y City! I can only imagine how many women dreamt of being with him. Yet you crazily went through every hassle to get rid of him!"

"Ha! Because I was a clever girl! I'll take crazy over stupid any day." Yaxin responded proudly like a peacock.

To begin with, the two of them entered a sham marriage for the sake of commercial interests. And what more, Mu was such an indecent and salacious man. Whenever he desired a woman, he will go through any means necessary to acquire her. Therefore, Yaxin was determined to not be a victim of his lust.

Tuan Tuan nodded in complete agreement. Mu's scandalous habit was undisputed, even a common knowledge.

All of a sudden, Tuan Tuan stiffened up, she even stopped slurping off the spicy sauce on her fingers. With a serious look she asked, "Hey

Yaxin... If Mu found out that you deliberately deceived him 3 years ago... What's gonna happen?"

Yaxin was stupefied. She burdensomely muttered, "I guess... I'm gonna die a dog's death."

Tuan Tuan flared her nose and gave her a forced laughter.

"By the way, you did not return to the Xia Group, is it because of him too?"

"No," Yaxin shook her head, "There are many complications. The timing isn't right yet."

Tuan Tuan just nodded dutifully and stopped prying.

The two had a good heart to heart chat, trying to catch up with each other for all the past years.

After the dinner, they went home respectively.

Yaxin took a shower and gave her tutor in London a call. After talking, she put her phone to charge and went to sleep.



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Early the next day, Yaxin reported for duty at Yun Rui Corp.

The company staffs handled her with outmost respect. Which was understandable considering her distinguished qualifications.

"Miss Xia, luckily the weather is on our side today! The sun and I are pleased to offer you our heartiest welcome!" Madam Zhang from the HR department extended her friendly handshake, "I must say I am surprised by your young age. And may I say, you are absolutely gorgeous!"

Yaxin responded affectionately with a sweet smile, "Thank you for the kind words Madam Zhang. I admire you too! I can only imagine the exceeding hard work and capabilities to claim the position of manager at your young age!"

Well, a flattering compliment is verbal sunshine.

Madam Zhang let out a jovial laugh, "Let's go, I'll bring you to the DoD (Department of Design)."

Yaxin bowed gently and followed closely as Madam Zhang sashayed towards DoD.

Once they entered the premise, Madam Zhang clapped her hands for attention, "Everyone please take a break. You have a new co-worker today!"

When everyone shifted their attention to the newcomer, Madam Zhang announced, "Allow me to introduce - Miss Xia Yaxin, she just got back from London, and from today onwards she will be

part of your team!"

Members of DoD stared fervently at Yaxin. Be it men or women, their eyes shone when they noticed this dazzling beauty. Yaxin was wearing a classical strapless dress that accentuated her slender frame, along with a gold-embroidered sash about her waist and simple jewellery.

She stood by humbly and gracefully smiled to greet all the new faces. And they adore her even more.

As Madam Zhang signalled her to come forward, Yaxin took a few steps forward. With a bright and pleasant voice, she bowed and said, "Hello everyone, I am Xia Yaxin. Delighted to make your acquaintance and I look forward to the wonderful time working with you!"

"Welcome to DoD!" Someone yelled in hurray.

"Oh yes! Another beauty joining DoD!" Another male colleague joined in the fun.

Madam Zhang and Yaxin were brought to a titter. "Yeah that's right, everyone in DoD is handsome and pretty!" Madam Zhang followed on and gained a loud cheer from the crowd.

Then, Madam Zhang waved to call for a modern looking lady, "Coco, Yaxin is our newbie here. You are hereby in charged to assist her."

Coco was also fashionably dressed, shrouding her petite figure in a sacklike print dress with pink

stripes.

"Roger that!" She replied.

After a short briefing, Madam Zhang reminded Yaxin to report herself before the President by the end of the day.

Yaxin nodded in affirmation.

"Carry on with your good works. I must make a move now."

"Yes Madam."

And so Yaxin had now joined the Yun Rui Corp officially.

Coco was diligent and helpful, making the transitioning processes smooth like butter.

"Thank you so much Coco!" Yaxin sincerely expressed her gratitude.

"You are most welcome. Should you need any help, just ask!" Coco replied cheerfully.

"Will do!"

"Alright, do carry on. I will go back to work now."

"Sure, see you around."

"Ciao~"

Both of them returned to their respective desks

and begun their work. Yaxin carefully scanned around, and she was more than satisfied with her new workplace and office environment. And so, the long hours of work routine begun.

When it was noon time, Coco approached and invited her for lunch.

"Yaxin, want to grab lunch together? I'll show you around!"

"Yes please!"

And the both of them took off leisurely to the cafeteria.



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Coco enthusiastically poured out all she knew about Yun Rui Corp, not omitting even the tiniest details. And at that moment, Yaxin felt as if she was watching a documentary of the company, hosted by Coco the journalist.

Yaxin couldn't help but find her personality sweet and adorable. At the very least, Coco's first impression struck her as someone ingenuous.

The two women were chatty during lunch.

"I heard that you were highly accomplished back in London. Numerous esteemed awards! That's awesome!" Coco exclaimed and her eyes gleamed with admiration.

"I believe you can do it too!" Yaxin replied cheerily.

"That I doubt! However, it is my lifelong dream to study abroad." Coco said with eagerness and enthusiasm. She has been striving for this aspiration of hers for some time.

"Well, to be able to secure a good position in Yun Rui Corp was no easy feat, you are also a remarkable lady!"

"Haha that's right! " Coco flared her nose playfully. "Although Yun Rui's marvel was pretty recent, but it has already shown substantial promise. I believe in its potential, this company can definitely make it BIG!"

"I couldn't agree more," Yaxin nodded, "I already had exposure of Yun Rui all the way from London!"

And that was also a contributing factor for her to work here.

"By the way, are you aware that our president is an unbelievably young and charming man?"

Yaxin shook her head jovially. She was never too keen in these matters.

"Not only is he more handsome than celebrities, he is only 26 years old! More than that, his aptitude in business is phenomenal. He single-handedly founded and advanced the Yun Rui Corp to this scale. Every girl's Prince Charming!" Fan-girl Coco's eyes were beaming with stars.

Yaxin chuckled, "Then what are you waiting for? Chop chop!"

"Whilst everyone is actually working on it, I'm just gonna sit back and watch," Coco continued, "You will understand once you meet him." She exaggerated a naughty grin at Yaxin.

And Yaxin just nodded carefreely.

"However, there seems to be rumours about him getting married and a divorce..."

Coco's info gave her a piercing déjà vu, but she reserved her curiosity and asked no further.

Well, what are the odds?

The two swiftly finished up their lunch and continued on with work.

In the afternoon, Yaxin was called to the president's office. She packed up some reporting documents and got to the upper floor. Just when she was about to knock on the president's office door, she overheard an audible sound.

"Haoyu, the dinner party tomorrow... why not you bring me along?"

It was a high pitched, honeyed voice, and that made Yaxin hesitated to enter. Obviously there was another person inside, and it sounded like something very personal going on.

"If you keep on touching me, you're gonna... aah..." This time it was a deep, husky male voice.

The startling situation dropped her jaw and her body completely froze in shock.

What are they doing? What is happening? Isn't this the president's office!?

"Isn't it uncomfortable like this? Why not you punish me... I've been a naughty, naughty girl..." The female voice said tremulously. And soon there were inaudible squeaking and heavy breathings.

Yaxin was stupefied, imagining the heated scene on the other side of the door. As an adult woman, this wasn't something unfamiliar to her. However, what was disturbing is the time and place. Going at it in office during working hours!?

Unbelievable! It never crossed my mind that the reputable president of Yun Rui was such an

indecent man. Can it be...

Man muffled groan

Yaxin was slammed back to her senses. She knew she must leave at once before she causes any interruption.

"Yiqiu, this is my working space," the owner of the male voice said, "Be a good girl. I'll call you soon." He sounded soothingly gentle but uncompromising.

The door was then pushed open. Yaxin tensed in panic and turned away to leave.



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Then the door was pushed open. Yaxin tensed in panic and turned away to leave.

"Who are you? And why are you standing here?" A hostile and stentorian voice came from inside.

Yaxin knew she must now give them a satisfying explanation, otherwise it would just spell trouble. She lifted her eyes and hid her uneasiness, with a modulated tone, she explained, "I am the new..."

Just before she could finish her sentence, she received her second trauma of the day...

MU HAOYU!

What in the world is he doing here!?

Yaxin's mind went blank and her jaw dropped comically, like the genie from Aladdin.

He is the president of Yun Rui?!

How in the world is this even possible!

And at that moment, countless thoughts raced through her mind. Every single brain cells of hers are yelling 'RUN!', but her feet were heavy as lead, as if it was rooted in the ground.

After these years, Mu looked more mature and even closer to perfection. He seemed to be moulded from a different cast as he had an androgynous look uncommon to most people. His face was of such sharp contours it's as if they were sculpted and pared to perfection by a master

craftsman. His basalt jaw and Spartan shoulders spoke of strength. He possessed a latent, leonine power and always moved with purpose and authority. Perhaps, his only blemish was that his stare was cold as ice and his eyebrows knitted in temper.

Mu observed the stranger from head to toe. Not a beauty in the classical way, no flowing golden curls nor temperament like a catwalk model, but in her ordinariness she was mysteriously attractive. Something radiated from her that made her pleasing. A pair of arched eyebrows looked down on sweeping eyelashes, her tranquil eyes stared at him and a set of dazzling, angel-white teeth gleamed as she left her mouth wide open...

Wait a second...Why is her mouth wide open?

And the way she looks at me is rather... peculiar. Does she know me?"

However, Mu could not find any recollection of such individual. What more such a striking woman.

"You have yet to answer me." Mu asked again, intimidatingly this time.

His enchanting voice brought Yaxin back to her senses, "Umm... I am..."

"Were you eavesdropping on us?" The lady beside him strutted forward, presumably the aforementioned Yiqu.

Well, the plight of attractive girls.

Yiqiu displayed an evident hostility towards Yaxin. She blamed her for interrupting their steamy moments.

Yaxin frowned at Yiqiu's rudeness, "I am the new designer, Xia Yaxin. Hereby reporting for duty." Yaxin answered impeccably, clear and concise.

"Xia... Yaxin?" Mu lightly repeated after her, while his eyes scanning with a mixture of interests and incomprehension.

When Mu mentioned her name, Yaxin could feel as if her heart was in her mouth. She couldn't move a muscle and her hands started to sweat.

When bad luck hits you like a train... How unthinkable that the famed president of Yun Rui Corp is HIM!

If she only knew, she would NEVER have considered working here!

"Come inside," Mu instructed.

"Haoyu..." Yiqiu called out in coquettish.

"Yiqiu, you should leave. I have work and I will find you after that." Mu told her off dominantly.

"Okay~ I'll wait for you tonight!" Yiqiu answered in meekness. She knew how to behave when the man gets serious. She has spent sufficient time to learn that he has exceeding prominence over his

work matters.

"Ok." Mu replied.

As the two ladies crossed paths, Yiqiu threw her a warning glare.

Finally, the room is left with just the two, Yaxin and Mu Haoyu!



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Finally, the room is left with just the two, Yaxin and Mu Haoyu!

After Yiqiu left, Yaxin's heart was sunk with nerves but she tried her best to appear composed. Mu sat solemnly on his leather swivel chair. His suit was a midnight black, unbuttoned and his rippling muscles suggested rude health. Handsome was an understatement, he was bewitching and breath-taking.

It was unthinkable that the two met in this manner after two years.

Mu read Yaxin's personal file with care, and paused at her name and picture.

"Xia Yaxin? From London?" Mu raised his eyes and looked intently at her.

"Yes sir." Yaxin replied with confidence. However, her heart was pounding and her brain in an overload. Fear and regret were building like a snowball in her stomach, why didn't she get a proper background check on Yun Rui before committing!? She hand-picked the devil!

"The CV is not too bad," Mu commented, unimpressed.

Not too bad? What in the world you see inside is 'NOT TOO BAD' ?!

Yaxin was ticked off, "My practical capabilities are more pivotal."

Mu's eyebrow rose in attentiveness and he hid a flash of amusement in his eyes, "Well it seems that Miss Xia has outstanding abilities."

"If that isn't the case, I believe Yun Rui will not have hired me."

Speaking to Mu after two years felt completely disparate. One would not be able to guess his thought or observe any hint of emotions at all.

Mu continued to fix his eyes on her with keen interests. It was a first for him to encounter a woman so uncommon. No predictable flattering and lauding, she did not make any attempt to impress and nor has she appeared to be an egoistic person. However, her behaviour was definitely off as well.

"True, it is important to be capable at work. But I think having a commendable character is more crucial."

Yaxin's furrowed her brows faintly.

"Mr. Mu, are you suggesting that I was actually eavesdropping just now?"

Mu did not answer. He reclined lazily and met with her serious gaze. His answer was obvious.

"Mr. Mu, let me make things clear. I came up to report duty to you, the rest was mere coincidence." Yaxin spoke with firmness, and she put on her dutiful smile.

"You could've knocked." Mu responded antagonistically.

"I decided not to. I reckoned getting interrupted when you were 'busy' will not be a pleasant experience for both of us, so I chose to take off immediately. It was bad timing that the door opened before I could leave. Mr. Mu, do you think I should take this blame?" Yaxin confronted.

After two years, not only his salacious habit remained unchanged, he had become more discourteous.

Mu caught a hint of offense in her words.

"Are you disrespecting me?" He asked, biting word by word.

"Respect is earned sir, not given." Yaxin replied indifferently.

"And now are you lecturing me?!"

"I dared not. I am merely stating a fact."



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"I dared not. I am merely stating a fact."

What an interesting lady.

Mu hid his smirk. The lady stood fearlessly before him, arousing even more of his interest and curiosity.

And Yaxin immediately regretted her actions. She had caused too much unnecessary attention! And now she felt like she was thrown into the lion's den. Face hot as coal and her icy fingers pinched tightly on her dress.

Yaxin tried to compose herself, "If there is no other matter then I shall now head back to work." And she quickened her steps without waiting for an answer.

"Hold for a moment," Mu's alluring voice came from behind.

Yaxin froze instinctively. And she shut her eyes in rue.

Why did I stop!? I should've ignored him and walk away!

It was inexplicable, but she just felt unnatural to defy him!

Mu rose from his chair slowly and strode towards her.

The room was with deafening silence and Yaxin can hear her own heart pounding rapidly. On the

surface she seemed expressionless but underneath she was on pins and needles, so tensed that she couldn't move a muscle.

He has an overshadowing build. A dangerous air around him that invaded her space and was slowly constricting on her.

She had thought about thousands of possibilities of them meeting but never like this!

To make bad worse, he seemed to recognize her!

Mu stared intensely at her. His eyes had the same clarity as a mountain stream and gleamed with vigour like two magnificent gems. He came closely, a proximate of a breath's away.

Yaxin was startled and she backed up terror-struck to the wall. Mu continued to corner her by moving his arms over her and pressed them onto the wall, leaving her no room to escape.

His action was aggressive and provocative.

"What... What are you doing!?" Yaxin's attempt to appear calm as clam was busted. She completely panicked under his pressuring presence.

Even after two years, he remained unchanged!
Just as ignoble and lecherous!

Mu was satisfied to see her stuttering. He had the charm to stop women on their tracks and he was accustomed to that, the sudden pause in their natural expression followed by overcompensating

with a nonchalant gaze and a weak smile. Of course with the company of blushing that gave their heart away. And it didn't help that he was so domineering, it just made them fall for him even more.

"What do you think I will do (to you)?" Mu smirked smugly.

"Mr. Mu you are inappropriately close. It can cause misunderstandings."

A savvy woman at that. Quick-witted to relief herself from a tight spot.

Mu thought to himself.

He paid no heed to her displeasure, and stared even more intently at her face.

"Xia Yaxin..."

He mumbled her name repeatedly, frowning deeply as he tried to comb through his memory.

Yaxin felt a trembling weakness in her knees. She breathed shallowly with outmost care, in great fear that he might recognize her. His next question completely caught her off guard and left her petrified.

"Why do you feel so familiar... Do I know you?"

"Why do you feel so familiar... Do I know you?"

The simple question dumbfounded Yaxin and left her at loss of word. Mu looked as if he might catch on something soon and that threw her into a swivet.

"Mr. Mu must be mistaken. I just got back recently (from London), how could we cross path before?" Yaxin forced a most unsuspecting smile.

"Mr. Mu, I have a lot of pending works, so I'll make a move first." Yaxin bypassed his arms and hurried out the door, not waiting for his response. And once she was out she raced across the hallway and disappeared by the corner.

Mu however, still had his arms on the wall. A little caught off guard but he was grinning from ear to ear. He was greatly amused, like a hunter who found game.

How interesting, a woman like that!

Yaxin stopped in an empty hallway. She put her palm on her chest and took deep breaths, trying to soothe her frenzied heartbeat. She uncontrollably casted her mind on the earlier encounter with Mu. His actions, his words and his demeanour...

Was he really unaware?

Or did he intentionally act that way?

Yaxin was worried sick. It was unfathomable to run into him during her second day back to

hometown. To make things worse, she now joined his company!

"If Mu knew that you deliberately deceived him, what do you think he will do?"

Tuan Tuan's question began to resound in her mind.

Well, it's likely I will die a dog's death!

At that very moment she did not feel an ounce of severity in the matter. However, things may be unpredictable from now onwards...

Urgh! Why in the world is this happening to me? The "L" in my luck must've changed to an "F"!

Yaxin pulled her last lifeline hoping that Mu did not recognize her. It was highly probable and definitely the most logical outcome. Would he have stopped at such mild teasing otherwise? It wouldn't take Holmes to guess how much further he would have done to exact vengeance.

On second thought, regardless whether he found out or not, she must not stay in this company. As soon as he takes action or gradually learnt of the truth, staying here could only invite trouble.

Furthermore, Yaxin was certain that the president will fire her because of the conflict earlier on.

Well, instead of being discredited, I might as well resign myself!

Yaxin made up her mind and decided to prepare her resignation letter.

What a bummer! Resigning during the first day at work!

However, it's better to be safe than sorry. To avoid risking unnecessarily, she must leave.

Yaxin exhaled in relief and headed back towards her department. It was then her phone rang. Tuan Tuan called.

"Hello,"

"Hi darling, how's work?" Tuan Tuan asked.

"Take a guess!"

"Must've been awesome!"

Yaxin calmed herself with a deep breath, and with a weighty tone she said, "Tuan Tuan, do you know who turned out to be my boss?"

"Nope, who?"

"Mu Haoyu!" The name sucked out the very last breath from her chest, her voice was soft and shaking mildly. This conversation was like a choked cry for help that forced itself up her throat, she just want to curl up into a ball and wait for her friend, or just anyone at all to save her.

Her history with Mu must be an immutable secret!

"WHAT!?" Tuan Tuan shockingly squealed, "Are you sure?!"

"Yes. Because just a moment ago, we've already met!"



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"WHAT!?" Tuan Tuan shockingly squealed, "Are you sure?!"

"Yes. Because just a moment ago, we've already met!"

"Did he recognize you?" Tuan Tuan asked frightfully.

"Not at the moment, but I think the fateful time is not gonna be too far off..."

"Then what should we do now? As per his personality and character, he will definitely mess you up!" Tuan Tuan getting more anxious the more she digested the news.

"I think so too, therefore I will be resigning ASAP!"

"Good idea!" Tuan Tuan agreed.

"Alright, I'll see you after hour. Let me get the resignation letter done first. See you!"

"Ok! I'll book a place, text you later."

"Ok!"

And they dropped the call.

Yaxin went back to DoD and sat in her own desk. All the flooding adrenaline slowly begun to subside and she couldn't help but lost focus and let her thoughts wander.

Who would've thought, my first task here would be

typing my own resignation letter!

Yaxin was a little heavy hearted to leave a satisfactory working environment like this, but nothing should compromise a peaceful life and put oneself in harm's way. It was the right call to leave this company.

Whilst Yaxin's hand was busy tapping on the keyboard, her ears were occupied too. To gather information, or more accurately, gossips regarding Mu Haoyu.

And impressively enough, he has a prolific history with women and in business...

If there was anything laudable that he has done for the past two years, was that his preference with women changed, from slinky models to celebrities and esteemed socialites.

In addition, he has been laying low from the radar. No one caught wind of his actual lover or partner anymore. All they observed was that he was closely associated with the young lady of the Hans Group lately, who turned out to be the lass Yaxin met in his office just now, Han Yiqiu!

Therefore, it was rumoured that Han Yiqiu was his current lover, but Mu never acknowledged it. Despite the couple's side by side appearances on multiple occasions, and the countless pestering by the media, Mu Haoyu never gave a word of confirmation on the status of their relationship.

A thought flashed through Yaxin's mind. She

quickly tapped in the search engine and the results of Mu's related information were listed on the screen.

Most of the bombarding news was either scandalous or business related. In summary, Yun Rui Corporation was founded in merely one year and brought to spotlight in the next. Ending the second year, Yun Rui had already launched its business internationally.

Though it irked her to admit, but Mu Haoyu had displayed a spectacular and distinguished aptitude in the line of business. He was an absolute self-made man. Yun Rui had proven a worth and value far exceeding his own familial asset, the Mu's Group. And he has risen higher as the president of Yun Rui than the young master from Mu's Group.

Mu Haoyu had refined himself splendidly over the two years. Like a fine sculpture, his frivolousness was scraped off and a sense of mystifying maturity was brought to light.

He seemed to do well for the past years. The divorce did good on him.

Finding out more about him gave Yaxin a stronger resolve to resign. Separation had proven to be best for the two of them.

Otherwise, should one day the truth unveils, all hell would break loose.

It had gotten pretty late when Yaxin printed out her resignation letter. She handed it over to the HR department, tidied her belongings and left the office.

She had made arrangement with TuanTuan in the evening to shop for some daily necessities. She called for a cab and head directly to TuanTuan's shared location.

When the girls met, TuanTuan immediately clung unto her and urged for a tittle-tattle about the office incident. And Yaxin had to spend the next five minutes cagily explaining.

"Can the two of you not be so cliché?" TuanTuan remarked, "And did he really failed to recognize you?"

"I would like to think so," Yaxin smiled bitterly, "Sometimes life is just like a movie. But if he had known who I am, he wouldn't have reacted that way."

All the drama got Tuan Tuan frisky. She shoved a spoon right in the face of Yaxin and asked sportively, "Dear Miss Xia, may I ask for your kind time for a short interview?"

"Yes you may," Yaxin replied playfully along.

"May I ask what's on your mind when your ex-husband couldn't recognize you?"

Yaxin pretended to think hard, and answered earnestly, "I thanked God."

"Perhaps also a little, tiny mini bit of... disappointment?" Tuan Tuan asked cheekily.

"Nope." Yaxin replied instantly.

Clap clap

"We hereby authenticate that Miss Xia, you are no ordinary woman!"

Yaxin burst into a cheerful laughter, "And you're corn nuts, hahaha!"

The mood was lightened up. Tuan Tuan turned down a notch and asked concernedly, "You have been his wife for some good years. I think anyone else in your shoe would've felt disgruntled, or definitely a bit offended with the fact that he didn't even recognize you..."

"To be fair, my heart was all set to leave that time. So I guess there was no room for other emotions." Yaxin replied.

"What's the plan now? Resigning?"

"Yup, the letter is ready and will be submitted for processing first thing tomorrow!"

"Gonna find a new job?"

Yaxin nodded enthusiastically, "Of course. With my credentials that would be easy like ABC."

Well, no dispute over that.

"No matter what's your decision, you have my full support!" Tuan Tuan said encouragingly.

Cheers!

Thus began their celebratory drinking.

After a while, Tuan Tuan excused herself to the restroom.

As she approached the corner in the hallway, out came a waitress from the blind spot in the opposite direction. She was holding a serving tray and the unexpected brush threw her off balance. The sitting cup of drink was then splashed aside.

"AHHH!!"

Everyone in the diner turned their head to the alarming shriek.

The victim was a young lady, presumably wealthy judging by her choice of quality fabric and stylish dress. She screamed as droplets from the steaming hot coffee splashed onto her. She fixed her glare on Tuan Tuan, a fresh swell of molten rage rose in her and flowed through her like lava.

"ARE YOU BLIND?! OR DO YOU WALK WITH YOUR EYES CLOSED?!"

Yaxin was at loss of words when she saw who was speaking.

It was Han Yiqiu!

Tuan Tuan was irritated by her rudeness. However, as she was partly liable for the accident, she decided to be a gentlewoman and quickly apologized, "I'm so sorry, it wasn't intentional."

"Do you think a simple SORRY would suffice?! Do you know how much this (dress) cost!? You've ruined my day!" Han Yiqiu continued to make a fuss and she was boiled in anger.



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"Do you think a simple SORRY would suffice? Do you know how much this (dress) cost!? You've ruined my day!" Han Yiqiu continued to make a fuss and she was simmering in anger.

What a spoiled and bratty woman!

Tuan Tuan was not a guileless person either, she would feel no burden letting the lady have a taste of her own medicine. She faked a mannered smile and said, "Miss, I have given you my sincerest apology, is there anything else you need?"

"APOLOGY?! Your apology is practically useless! Do you know you've RUINED my day!?" Han Yiqiu continued to squeal and wail.

Tuan Tuan eyed her as though her bull-shit-meter was ticking at the red zone,

"Cool, if it's useless then forget about it!"

And her reply made Han Yiqiu almost choked with anger. Just when she was about to explode, she noticed another lady beside Tuan Tuan.

Xia Yaxin!

She was still marinated in resentment towards Yaxin due to the afternoon episode. And now they meet again.

The flames of rage licked through her once more...

"YOU AGAIN!"

Yaxin stepped forward unwillingly, she tried to be polite and said, "Miss Han, my friend here really did not mean..."

"Do you think apologizing will help? I reckon the two of you were deliberately trying to cause trouble!" Han Yiqiu interrupted.

Yaxin frowned distastefully at her rudeness. But before she could say anything, another person appeared by the doorway and walked towards Han Yiqiu.

It was none other than Mu Haoyu!

Yaxin's stomach instantly dropped in dismay. She avoided eye contact and went stone-faced.

Tuan Tuan stared at Mu with an exaggerated jaw-drop as if next thing her tongue would roll out like a red carpet. She then turned her stiffened neck back and looked at Yaxin worriedly.

However Yaxin appeared to be calm as sea, showing no sign of care. And that left Tuan Tuan wonderstruck.

Whoa... girl you're so hardboiled!

Mu paid no attention to Tuan Tuan and all his attentiveness was caught by Yaxin.

Why does she seem to shun me so much?

Mu felt a mood of mischief under his collar, the more she wanted to avoid him, the more he

wanted to mess with her.

"What happened?" Mu asked Han Yiqiu gently.

And once she heard Mu's voice, it was as if her personality changed. She pursed her lips and held his arms dallyingly, "Haoyu, look at how they dirtied my favourite dress from you. I cherished it so much and only wear it during important days..."

That pouting face and kittenish tone gave Tuan Tuan goosebumps.

"Oh really?" Mu redirected his gaze on Yaxin, expecting a response.

Yaxin however, still remained cool as a cucumber and kept her silence.

"Miss Han, We had apologized, what else do you want from us?" Tuan Tuan asked.

Han Yiqiu kept quiet but put up a discontented face.

Yaxin stepped in reluctantly thereafter, "Miss Han, why not we do it this way; you tell us the price of your dress and we compensate you."

Han Yiqiu leered at her and answered, "This is a treasured gift from Haoyu, how can it be compensated with money?"

Wow! Is being a cat's arse a profession or she was just gifted?

"What do you want then?!" Tuan Tuan's tone suggested that she completely lost her patience.

And Han Yiqiu's glance went past Tuan Tuan and fixed on Yaxin...



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ClipperYT

Han Yiqiu's glance went past Tuan Tuan and fixed on Yaxin, "Miss Xia, are you and your friend trying to cause trouble?"

Tuan Tuan's anger roused when she heard that, just when she was about to speak her mind, Yaxin took the initiative and said to Han Yiqiu, giving her a botox smile, "Miss Han, what do you think we can gain from disturbing you?"

"Exactly!" Tuan Tuan assented.

"Well, why would I know?!" Han Yiqiu leered provocatively at Yaxin.

This haughty attitude of Han Yiqiu was really testing their patience. Tuan Tuan decided not to lay low anymore and challenged her, "If dignity is worth money, yours probably can buy a can of soda!"

This wealthy and spoiled lady had never been insulted all her life. She clenched her fists and her nose flared with fumes of anger.

"WHAT DID YOU SAY!?" She yelled furiously.

"Well, apparently not only are you behaving like a cat's arse, but you're deaf like one too."

"You little..." Han Yiqiu was breathless with anger and she stomped hot-temperedly with her heels, "Haoyu, look at them, they are bullying me..."

All these dramas did not faze Mu one bit and he appeared to be completely undisturbed. With a

light-hearted tone he told Han Yiqiu, "Yiqiu, why do you get upset because of them? Isn't that degrading?"

Once again, Han Yiqiu's face took a 180 degrees change, back to her sweetened look. She stuck out her chest and her nose flared in pride, "You are right! I shouldn't bring myself low like this!"

And now the ball of insult was served right on back.

Tuan Tuan was still struggling to keep her anger in check while Yaxin had been showing her humourless smile.

"What should we do with this dress? And the dinner too!"

"Don't worry, I'll get you a new one later."

"Thanks, Haoyu!" And Han Yiqiu gave him an immodest smooch on his cheek. Whilst doing so she leered belligerently at Yaxin.

Yaxin continued to stand still with her botox smile. She was perplexed by such undeserved hostility and pugnacious behaviour. What more, they have only met just ONCE...

Sigh, women trouble...

Tuan Tuan too, felt annoyed and a crawling urge for mischief. She drew out 20 dollars of change and shoved it in front of the couple. "Miss Han, however it may be, we would still like to offer a

token of apology. Take this for the dry washing fee."

Han Yiqiu frowned upon the petty notes, "20 dollars? You seriously think that's enough?"

"Umm... No. But the problem is you are worth only this much!" And Tuan Tuan turned her head away victoriously and winked at Yaxin, "Yaxin, shall we?"

Yaxin continued to remain silent. She nodded happily and followed after her.

And now, raw anger thrummed within Han Yiqiu! She turned towards the two ladies but they had already gained some distance.

"If you lie down with dogs you get up with fleas! Such ill-mannered people!"

How dare they insult her like that! She etched this humiliation in her heart and swore to payback, but in the account of Xia Yaxin!

"Haoyu, look at them..." Han Yiqiu yanked his arms restively.

"There is no need to be unsettled with them. Be reminded, you are a prestigious lady. Why be bothered with them? Haoyu spelled out for her patiently.

"There is no need to be unsettled with them. Be reminded, you are a prestigious lady. Why be bothered with them? Haoyu spelled out for her patiently.

However, Mu's eyes were glued to that interesting lady, all the way until she was gone.

It was clear as day that Han Yiqiu was still flickering in frustration. Mu looked at her and warm-heartedly said, "Let it go, and let's go shopping for your dress!"

And since Mu had given his words, Han Yiqiu can only go along with it, "Alright!"

Once outside the diner, the two ladies instantly burst into laughter.

"HAHAHA! I feel pure satisfaction watching her constipated expression!" Tuan Tuan exclaimed, still trying to soothe her breaths, "better yet, she could grow a few pimples from that!"

Yaxin laughed even harder hearing her words, "Well, you whooped her ass this time!"

"Sigh, I feel sorry for my 20 dollars. I wanted to give just 10, but I don't have any smaller change. What a waste!"

"I think that was too generous of you. I would've given... ONE dollar!"

Tuan Tuan grinned from ear to ear, "This is nothing! If she finds out about you being Mu

Haoyu's ex-wife, I think she would cross the rainbow bridge!"

Tuan Tuan paused briefly to cluck at her own joke, "So comical! By the way, this Mu Haoyu, I never knew he is such a tosser!"

Yaxin pondered momentarily and said, "This I agree."

The two ladies got into Tuan Tuan's sedan, still tittering.

All of a sudden, Yaxin jolted and said seriously, "Hey Tuan Tuan, whatever happened between me and Mu Haoyu, make sure to bring it to your grave!"

"I know I know, don't worry about it. I will not tell a single soul!" Tuan Tuan replied convincingly.

"Glad to hear. I just don't want unnecessary troubles..." Yaxin mumbled.

"Understood, consider it done!" Tuan Tuan made a gesture to zip her lips.

"I trust you."

And the two went on with their planned shopping.

Early the next day, Yaxin went to Yun Rui to expedite her resignation.

After yesterday's episode, she was certain that Yun Rui will no longer be her place to stay. She

handed her resignation to the HR department, and that caused the manager, Madam Zhang to be very puzzled.

"Miss Xia, you just joined the company yesterday, and decided to resign today? Is anything bothering you here?"

"Madam Zhang, my sincerest apology for the inconveniences caused, but this is due to personal reasons, it has nothing to do with the company!"

"I see. What a shame. We could really use a competent person like you!"

Yaxin gave her an apologetic smile. She had good impression towards Madam Zhang and respected her dearly.

Madam Zhang reviewed the letter and said, "Let me pass this to the president."

"Absolutely." Yaxin replied.

Shortly after, Madam Zhang returned from the president's office, "Miss Xia," She called out, "Mr. Mu asked you to drop by his office."

Yaxin troublesomely frowned, "Must I go?"

"I'm afraid so. Your letter is with him and he specifically called for your presence."

Yaxin nodded weakly, "Noted. Thank you Madam Zhang."

"If it's possible, don't leave. We would love for you to stay!" Madam Zhang persuaded earnestly.

Yaxin bowed and smiled back politely, she then braced herself and trudged towards his office.



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Yaxin bowed and smiled back politely, she then braced herself and trudged towards his office.

Mu was sitting on his desk, working on dozens of documents lying in front of him. He was wearing a black fitting top, and Yaxin was unknowingly mesmerized by watching him work with complete focus yet unself-conscious. He had such an authoritative posture and a confident disposition when he was bustling around and penning. It was at that moment even Yaxin was captivated, no wonder so many girls had fallen helplessly for him!

He finally signed off a piece of paper, and raised his attention towards Yaxin, who was standing by the door.

"Are you resigning?" he asked.

"Yes." Yaxin replied straight-forwardly.

"Tell me why."

Yaxin's eyebrow drew together.

Are you seriously asking for a reason? I can give you a list!

That ill-fated encounter in the office. And shortly after, the upsetting experience in the diner. Has he forgotten about all that?

Why does he look completely unbothered, does he not care at all?

It was rumoured that previously when he was in LK, an old-time employee unintentionally said something that displeased him, and then said employee was mercilessly fired, despite serving loyally for decades!

Now Yaxin was baffled. But if Mu decided to ignore those upsetting events, she was more than happy to oblige.

"It was due to personal reasons." She said slowly.

"Personal reasons?" Yaxin could almost hear Mu's lifted eyebrow. "Miss Xia, do you think working in Yun Rui is child's play? And you dare provide such lame excuse to resign?!"

Yaxin eyebrows loured into a frown. However, she remained composed and replied, "It's regrettable and I'm sorry."

"You're sorry and that's it? How irresponsible! Then who will bear the company's losses?" Mu asked sternly.

Company's losses?

Yaxin frowned even deeper. She met his eye with a firm gaze, "Mr. Mu, I don't understand what you mean."

"What I mean?" Mr. Mu made a sardonic scoff, "Yun Rui invested in extensive procedures and voluminous work to absorb new blood. You have occupied that very limited spot and resources. Now after just ONE DAY and you are resigning?"

Are you messing with us?"

Isn't that too forceful of an argument? Yaxin thought to herself.

Or perhaps is he trying to create trouble for me?

Whenever Yun Rui offered a vacancy, there will be innumerable influx of application.

Yaxin was not disconcerted. She gave her trademark botox smile and replied, "Mr. Mu must be joking. A promising company like Yun Rui can definitely get much superior employees. As for me, it is regrettable but I have personal matters that I must attend to."

"Personal matters? As far as I know, Miss Xia you were back very recently. How can there be matters of such urgency?"

"Well, this is a private matter."

"Are you sure this isn't just a lame excuse?"

Yaxin was irked.

Is he sharp or is he just being unreasonable? Why am I feeling it so much in my gut that he is doing this on purpose!

"Mr. Mu, with all due respect, that does not have anything to do with my resignation." Yaxin had no intention of backing down.

Mu straightened his back readily, "Of course it

does!" And he flipped and slid out a document in front of him.

"Miss Xia, feel free to take a look. This is our employment contract, a period which shall not be less than two years in the course of which the employee is bound to work in the employer's service, should the employee's reason of dismissal is due to his/her personal reasons... then they will have to bear a penalty!"

Yaxin's eyes widen gradually in a slow realization...



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Yaxin's eyes widen gradually in a slow realization. She was too caught up to resign and neglected this crucial factor!

"Miss Xia, do you already have a decision?" Mu asked guilefully.

Yaxin stood helplessly in shock, her lips tightly pursed together. She was carefully thinking it through and balancing the pros and cons.

"I accept the penalty." Yaxin spoke and her eyes still gleamed with hope and beautiful serenity.

Her response alarmed Mu!

He cocked his eyebrows in scepticism and with disbelief he applauded, "Twice the amount of contract breaching, Miss Xia you've wowed me with your wealth!"

"I believe the liquidated damages are still affordable." Yaxin smiled humourlessly, while on the inside she was crazily cursing. Goodbye to all her savings all these years!

"Ok, if that's the case then I shall bother you no more. Two million dollars. And I will approve your

resignation once the amount is received."

I beg your pardon?

WHAT TWO MILLION DOLLARS?!

Yaxin gasped with stupefaction, she difficultly gathered her breath and asked, "Two... two million dollars?"

"Yes. Have you not reviewed the contract carefully before you signed? And I was kind enough to omit the losses you've caused Yun Rui." Mu now replied with a jolly tone.

Yaxin plodded hesitantly to his desk and took a good look at the contract.

Dear Lord! It's true!

Those black and white had utterly crushed all her lingering optimism. After conversion, she had only managed to save up close to a million, where to get the other half?

Yaxin was left dumbfounded and her brain went into a hiatus.

"Yes Miss Xia? Aren't you aware of these terms and conditions?" Mu asked pretentiously.

Yaxin expression blanked in silence. She signed off hastily because she was too eager to work for Yun Rui. It had never crossed her mind that it will boil down to this. And what else can be more shockingly unexpected than the fact that Mu

Haoyu was the president of Yun Rui!

Her misery made Mu feel victorious and poised. He smiled cheekily and patiently waited for her response.

It felt like forever, until Yaxin finally mustered up her determination and said, "Give me some time..."

"Miss Xia, I am a very, very busy man."

"It won't be too long!"

"Alright. Since I am also compassionate, I shall give you a two-days grace period. After that, if you are still unable to come up with the money, then I will have to apologise here in advance."

Two days?!

Yaxin's massaged her knitted eyebrow trying to release some tension. Mu was definitely trying to mess with her!

"Mr. Mu, with all due respect, how is it possible to come up with two million dollars in two days!?"

"Well, I'm afraid that is of your concern."

"....."

This bastard!

Even when she pouted angrily she has her unique charm, Mu thought. "Miss Xia, why not you just resume your work here? Doesn't that solve all the

problems?" Mu suggested, with a vicious grin on his face.

Hearing that, Yaxin also smiled mirthlessly, "Mr. Mu, Yun Rui is such an esteemed company. Why bother with someone like me? Unless... You have an unspeakable agenda towards me!"

Yaxin's bold response and unfaltering gaze stunned Mu.

His eyebrow lowered into a slight frown.

Is this woman challenging me?



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Is this woman challenging me?

What does she mean by unspeakable agenda?

Mu wiggled his eyebrows and smirked, "Miss Xia, what kind of unspeakable agenda do you think I have towards you?"

"Who knows~" Yaxin replied innocently.

A prideful man like Mu would be ticked by this kind of suggestive accusation.

"Miss Xia, what I value is your capabilities in business work. If you suspect that I have a different agenda with you, then you must be overthinking."

"Well, I sure hope so," Yaxin continued to look at him with a heedful and judgemental gaze, "Mr. Mu please rest assured. I will definitely do the bank transfer in two days. If you have no other issue then I will take my leave. Goodbye!"

Yaxin turned around and completely ignored Mu. She straightened her back and left his office in temper.

Watching her leave, Mu felt a strange tingling feeling inside. It was as if something is missing together with her enjoyable presence.

Unspeakable agenda? So what if it's true... I'll make you submit to me!

On the other hand, right after escaping from Mu's

office, Yaxin exhaled deeply. It's as if she just came out from a warzone and was completely deflated.

Dealing with Mu was too stressful.

Two million dollars...

This enormous figure gave her a stinging migraine. Where in the world can she get a million dollars in two days!

Mu Haoyu was definitely trying to mess with her!

However, it mattered not how strait the gate, she MUST leave Yun Rui. Otherwise if she were to spend more time with him, she would certainly go nuts!

Early next day, Yaxin was brought back from dreamland by a shocking phone call.

"WHAT? Police station? Alright, I am on my way!"

She hurriedly rinsed and changed into casual wear and rushed to the police station.

About one hour later, Yaxin and Tuan Tuan left the police station together.

"What damned luck. It was just a careless rear-end collision, but they sued me for intentional harm!" Tuan Tuan yelled in vexation.

"What exactly happened?" Yaxin asked worriedly.

"Seriously I have no idea. This is injustice... Ah I know, it's a revenge!" Tuan Tuan's anger spiked, "Yaxin, you have made the right call. You must steer clear from that jerk Mu Haoyu!"

Why is Mu Haoyu related to this again?

"What does he have to do with your case?" Yaxin asked curiously.

"Because the 'victim' of accident is none other than him- MU HAoyu!" Tuan Tuan replied with frustration.

"... Mu Haoyu?"

"Exactly, I think he is doing this to sabotage me!" The more Tuan Tuan thought about it, the more distressed she got, "Let's head home for now... Oh right, remember not to let my family know about this, I don't want to them to worry unnecessarily."

"Ok." Yaxin replied mechanically. She was lost in thoughts.

She later found out that Mu was committed to sue Tuan Tuan. And everything about this was just uncanny and unsettling.

Nonetheless, Tuan Tuan's case had the highest urgency. She had her struggle but ended up reluctantly tapping in his office number...

"Mr. Mu, it's me."

Hearing this pleasant voice made Mu's heart skipped a beat. His lips curved in smugness and he replied, "...May I know who is this?"

Yaxin knew that over the phone, Mu Haoyu absolutely, undisputedly and unquestionably had recognized her voice. And then he was just enjoying being a jerk!

"Xia-Ya-Xin!" She gritted her teeth in irritation.

And there was a long pause over the phone, Yaxin assumed that he was distracted by work or something else. Then he asked carefreely, "Oh hey it's you, the money's ready?"

Yaxin felt triggered. Whenever she spoke to him, she felt as if her blood pressure ran amok. She took in a deep breath, and tried her best attempt to speak calmly, "That is not why I called today."

"Oh? Then may I know why are you calling?"

"It is about the car accident!"

Mu put down his pen and lazed back on his swivel chair. Suited in an elegant black once more and he looked exactly like a villain in some Bond's movie.

"Well well, what does it have to do with you?" He spoke with an enthralling charm.

"Mr. Mu, you should know that Tuan Tuan is my dear friend!" Yaxin restlessly said.

"And so what...?" He asked innocently.

"Can you please drop your charges? It was clearly an uncomplicated accident, why are you suing for intentional harm?" Yaxin replied.

Mu had a sly grin on his face, he pretended to get worked up and said, "Miss Xia, are you suggesting that I have wrongly accused her?"

"You should know best!" Yaxin almost yelled back.

Mu Haoyu must be doing this on purpose, and yet he was speaking so nonchalantly!

Mu was actually enjoying the moment. He tried his best not to sound shaky from swallowing all his laughter and be serious.

"Miss Xia, I must remind you to watch your words. How can you be sure that she wasn't intentional? You do remember last night we have had a bad time in the diner right? That explains her motive to hit me with her car. She was causing harm to me, and you want me to unhand her?"

So that's it, Mu Haoyu was really seeking his revenge! What a despicable man, he hasn't changed one bit all these years!

However, Yaxin was unsure what his ultimate goal was...

"She is my friend. I trust she won't do that!" Yaxin protested.

"Like you said, she is your friend, not mine."

"MU HAO YU! You are framing her!"

"Yeah then so what?"

Yaxin could no longer keep her cool and fury overcame her. But he was right, even if it was a false accusation, was there anything that she could've done?

"Not only that. I will make sure she gets prison time. You must know that I am at least capable of that, right?" Mu spoke gently. But his words were cold and menacing, playing right in the Bond villain character.

Fear hit Yaxin like a cold shower. She was absolutely certain that with his financial capabilities and familial connections, giving Tuan Tuan a legal trouble would be easy as pie.

She knew she must not stir up any anger from Mu anymore. She lowered her tone and asked bitterly, "Can you please tell me what you want?"

"Why do you say it as if I am up to no good?" Mu asked innocently.

"Well, aren't you?" She replied.

Otherwise you went through all the troubles and inconveniences just to kill boredom?

"Wow you know me so well!" Mu chuckled and there seemed to be deeper meaning to his words.

His reply gave Yaxin sudden chills. But she quickly shook her head, it must be that she was always overthinking whenever she faced him, there's no way he meant that...

"I believe Mr. Mu is someone who take calculated actions to achieve his objectives," Yaxin explained, also trying to avert the topic, "so tell me, what do you want from me?"

Mu grinned victoriously, his bewitching eyes shone with gleam of mischief...

"Are you suggesting that you will agree to whatever I want?"

Yaxin's grip on the phone tightened. She didn't like the sound of that, scared even. His words sounded too wrong... and too intimate...



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"Are you suggesting that you will agree to whatever I want?"

Yaxin's grip on the phone tightened. She didn't like the sound of that, scared even. His words sounded too wrong... and too intimate...

Yaxin didn't know what was hatching in Mu's mind. All she knew was that her emotion has been riding a rollercoaster, fully grasped by this dangerous man. He is like a monarch, unpredictable and full of enigmatic charm.

"What... what do you mean!?" Yaxin asked, unknowingly she was nervous as a bride.

"What do I mean? How can you ask for favours and don't know what that mean?" Mu replied with a sardonic laugh.

At that moment, Yaxin was completely cornered. She felt utterly hopeless as Mu had gotten the upper hand. There was nothing she could do against the Ace up his sleeve.

The idea of Tuan Tuan getting jail time for something as trivial as that was tormenting her. Moreover, her intuition told her that Tuan Tuan was only a victim of collateral damage!

Mu Haoyu must be exacting revenge because of Han Yiqiu's incident!

After some consideration, Yaxin opened her mouth, "Ok I...I accept! Just tell me what you want!" and it was like all her energy was drained.

Everything was dancing perfectly to his tune and Mu expected nothing less. Although Yaxin had compromised slightly earlier than expected, that just proved that she was a sharp-witted woman. She knew that had she continued to drag on, things will definitely escalate and Mu will eventually raise the bar!

"Are you sure...?" Mu's deep voice was hauntingly charming.

"Yes. I'm sure Mr. Mu isn't someone who quits until he gets what he wants. So I'll take my chances while I still can." Her steady voice showed that she was determined.

That sure did not sound like a compliment, Mu thought to himself, but it wasn't untrue either.

"Alright, I have a challenging case on my hand, and since you have extensive experiences overseas, I think you are best suited for the job and I believe you can handle it well."

"...that's it?" Yaxin asked in confusion.

"That's it. What else are you expecting?" Mu found satisfying pleasure when he teased the gullible woman.

Yaxin was rendered speechless. Mu was too unpredictable for her, but now everything seemed to be better than expected!

"Ok, I accept. Please honour your words and drop your charges against Tuan Tuan!"

"Hold your horses Miss Xia. I will only consider that after you complete your task!" Mu grinned ruthlessly over the phone.

"Hey!"

"Rest assured, I won't sue her either, she is safe... for now."

Yaxin's eyebrows knitted worriedly, but she knew that was the best she could ask for. Mu will not compromise any further.

"Alright. You have a deal!"

"Deal," Mu gave his word doubtlessly, "See you tomorrow in office!" And he hung up the call.

In the president's office, Mu laze comfortably on his chair, eyes still on his phone and he seemed to be in a pleasant mood. Everything went according to his plan!

On the other side, Yaxin sighed wearily. Who would've thought after all these dramas happening, and she's back to Yun Rui again!

But if that could be helpful to Tuan Tuan, it was worth doing. Her eyes shone beautifully with kindness and serenity.

Little did she knew, all this was a conspiracy designed just for her...

The next day, Yaxin went back to work.

It was fortunate that except for Madam Zhang, no one else was aware of her resignation, otherwise it would be crazy awkward to be back in office.

It appeared that Madam Zhang did bit her tongue about this, no one else was informed and she welcomed her warmly, "Mr. Mu has great expectations of you, don't let him down!"

"Thanks Madam Zhang!" Yaxin smiled sweetly back at her.

She was still determined to quit Yun Rui. And she will do that right after resolving Tuan Tuan's case.

Staying back here is like a ticking time bomb. Any time, Mu could've found out about that and... Just thinking about it sent shivers down her spine...

If there was one thing that comforted her, it was that Mu showed no sign of recognizing her. Definitely a good news in bad times.

In Mu's Office.

Yaxin stood silently in front of Mu, patiently waiting for him to finish some paperwork.

"Oh, you're here." Mu arched an eyebrow.

His attitude is seriously ticking me...

His personable arrogance that was absolutely charming to other women seemed to only irritate

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Yaxin more and more.

Seeing as how Yaxin completely refused to entertain him, Mu withdrew a sealed envelope from his drawer and passed to her. "This is it," He said, "If you can complete this assignment, I'll do as you say." And he stared directly at her tranquil eyes, waiting for an answer.

"Mr. Mu, I believe you are a man of your words." Yaxin carefully unsealed the documents and flipped through it.

"Of course," Mu replied.

"Alright! Then we have a deal. I'll see myself out now." Yaxin held the documents confidently and wait for his approval.

"Ok." He nodded and replied.

click

As the door shuts after her, Mu's lips curled up in mischief...

On the other side of the door, Yaxin drew a deep breath and sighed restfully. Facing Mu was nerve wrecking and she found her body always tensing up.

Suddenly, her phone vibrated and it was a call from Tuan Tuan.

"Hey Yaxin, did you talk to Mu Haoyu?" Tuan Tuan asked hurriedly.

"Why?" Yaxin hesitated, she would like to keep it a secret from Tuan Tuan.

"Answer me first!" Tuan Tuan said impatiently.

After pausing for a while, Yaxin admitted to her.

"I knew it!" Tuan Tuan was exasperated, "I am so sorry to drag you into this mess!"

"Hey, there's no need for sorry between us. Besides that, I didn't actually do much!"

"Are you serious? Didn't Mu haoyu demand something in exchange?" Tuan Tuan's tone rose in hopeful optimism.

"Not really. He asked me to return to Yun Rui and handed me a challenging assignment." Yaxin told her off with negligible details.

"Just like that?!" Tuan Tuan was in disbelief.

"Just like that." Yaxin reassured her.

Tuan Tuan knew her best friend would omit some details to safeguard her and leave her guilt-free. She felt thankful and guilt-ridden. However, she couldn't think of a better way around it.

"Thanks Yaxin. But please promise me; if Mu Haoyu somehow crosses the line, you must abandon ship and steer clear! I strongly believe justice is not blind!" Tuan Tuan said, with a mixture of relief and worry.

"Alright I'll do that. Don't worry." Yaxin reassured her.

"Ok. Call me if anything!"

"Will do, gotta go!"

"Ok, bye!"

The two ended the call and Yaxin went back to her seat. She tidied her desk and carefully reviewed the document from Mu...



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The two ended the call and Yaxin went back to her seat. She tidied her desk and carefully reviewed the document from Mu...

She studied it meticulously and realised that this task is completely unrelated to her field of expertise.

Her eyebrow loured in concern, this seemed to be an intentional complication from Mu.

However it may be, she did not have much of a choice, a sink or swim situation. And Tuan Tuan will be charged with criminal offense.

Yaxin massaged her temple and begun processing the available information. Her gaze was focused and determined. She took it as a challenge to herself, and most importantly, to save Tuan Tuan.

After an hour, she reclined restfully and relaxed her strenuous eyes. It was fortunate for her to have substantial business exposures when she was studying in London. She was also especially grateful that many of her learning opportunities were not limited to classroom experiences only, but also covered interpersonal skills, problem solving techniques and critical thinking competence.

Seeing how absorbed Yaxin was in work, Coco slid over on her chair to check on her.

"Hi Yaxin, how come we didn't see you around yesterday?" Coco asked caringly.

Little did Yaxin knew, she had set a new record in Yun Rui, to be absent on her second day of work. Her colleagues were curious and bewildered. Some were even excitedly looking forward for good gossip materials.

Yaxin felt welcomed with her friendliness and she raised her head to greet her, "Hi Coco. I had some personal matters to attend to so I took the day off."

"Ah! No wonder, and here we were wondering what happened to you. We thought you were fired!" Coco said in a chuckle.

It was not unordinary for people to get fired for incompetence after their first day here in Yun Rui.

Knowing what her colleagues had been thinking, Yaxin smiled bitterly and almost let out a sigh. How she had hope the company would just fire her...

But if she were to share a piece her mind, Coco would definitely think that she has gone mad!

Yaxin shook her head gently and dive back into work. Watching how unself-conscious and absorbed she was, Coco was overcame with curiosity and asked, "What are you working on?"

"Oh, just an assignment from Mr. Mu." Yaxin replied casually.

Coco casted a brief look at the document. When she noticed the familiar contract title, her eyes

widened and her eyebrows rose in alarm.

"Why is this here!?" She gasped.

Coco's reaction suggested complications. And now Yaxin was positive that the contract was more than what met the eye...

"What about it?" Yaxin turned her body towards Coco and asked concernedly.

But Coco just stared speechlessly at Yaxin. After sometime, she asked, "Did you get on Mr. Mu's bad side?"

Urgh... Is that so obvious?

Yaxin smiled guilelessly, she pretended to be unsuspecting and asked, "Why do you say so?"

Then Coco turned to look around cautiously and whispered to Yaxin, "This second party of the contract – the CEO is an infamous lewd man!"

Yaxin's eyebrow immediately twisted in repulsion, and Coco continued on, "Not only that, he has a weird temper and vulgar character. Everyone else is trying to stay away from this task. The PR office surrendered this case to Mr. Mu and he was having a hard time with it!"

And now, this distressing complication was passed to Yaxin. Coco couldn't help but worry.

Moreover, a beauty like Yaxin was likely to face some harassment!

After the clarification, Yaxin finally got the big picture and understood what Mu was referring to when he mentioned a challenging task...

So that's it!

It was unthinkable of Mu's intention to pass her this case, what did he have in mind? Yaxin wondered.

"Yaxin, just reject this case. Otherwise, you will definitely be exploited!" Coco warned seriously.

I know that too, but do I really have a choice?



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"Yaxin, just reject this case. Otherwise, you will definitely be exploited!" Coco warned seriously.

I know that too, but do I really have a choice?

She had no doubt that should she reject this assignment, Tuan Tuan will just end up being the collateral damage.

And since there was no more room in hell, she might as well focus her effort and get it over with.

Yaxin contemplated for a moment and asked, "Coco, do you know any information regarding this CEO?"

"Of course, there's a lot!" Coco straightened her back and replied.

"Please tell me more." Yaxin asked earnestly.

She needed to get her hands on as much information as possible to better handle the situation. As Sun Tzu taught, if you know your enemy and know yourself, you will not fear a thousand battles!

Coco helpfully spent some time to run over everything she could think of. After that, she got even more worried and said, "Those dreadful stories were first hand experiences from our female colleagues. I've even heard worse from other companies. Yaxin, do you really have to go?"

Yaxin nodded her head stubbornly. "This is my first assignment in Yun Rui. How can I disappoint Mr.

Mu?"

"But this is not supposed to be delegated to someone your expertise!" Coco exclaimed vexedly.

"All the more reason to praise Mr. Mu for his clever judgement!" Yaxin fluttered her eyes and spoke jovially.

And Coco can feel her burning sarcasm...

For the rest of the day, Yaxin spent all her time to study both the contract and the signing party.

When it was about time to leave office, she went to the staff room to get a drink. When she came out, she was so absorbed in thought that she almost ran into someone.

And the person was none other than Han Yiqiu, again...

She was wearing a crusted floral sequin wrap top and skinny jeans, and the water from Yaxin's cup almost spilled on her, again...

Is this a Charlie Brown karma or what?

Luckily the collision was avoided, otherwise tragedy were going to repeat itself.

Han Yiqiu's anger was roused, however when she looked clearly and recognized Xia Yaxin, she was caught in a surprise.

"Its you?!" She blurted out in muddle, "Why are you

still here?"

"Why shouldn't I be here? I am Yun Rui's staff," Yaxin replied faultlessly.

But Han Yiqiu's eyebrow knitted in confusion, "Didn't you resign?"

Yaxin was alerted by her reaction. She was positive that no one else knew about her resignation. And now the question was, how could she know?

Yaxin acted unsuspectful and asked in return, "Miss Han, how did you know about this matter? My resignation wasn't made known to public. Unless..."

Han Yiqiu instantly sprung like a frightened cat and interrupted, "What nonsense are you spewing!"

If Mu heard any of this, then she will get into trouble!

Yaxin kept quiet. But her silent and suspecting stare began to unnerve Han Yiqiu.

Han Yiqiu's face was like thunder and she jutted her chin.

"Miss Xia, if you don't want to be fired, then I suggest you watch your tongue..." She whispered softly to Yaxin with a threatening tone.

After that, she gave Yaxin a warning glare and

strode off towards Mu's office.



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"Miss Xia, if you don't want to be fired, then I suggest you watch your tongue..." She whispered softly to Yaxin with a threatening tone.

After that, she gave Yaxin a warning glare and strode off towards Mu's office.

Yaxin was rendered speechless by her warning. And she can almost imagine how Han Yiqiu was going to grumble later in Mu's office.

She couldn't care less and carried her drink back to her desk, ready to tidy up and leave office.

Once she was back to her seat, a few colleagues gathered around nosily.

"Hey Yaxin, did you just quarrelled with Han Yiqiu?" They asked impatiently.

Yaxin was dazzled at their reaction and she asked genuinely, "Umm... Does it look like I quarrelled with her?"

"She looked furious!"

"Well... unreasonable people are always angry!" Yaxin joked playfully.

The crowd burst into a giggle, Yaxin had always appeared to be professional and courteous, and her humour caught them off guard.

"But Yaxin, you should know that not only is she the young lady of the Han's group, she is also our president's lover, a lasting one at that! It's best if

you don't get on her bad side..."

For her fellow colleagues, Han Yiqiu has shown the potential to be Mrs. Mu, ergo any conflict with her is unthinkable.

However, little did they knew, Yaxin and Han Yiqiu had already clashed fiercely on her first day!

Yaxin nodded and thanked them properly. She whole heartedly appreciated their kind gesture to warn her.

In the president's office.

Han Yiqiu pouted her lips and whined, "What bad luck today!"

Mu paused at his work and averted his attention to the complaining woman. He scanned through her and asked softly, "Why? Is anything wrong?"

"I almost got splashed again!" She said in a grumpy face.

"Well luckily, you came out perfectly fine." Mu heartened her up.

What aroused her anger was the fact that the culprit was Xia Yaxin. But she did not wish to mention that.

Han Yiqiu drew closer to Mu and threw her arms around his neck, brushing her body intimately against his and caressed him gently, "Haoyu, why is Xia Yaxin still working here?"

And Mu instantly guessed what happened.

"Had she cause trouble for you again?" Mu stared intently at her and asked. It shouldn't be too far off that the person who almost splash on her was Yaxin.

Han Yiqiu nodded sullenly.

She tightened her hug and purred softly, "I really dislike that woman, she's so crude..."

"I let her stay because she is still useful to me..." Mu smiled mysteriously.

Han Yiqiu knew Mu will never make insignificant remarks, she looked at him with curiosity and confusion, waiting patiently for an explanation.

"Now, she is in charge of the Yuan Shi Group's case!"

The rest was self-explanatory.

Han Yiqiu's eyes widened in surprise, "Are...are you serious?!" She knew all too well, just how dreadful and vile that CEO of Yuan Shi Group was.

It was beyond her wildest guess that Mu had assigned her to this task.

"Now she is proceeding with the contract." Mu replied, his lips curled up thinking about her.

"But... why did she accept?"

"Because she didn't have a choice."

Mu's clarification sent Han Yiqiu into complete bliss. How sweet of Mu that he had planned it all out to get payback for her! She leaned completely on him and melted in his arms.

"Thank you Haoyu, I am so touched that you went this far for me..." She whispered tenderly.

As Mu felt a warm, moist sensation down his neck, he just smirked secretly and kept silent.



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Be it the lions' den, she would valiantly take up the conquest!

As she entered the Yuan Shi building, she went straight to the receptionist and inquired, "Good morning, may I know if Mr. He is in?"

"Good morning, can I ask if you have an appointment with him?" The receptionist replied, but her gaze was teeming with an unnatural hint of pity.

After Coco's extensive introduction and some self-study, Yaxin can fully comprehend the meaning behind her mild response.

But Yaxin was unbothered. She came fully prepared and more importantly, she came to win!

"I am afraid I don't have an appointment," Yaxin explained and smiled politely, "However, I am a designer from Yun Rui Corporation and I would like to have a chat with Mr. He regarding some business urgencies. Can I trouble you to inform him?"

"My apologies, according to the company's policy I can't do that..."

In the meantime, some distance away, appeared a very large man with a wide, pulpy face and a stern expression. His large head was grey, perhaps even a little oily. His clothing was of rich stuff, but old. The moment he saw Yaxin, his eyes gleamed greedily.

"What is happening there?" Mr. He asked coldly, and his eyes were completely feasting on Yaxin.

A follower of his volunteered to find out and quickly stepped up to the reception desk.

Yaxin turned towards the group of people and when she noticed the infamous CEO, she minced forward. She tried to speak pleasantly and delightfully, "Is this Mr. He? I am a designer from Yun Rui. Can I talk to you about the contract?"

Yaxin appealing charm immediately struck the group of people. Her blue flutter hem dress brought out her elegant curves, and the way she carried herself was a perfect balance of languid and dominance. Most noteworthy was her stunning eyes that radiated a gentle but uncompromising intelligence.

Mr. He was impressed at Yaxin. Most people (woman) would either try too hard or talk pretentiously, but Yaxin gave him a fine impression. Or maybe she was unaware?

"Yun Rui corporation?" crow's feet spread from the side of his eyes, and he glanced over the documents in Yaxin's arm.

"Yes that's right." Yaxin stood composedly after replying. Even if Mr. He's gaze were ping-ponging between the documents and her chest, she showed no hint of awkwardness.

After some time, Mr He averted his gaze and told her coldly, "I need to leave right now. No time for

that!"

"With all due respect sir, may I ask when will you be free? I'll come over again." Yaxin persisted.

Mr. He stopped his steps and turned to smile at Yaxin. His smile stretched out further than any smile ought to, and he stared at her like a starving man looking at a hunk of meat, "I will be free tonight!"

That was daring and straight forward! And the crowd looked at Yaxin with mixed feelings...

Yaxin was taken aback by his word, but she quickly regained composure and began thinking.

Mr. He's intention and character was such a pain in the ass, that just meant his capabilities were equally or even more outstanding, that Yun Rui had been unwilling to give up on him.

It didn't take long until Yaxin's lips also curved up confidently, "That's great! What time tonight, Mr. He?"

"San, tell her my schedule!" He grinned undisguisedly and lumbered away.

The assistant named San stayed back and gave Yaxin an address and their contact number. And the crowd just threw their judging peek secretly. Some even disdained her for prostituting herself!

And the crowd just threw their judging peek secretly. Some even disdained her for prostituting herself...

Yaxin was deeply drunk in her own thoughts and she paid no attention to her surrounding gossips.

Well, as Dr Seuss says, be who you are and do what you gotta do, those who matter don't mind and those who mind don't matter!

Yaxin eventually left Yuan Shi Group and returned to Yun Rui.

Once she entered DoD, Tuan Tuan immediately came up to her. It seemed like she has been anxiously waiting to check up on her.

"How was it Yaxin? Did he do anything to you? Coco asked hurriedly.

Meanwhile, Mu was passing by DoD, as the department was along the hallway to his office. His assistance approached and was making a report to him.

Mu's body language suggested that he was quietly listening and reasoning at the assistant's reporting. However, all his attention was actually focused on the conversation between Yaxin and Coco.

Did she actually go for it?

He was confident that after Yaxin learnt about the difficulty of the case, she would be downhearted

and eventually come to seek his help.

Things seemed to turn out more interestingly than planned.

Back to Yaxin, she was still chatting light heartedly with Coco, "haha, It was right in the public, what do you think he could've done?"

Coco's eyes blinked in unison, her tone rose higher and she exclaimed, "Does... does that mean you've succeeded!?"

Yaxin looked at a place over her shoulder, and she shook her head, "No. However we did make an appointment to meet at Covenant Hotel tonight!"

Coco wiggled her eyebrows sceptically, "Tonight...? I knew it! And surely he is up to no good. Don't go, Yaxin!" Her voice tensed.

Of course Yaxin was aware of that too. But she did not have the privilege of choice!

In order for Tuan Tuan, and also for herself to break free from Mu Haoyu, she must go.

Yaxin smiled warm heartedly to Coco and said, "Thanks Coco, but don't worry about me. I will be just fine!"

"Just promise me to be careful!" with Yaxin being so determined, she can only remind her to be heedful.

"OK!" Yaxin replied, and affectionately tapped on

Coco's shoulders, "Let's get on with work!"

"OK!"

Their conversation was overheard by Mu.

So you are meeting him tonight?

Hmm...

Judging from Yaxin's attitude, Mu was doubtless that she would definitely be going.

"Mr. Mu... Mr. Mu, what do you think?"

Mu was brought back to senses when his assistant nudged him.

His jaw clenched tensely, and he raised his hand to interrupt his assistant, "Let's talk in my office."

And he led the way authoritatively.

Once Mu left, Yaxin shifted her eyes to where he stood, her smile faded and her gaze was filled with intrication.

...

Later that night, Yaxin reached the Covenant Hotel right on time. She dressed up carefully, an elegant red dress with a gold embroidered sash about the waist, and simple jewellery that indicated wealth without being ostentatious. Her long, dark hair cascaded down her waist.

She knocked on the door of VIP room 103, took a deep breath and pushed the door open.

I can do it!

And she marched her long legs forward.

There was a giant sized round table inside, but only Mr. He alone was seated there. Behind him stood the assistant he called San, who gave her the venue and time.

Yaxin smiled and greeted the two politely, "Mr. He, thank you for being so kind to meet me!" she said.

Mr. He's smile widened from ear to ear, showing his cigarette-tarred teeth. He was pleased with her attitude. He gently tapped on the empty seat right next to him and signaled her over.

"Sit."



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Mr. He's smile widened from ear to ear, showing his cigarette-tarred teeth, he was pleased with her attitude. He gently tapped on the empty seat right next to him and signaled her over.

"Sit."

Yaxin silently drew a breath and steeled her mind. She sat down in poise.

Mr. He leered greedily at Yaxin, and turned his gaze towards San. San immediately picked up his intention, bowed and left the room.

Their gesture was transparent to Yaxin. When the room was left with the two alone, Yaxin felt an air of nervousness. She uncomfortably shifted her limbs and crossed her legs.

After all, she was there alone with none other than the notorious Mr. He!

She tried her best to be calm and collected. With an indifferent tone, she initiated, "Mr. He, regarding the contract, our company..."

"What is your name?" Mr. He abruptly interrupted, completing ignoring her attempt to make things formal.

Yaxin was startled, but she comely replied, "Xia Yaxin."

"Xia Yaxin..." Mr. He looked musingly at Yaxin, sucked on his lips and said, "What a nice name, I like it."

His compliment did not cheer Yaxin, she smiled back politely and resumed her sentence, "Mr. He, regarding the contract, I think we..."

"Do you know? You resemble someone I know..." Yaxin was again, interrupted. Since there was no chance for her to voice out, she just sat back listened to him attentively.

Mr. He continued to stare intensely at Yaxin with his flint eyes, and they were dark and cupped by fleshy pouches. His serious stare made Yaxin withdrew instinctively. She looked back with her tranquil eyes but her body language suggested much discomfort.

"You resemble a woman I loved dearly. She was my first love... If it wasn't for your age, I would've mistaken you for her!" Mr. He said full heartedly.

However, his endeavour did not convince Yaxin one bit. She merely saw it as a loathsome attempt.

What more, such a cheezy line... He must be ignorant with TV dramas nowadays...

It seemed that his disreputable rumours were true.

But his know-how was simply pathetic.

Yaxin remained awkwardly seated, but her brain was constantly racking for solutions. She gave a shot to curve a smile and said, "I think Mr. He is a rational man."

The underlying meaning was that, should he try anything inappropriate, then he would not be thinking straight.

Yaxin's straight-forwardness brought a pause to Mr. He. He silently and unhurriedly took a good look at Yaxin. And Yaxin continued to remain seated composedly, receiving his inappropriate stare, like how a tiger watched a bunny.

After a short while, Mr. He broke into a strange, wheezing laughter. With a hoarse voice he said, "Are you not scared of me?"

"Sir you must be joking. Why would I be scared of you?" Yaxin replied indifferently.

"There are some rumours about me... that I believe you must've been familiar." He asked. He was positive that Yaxin came fully prepared.

"Well sir, like you said it's just rumours. Why should I believe them?" She replied innocently.

Looking at how Yaxin responded, Mr. He laughed unnaturally, and his body unnoticeably inched closer to her.

Is she naïve, or is she simply fearless?

Is she naïve, or is she simply fearless?

"Miss Xia, you are pretty sharp-witted!" Mr. He dropped his act and said humourlessly.

Does she think that it makes a difference?

The change in atmosphere raised a red flag for Yaxin. Things did not seem to proceed as planned. What more, now Mr. He seemed to be getting bolder.

Yaxin continued her attempt to act indifferent. With a courteous smile, she said, "Mr. He, why not we talk about work?"

"Miss Xia, you must be thirsty. Come, let me pour you a drink!" Mr. He handed her a glass of wine and raised his cup.

"Mr. He, I don't drink." Yaxin rejected, her eyebrow furrowed faintly.

Mr. He's expression hardened and his eyes got cold, with a merciless tone he said, "Miss Xia, are you joking with me? You want to talk about business but rejects to drink, OR perhaps are you looking down on me?!" His words were uncompromising, leaving Yaxin in a tight spot.

If she still wishes to continue with her objective, then she got no other way but to yield.

"Alright Mr. He, but let me just take one drink," Yaxin stretched out her hand and accepted the full Bordeaux glass of red wine, she continued, "After

that, Mr. He, let's discuss about the contract!"

Mr. He did not respond, his predatory eyes stare intently at Yaxin, waiting.

And since there was no other way around it, Yaxin lifted the glass to her lips. Upon the icy-cold contact, the red wine fazed her with a hint of unnatural texture, but she ignored it and slowly gulped down the whole glass.

Truth was, Yaxin was actually well-versed with her drinks. After all, she had been a regular wine aficionado back in London!

She pretended to be a non-drinker because drinking with Mr. He can be potentially suggestive and dicey. She gave a few uncomfortable cough and knitted her eyebrows tightly to convince her lack of experience.

"Mr. He, shall we?" Yaxin said slowly and took out the contract.

However, Mr. He still completely ignored her and exclaimed, "Miss Xia, good one!"

Yaxin smiled back, she shifted the documents slightly forward to hint.

"Come, let's drink more!" Mr. He suggested, and he seemed to be in a euphoric state now.

This time Yaxin frowned in displeasure, "Mr. He, let us discuss about work matters first!"

"Why the hurry? Drink first, then we'll talk!" He replied.

"I'm afraid I'll be drunk after that!" Yaxin told him assuredly.

"If that's the case then we can talk another time." Mr. He blatantly said, showing no intention for a business talk.

Yaxin caught on his ill-intention, and she too, tried to be more assertive, "Mr. He, this assignment is very important to me."

"Then you should know, to get your job done, you must give me something in exchange too..." He replied in a low voice, and his breathing got heavier.

Yaxin was feeling a lethargy in her eyes, and she suddenly noticed that Mr. He was drawing closer!

"What... What are you doing!?" She cried out in alarm.

"Come on, you should know already..." Mr. He said raunchily, licking his thick dark lips and his hands drew closer under the table.

Yaxin wanted to move back, but the sudden movement made her queasy. She was feeling a heavy-headedness as if the world was spinning.

And Mr. He continued to giggle in euphoria, "I will be gentle, you look just like my first woman..."

Suddenly, an idea flashed through and Yaxin quick-wittedly yelled, "Mr. He, you better think it through!"

Mr. He was puzzled, he stopped his movements and asked, "What do you mean?"

Yaxin raised her arm, pointed to her watch and said intimidatingly, "You only have 10 minutes!"



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Yaxin raised her arm, pointed to her watch and said intimidatingly, "You only have 10 minutes!"

Mr. He's brown, cloudy eyes showed confusion, he knitted his eyebrow and asked, "What do you mean?"

"Before coming here, I made an anonymous call to your wife. I bet she's on her way now to check on you!" Yaxin hurriedly replied. Her senses were getting cloudier by the time.

Mr. He's eye widened instantaneously in shock!

"What have you done!? ARE U CRAZY!?" He raised his voice in panic.

It was common knowledge that Mr. He was a crude man. However, only very little knew that he was a hen-pecked man too! He was so fearful of his wife because a great deal of his business success depended on her.

Yaxin knew this because of his company's worker. She overheard this crucial news during her last visit.

"Mr. He. All I want is to get this contract signed. Frankly speaking, this is a win-win deal for both you and Yun Rui!" Yaxin said assertively. Her eyes gleamed with uncompromising dominance and wits.

The sudden change of events got Mr. He worked up. A rapid red flushed through his neck and to his face, and his face looked frightening with bluish

veins and dark from constricted blood flow.

"ARE YOU THREATENING ME!?" He growled.

"You left me no choice!" Yaxin replied unyieldingly as well.

"You little...!"

Yaxin waved her wrist and signalled the watch, "8 minutes left!"

Mr. He glared at Yaxin like an angry beast, "Do you think you will leave unscathed when she comes? Your reputation will also be ruined!" he said scornfully.

However, not only was Yaxin undisturbed, a victorious smile rose on her face, "Regrettably I have been recording our conversation. Even if that didn't work out, I wouldn't have hard feelings. After all, what awaits me will be nothing compared to you, Mr. He!"

Seemed to him that Yaxin had it all carefully planned out!

Mr. He felt humiliated, he clenched his fists firmly and bluish veins were popping on his forehead.

"Mr. He, 6 more minutes," Yaxin jogged his mind, "I will leave immediately after you signed, and your wife will know nothing!" She said cogently and slid the contract in front him together with a pen.

Mr. He did not think for long, he knew every minute

counts and, what if his wife decided to come earlier!? He would be in serious trouble if he got caught red-handed!

He picked up the pen and signed off the papers furiously, producing a sharp pen-scratched sound. He was so consumed by rage he did not even review the contract. After that, he slammed the pen on the table and turned his face away, breathing heavily through his nose.

Yaxin carefully resealed the contract and put it in her bag. She stood up, bowed genuinely to him and said, "Mr. He, I'm so sorry for this!"

"LEAVE ME ALONE!" he growled like an angry mob and bottomed-up his own glass of wine.

And Yaxin hurriedly took off.

How fortunate!

Meanwhile, outside the hotel, Mu Haoyu sat restlessly in his car. He was lost in thoughts and instinctively drove to this place. His eyebrows knitted in burden thinking of the conversation earlier today.

Finally, he convinced himself to enter the hotel and made inquiries at the receptionist. Upon learning their room number, he quickened his pace to room 103.

Just when he was about to push the door, it was pulled from inside and a petite figure rushed out hurriedly, bumping face to chest on him.

Finally, he convinced himself to enter the hotel and made inquiries at the receptionist. Upon learning their room number, he quickened his pace to room 103.

Just when he was about to push the door, it was pulled from inside and a petite figure rushed out hurriedly, bumping face to chest on him.

Mu instinctively held her in and she hid completely in his arms, grabbing tightly on his serratus and waist under his coat. Yaxin looked up and recognized Mu, her face was in an unhealthy blush.

Feeling dizzy and disoriented, she asked puzzlingly, "Why are you... here?"

Yaxin was wheezing heavily and Mu could feel her hot breath tingling on his neck. His body stiffened up as her hands were roaming around in his coat. Her body was baby-soft and she had a balmy feminine body scent. Mu's solemn eyes gleamed with perplexity and his eyebrow knitted in temper.

"What are you doing!?" He growled.

"Mr. He... Mr. He's coming!" Yaxin said nervously.

Mu followed her frightful gaze and fixed his eyes upon the door.

All of a sudden, the door handle was twisted. Yaxin was shaky at the knees and her condition seemed quite off. She leaned her head against Mu's chest and was barely responding.

Almost instantaneously, Mu held her strongly and dragged her into the next room. Luckily it was empty and they hid behind the door.

As Mu was sparing no effort to safeguard themselves, Yaxin clung and clasped closely to Mu's body; their chests rose and fell together, their breaths in unison and his warmth and solid frame gave her reassuring security.

Time froze momentarily behind that door.

Soon, it sounded chaotic outside the door with heavy footsteps running all around the place. Mu placed his ear on the door to try and get a hold of the situation outside.

"Mr. He, what happened?"

"Damn it! Find the girl!"

And there was the sound of threading leaving the hallway.

Mr. He stood outside the room. His rage was burning so strongly that his chest was expanding and lowering rapidly, eyes bloodshot as if he could fall to a heart attack anytime.

He gave his wife a call earlier and found out that she was outside having fun with friends, Yaxin had tricked him!

Stomp stomp stomp

After the heavy footsteps disappeared in distance,

the hallways returned to silence. Yaxin exhaled wearily and her body soften from all the tension. Her face was blushing and hot, unsure either it was due to the earlier happenings or other reasons. She continued to lean on Mu, unable to muster her own strength to stand up, or to think at all.

Looking at this meek side of Yaxin made Mu's heart pound rapidly. He can almost hear his own heartbeat.

"Are you alright?" He asked coldly.

Yaxin stuffed the document she gripped tightly on him and said sickly, "Contract... I did it!"

Mu's eyebrows slowly gathered into a thunder. His gaze did not stop to check on the documents but was fixated on Yaxin.

Inexplicably, an unnamed anger was roused in him.

"You are really fearless, aren't you?" Mu said sarcastically.

"The contract's with you now. I'll... I'll head off now!" Yaxin replied, just formulating her words can cause a stinging headache.

Head off? You are more likely to fall off now...

Yaxin was in no condition to be on her own.

Mu grabbed her and continued to let her lean on

him. "What happened to you?" He asked, but this time with a softened tone.

"I'm fine, had a glass of wine just now..." Yaxin replied, her eyelids dropping lower and lower.

A glass of wine?

Just one glass and you're like this?

Before Mu could say anything, Yaxin rolled her eyes and collapsed.

Mu's frown knitted even closely. However he wasted no time and removed his coat, wrapped around her thigh, and carried her in two arms out the hotel...



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Before Mu could say anything, Yaxin rolled her eyes and collapsed.

Mu's frown knitted even closely. However he wasted no time and removed his coat, wrapped around her thigh, and carried her in two arms out the hotel...

.....

Urgh, my head is exploding...

The first thought that came to Yaxin's mind was that this was not her bed, and then the stark smell of bleach. She scrunched her eyes at the bright light that was sipping through her closed eyelids. As the blinding light slowly subsided and she powerlessly tried to take a look at her surroundings.

The room was pristine clean and gloomy, with IV and monitors beeping. The walls were a sickly-green and the linen was pale. Strange enough, Mu was sitting quietly right in front of her.

"Why are you here?" Yaxin asked weakly, squinting her eyes at Mu to get a clearer vision.

"You don't remember?" He asked in return, his voice was cold as ice.

Yaxin tried to recall, she first went to meet Mr. He, they drank, then...

Her memory started to flash back like a train.

"I was admitted?"

"You remembered?"

Yaxin nodded sheepishly, "Did you send me here?"

"No, it was Batman." Mu answered expressionlessly. The thought of what she put herself through ignited an unnamed temper within him.

This woman must be out of her mind!

Yaxin noticed his silent rage. She sat up and tried to pull on the IV line, thinking to leave. Next thing she felt was a sharp pain. Seemed that unplucking IV is only viable in movies...

She kept her mouth shut, better not acquaint herself any further with Mu.

Shortly after, a doctor entered the room.

This must be Mr. Mu's girlfriend... He thought. And his friendliness turned up a notch.

"Miss Xia, are you feeling better?" The doctor checked on her, while maintaining an awkward distance from them.

Yaxin nodded cheerfully and replied, "Yes, much better!"

"That's great! However Miss Xia, it is not advisable to drink such strong liquor. Luckily Mr. Mu sent you here in time, otherwise you could be knocked

off for a good whole day! And what more, those that drink this type of liquor..." The doctor stopped halfway awkwardly.

Well, it is the couple's business, better not comment too much.

The doctor was also familiar with Mu, or at least familiar with his 'popularity'. Therefore he was assuming the two were seeing each other.

Yaxin must say she was a little surprised at the test result, a negative. She suspected Mr. He to spike her drink, but it turned out to be just a really, really strong liquor.

But then again, there wasn't much difference anyway.

"Thank you doctor!" Yaxni smiled and bowed her head slightly.

Then Mu turned to look at the doctor and interjected, "Can she be discharged now?"

The doctor nodded servilely, "Just make sure to keep her hydrated."

After having the green light from the doctor, Mu disappeared to handle the discharge procedures.

It was already close to midnight when the two exited the hospital.

"Thanks for sending me here Mr. Mu. I'll make sure to pay you back for the medical expenses."

Yaxin said courteously.

Mu however, was still feeling an irk at this episode and snarled sarcastically, "You've truly done it!"

Yaxin was perplexed by his sardonic comment. She frankly asked, "Isn't this what you want?"

Ever since Coco explained the situation to her, she was positive that Mu was just trying to mess with her.

He was the cause for all that happened today!

Isn't this what you want?

Her words brought him to a sudden realization. He frowned and showed a troubled expression.

Yes he did do it on purpose. But it never crossed his mind that Yaxin will actually take up the challenge, what more, so boldly. He was convinced that she would definitely chicken out...



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It never crossed his mind that Yaxin will actually take up the challenge, what more, so boldly. He was convinced that she would definitely chicken out...

Yaxin stared intently at his eyes and the two were standing closely. Mu can see a serenity and truthfulness in her eyes and he was robbed of words.

Seeing as Mu wouldn't give a comeback, she continued, "Mission accomplished. I hope Mr. Mu will honour your words to drop all charges against Tuan Tuan!"

"I will. And we shall continue this discussion tomorrow in office!"

And he turned around and left.

Discuss in office tomorrow?

Her assignment was completed and he ought to honour his part of the deal, immediately at that. What are there to discuss?

By the time Yaxin shook off her confusion, Mu reappeared along with his ride.

His tinted window slid halfway, and his voice emitted from within.

"Get in!"

His bossy temperament did not go well with Yaxin. She replied impatiently, "For what?!"

"I am sending you home."

...

Even Yaxin's eyebrows were too confused to react. She looked curiously at Mu's side-face, looked up the sky, and looked back at him again.

Well, there isn't a blue moon and there was no pig flying!

How odd!

"Umm that's alright. I'll get a cab." She finally replied.

Mu turned to look at her with a furrowed frown. And Yaxin did not bulge a muscle. The two just stared at each other with mixed feelings. Until finally, his car's window slid back up and he drove away.

Yaxin was somehow annoyed too and she took a cab home.

It was already 1 o'clock when she reached home.

She can still feel her head pulsing from the hangover.

It had been a long day and Yaxin was completely exhausted. She fell sound asleep the moment she entered the house and dropped herself on the couch.

The next morning.

bzz bzz bzz

Yaxin was in the middle of sleep when her phone vibrated. She dragged her hand around the couch to hunt for her phone, and then slid on the screen to answer the call.

"Yes...?"

"Yaxin, did you strike a deal with Mu Haoyu?!" Out came Tuan Tuan's high-strung voice.

Yaxin lifted her heavy eyelids, her mouth was dry and her body sore from sleeping with bad posture.

"What happened?" Yaxin asked, still half asleep.

"He dropped all the charges!" Tuan Tuan replied, feeling a mixture of relief and stress.

Well, at least Mu Haoyu was a man worth his words.

"That's great!"

"Did you do anything?" Tuan Tuan repeated anxiously.

"Not really, I just finished the task he gave me. It's surprising that he kept his words!" Yaxin replied.

Upon hearing Yaxin's explanation Tuan Tuan finally breathed a sigh of relief. She has been feeling very guilt-burdened and stressed out with her case.

"Yaxin darling I love you! Thank you so much!" She

yelled in exhilaration.

Yaxin smiled contently. She could feel her dancing and jumping around through the phone.

"Stop being cheezy so early in the morning!" Yaxin laughed heartily, and she lifted her phone temporarily to check on the time.

Merlin's Beard! SO LATE ALREADY!

"HEY Tuan Tuan, I gotta go, work!" And she bounced up the couch.

"Ah? Alright!" Tuan Tuan replied, but the call had already ended.

Yaxin used her maximum speed to wash up and get presentable, then hurried to office.

When she finally reached office, she was panting and sweaty. Just a few more minutes and she would be late. And then, it slowly began to hit her like a wall...

I am resigning, why do I have to come on time!?



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I am resigning, why do I have to come on time!?

She rolled her eyes at her own denseness, and marched confidently into the office.

As soon as she entered DoD, she was caught in a surprise.

POP POP

And all she could see was fluttering confetti.

A crowd gathered to cheer and applaud festive style.

Yaxin dazed momentarily and then asked awkwardly, "Anything happening here?"

Coco came up and held her hand, "Yaxin, we heard that you have secured the contract with Yuan Shi Group!" She was so gleeful and Yaxin can feel her genuine joy for her success. Yaxin looked around and she saw that everyone in DoD were there to give her this surprise celebration.

"Many have tried but failed. And Yaxin, you who just came managed to slay the dragon, we are so proud of you!" Coco cheered.

Yaxin felt warm-hearted. She had equipped and braced herself for office politics, toxic working environments and worse... and now she found her current workplace really pleasant. More than what she hoped for.

Regrettably, she just couldn't stay...

Yaxin bowed her head gently and returned everyone's goodwill with a bright smile.

"I was just lucky!" She crooned, unsure whether her colleagues caught wind of what happened or not.

Frankly speaking, it was truly lucky that she got the contract. And Mu's appearance after that was climacteric. It sent shivers down her spine just imagining what can happen otherwise.

"Congratulations Yaxin!" Coco wrapped her arms enthusiastically around her shoulder.

"Congratulations...? For what?" Yaxin was thrown in confusion again.

"Don't you know? Mr. Mu announced that whoever got the Yuan Shi contract can take part in the Shin Rui Design Competition in Italy!

Yaxin's eyes widened in astonishment. She had heard of the Shin Rui Design Competition before. They were the pioneer and world-class level in this field. If your showcase were able to win the accolade, there would be extensive publicity and they were considered one of the most high-return advertising one might run!

Did Mu Haoyu really said that? Yaxin was tempted.

"Yaxin, you are so lucky! You are fresh in this line and already managed to secure one spot! As far as we know there were only two candidates

allocated here. More than that, you can also be the chief designer in the Yuan Shi contractual work!" Coco spoke with stars twinkling from her eyes.

"Well, we don't know about that..." Yaxin smiled bitterly, thinking of what happened.

"Mr. Mu gave his words, it's definitely yours!"

Yaxin was clueless for the entire while, perhaps Mu really did say so before she joined the company.

Meantime, someone called her from the back, "Yaxin, Mr. Mu asked for you in his office!"

Yaxin nodded to acknowledge and stood up. Before leaving for Mu's office, she cleared her throat and effused, "Thank you all for encouraging and accepting me! I am lucky to work here with everyone! I have to go now but after I am back from the office let's have high tea together, my treat!"

Her colleagues cheered it off, but they definitely heartfelt her genuine gratitude. Everyone loves a humble and generous person. And Yaxin excused herself to the president's office.

In Mu's office.

The door opened and Yaxin stepped through. And as per usual, Mu was sitting on his Bond-villain swivel chair, his coat on it. He was wearing a black tailored shirt that fitted tightly like a glove.

And he looked like a man who lifted heavy objects and put them down, and then done it again a few million times.

"Have a seat."

Yaxin averted her gaze and hesitantly sat in front of him.

Mu then withdrew a collection of documents and passed them to her.

"Take a look!"



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Then Mu withdrew a collection of documents and passed them to her.

"Take a look!"

Yaxin turned to a serious demeanour and picked up the documents.

The first page was a registration form.

"This is...?" She asked in uncertainty.

"Registration form for the Shin Rui Design Competiton (SRD). Fill it and pass it back to me ASAP." Mu explained patiently.

So what Coco mentioned was true!

Whoever signed off the Yuan Shi Contract will win a spot to join the SRD!

Yaxin was put on the fence. She would really really love to utilize such a golden opportunity, just the experience from participation alone is priceless!

However...

Mu observed that Yaxin suddenly went absent minded. Her knitted eyebrows and faint sigh suggested that she was placed in a tight spot.

"Is there any problem?" Mu asked.

"Mr. Mu, thank you for dropping Tuan Tuan's charges. But I have decided to leave my position here," Yaxin spoke slowly, and she realized that

she wasn't as enthusiastic when she brought up this topic this time.

"Reason!?" Mu's pitch raised slightly.

"No reason."

Of course there couldn't be one. It's unthinkable to tell you that I feel uncomfortable being together with you because we were married.

"Is it because of the previous misunderstandings?" Mu said, his fingers tapped rhythmically on the desk.

Yaxin shook her head quickly.

Mu's gut feeling told him that something was off. Yaxin's motivation to leave was very queer and unjustifiable. And now it just piqued his interests even more!

He regained his self-possession and spoke unhurriedly, "I hope you consider this carefully. It's not easy to secure a position in Yun Rui. What more, such an invaluable opportunity for SRD!"

Mentioning SRD brought a frown to Yaxin's forehead. She seemed to struggle even more now.

He was right. This SRD was definitely an opportunity too rare to pass by, she had been eyeing for it for quite some time now...

Should I really give it up?

Yaxin's frown got even deeper and she was staring blankly.

Mu could tell that she was struggling, and all she needed was the last straw.

So he decided to give her a push, "I gave my words, whoever got the deal with Yuan Shi can take part in SRD, if you really have pressing matters at hand, I'll give you a two-days leave to settle it. But in case you still stubbornly wish to give up this chance, I will not stop you. Yun Rui is not short of candidates!"

Sometimes a strategic withdrawal can do magic...

Upon hearing his words, Yaxin subconsciously let down her guard. She was too defensive against Mu that she tended to over-complicate things.

What more, shouldn't she strive for her dreams? Isn't it a foolish to let such opportunities pass by?

She was sure that if she missed her chance now, it will be another long wait.

She met his unperturbed gaze.

Maybe he never valued their marriage and his ex-wife in his mind. Maybe he never even bothered to remember at all. If that's the case why should she continued to be burdened this way? She should live her life freely!

Yaxin finally made up her mind. The gloom that shrouded her eyes was lifted and they sparkled

with beautiful vigor.

"Alright Mr. Mu, I will fill it up and pass back to you!" She smiled.

Mu nodded in approval and encouragement.

"If there is nothing else then I'll see myself out."

"Hold on for a while!" Mu called out in reflex.

"Yes?" Yaxin looked at him readily.

The two of their eyes met across the room and their gaze held.

.....

That was the first time Mu found himself at loss of words, as if breath was stuck right at his throat.

With a disturbed look, he said to Yaxin, "It's nothing. You may leave."

Yaxin felt confused as well. But if he needed to say something, he would. So she turned and walked out his office.



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When Yaxin returned to her own desk, she finally let out a sigh of relief.

She was hoping that she had made the right call.

But as she continued to ponder, she still couldn't find peace with her decision and decided to call Tuan Tuan and confide in her.

"Have you really made up your mind?" Tuan Tuan asked. She was unsure herself. But she knew that what Yaxin truly needed was support and not council.

Yaxin nodded slowly, "Yes. Probably I was really over-thinking. Mu Haoyu doesn't seem to care or to remember at all. And I think I should move on and chase after my dream!"

Tuan Tuan was quiet momentarily. And she effused in agreement, "Yaxin, it doesn't matter what you do, know that I will always support your decision! And to be frank, Mu Haoyu have had too many flings, plus the fact that the two of you never associate much, it make sense for him to overlook. Even if he DOES somehow recognize you, what can he do now when you're divorced?"

"Exactly what I thought!"

Getting the reassurance from Tuan Tuan had set her mind straight.

Phew~ worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles; it takes away today's peace.

Yaxin breathed a huge sigh of relief, she was finally ready to let go of her burden.

"I know what to do now!"

"Don't forget I will always stand by you!" Tuan Tuan said cheerfully.

"Ok, and thanks!"

Yaxin ended the call and slumped on her chair.

A day of worry is more exhausting than a day of work!

If both she and Tuan Tuan can keep the past a secret, Yaxin believed that no one could ever find out!

Yaxin quickly adjusted herself back to work.

In the afternoon, she ordered a lavish high-tea party and celebrated with her colleagues.

She thanked everyone humbly and said, "Thank you for all your guidance these while and please continue to take care of me!"

She did not mention anything about the contract or rewards. It should be a common courtesy or otherwise she would just look braggy.

It was noticeable that her colleagues had gotten more neighbourly with her. After all, they were already impressed by her competence and

admired her substantial experience overseas. Many of them didn't even have the chance to get exposure abroad!

Whilst everyone was having a great time with the party, Coco sneaked to Yaxin's side and asked softly, "Yaxin, how did you manage Mr. He? Is everything alright?"

Yaxin felt warm-hearted with her genuine care, she patted her intimately and said, "Of course, everything's fine!"

"That is impressive! So many have tried and they all faced quite the harassment. How did you do that?" Coco asked as her curiosity grew.

And Yaxin briefly told her the story, but omitted the part where Mu was there.

Well, it's only natural right?

Coco shook her head and stared at Yaxin with amazement, "Clever girl! To come up with that given the circumstance. If I were in your shoes, I would've run off long ago!"

Yaxin didn't want to take up the credit. She said to Coco, "It was pure luck that I overheard he is a hen-pecked man, and it struck my mind in the perfect timing. Otherwise I would be frightened off too!"

Even when she knew that Yaxin was being humble, Coco felt uplifted.

Suddenly, Coco was fear-struck and colors faded from her face.

"Yaxin, Mr. He wouldn't retaliate...right?"



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"Yaxin, Mr. He wouldn't retaliate...right?"

.....

Yaxin's mind went blank for a moment. This consideration had never crossed her mind. All she had in mind was to get the work done to help Tuan Tuan soon as possible.

She casted her mind back to last night, when she was hiding together with Mu in the room next door...

Mr. He was absolutely furious then!

Coco continued, "I heard that Mr. He is no good man. There are many rumours regarding his despicable and nefarious business dealings. Do you think he will get back on you with for what you've done?"

Yaxin shook her head. Her eyebrows lowered into a worrying frown.

"I honestly have no idea. Didn't think it through then!"

"Well, it's just rumours. Just be more vigilant, Yaxin!" Coco warned.

Yaxin nodded in obedience and gave her an appreciative smile.

Coco smiled back and went off to her own work.

Yaxin sat quietly contemplating. Coco's warning

was very analytical, Mr. He was quite the depraved man.

Well, yesterday is history and tomorrow's a mystery, let's just hope for the best!

Yaxin stretched her neck and plunged herself into work.

When it was about time to leave office, she received a call from an unknown number.

She was puzzled but answered it anyway.

"Hello?"

"Yaxin, it's me!"

The distinctly familiar voice from the phone made Yaxin sprung up from her seat.

"Brother!?"

"Yes," Xia ChengXuan said, "Yaxin, are you back?"

Yaxin was surprised by his sudden call but even more surprised with his forthright question.

"How did you know!?" Yaxin questioned in return, her face became very perturbed.

"So it's true... Why didn't you come home?!" Xia ChengXuan asked sternly.

"I..."

"Where are you now? I'll come over."

"I am getting off work..."

"I'll pick you up. Where are you working?"

Yaxin did not dare to let him know where she was working. She quickly interjected, "No need. Let us meet at the usual place."

"And brother, don't let dad and mum know!"

There was a momentary pause over the phone until ChengXuan finally replied, "Alright, I won't."

Ended the call, Yaxin quickly tidied her stuff and rushed off her office.

When she reached their usual place, ChengXuan was already there.

He was properly suited up and was sitting inside. And occasionally there were girls passing by that threw him shy looks.

"Brother!" Yaxin called out to him as she entered.

ChengXuan raised his eyes in confusion, and then disbelief.

Yaxin helped herself in the seat opposite him, she chuckled at his reaction and teased him, "My dear brother, can't you recognize me?"

Her familiar voice finally gave him confirmation.

"Yaxin, you look different!"

"Hahaha, how so?"

Yaxin's bright smile painted a ray of sunshine all over the place, even ChengXuan was dazzled.

"You have become a gorgeous beauty!" ChengXuan complimented truthfully.

His feedback gave Yaxin a smile of bliss.

Shortly after she reached, a waiter approached their table and asked, "May I take your orders?"

"One Mocha, one Jamaican Blue Mountain, Thank you."

Even before Yaxin said anything, ChengXuan had got her orders right.

"Brother you remember my favourite!" Yaxin laughed joyously.

"Of course, I remember everything you like!"



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"Of course, I remember everything you like!"

Yaxin was a little moved. As she smiled it was as if the whole world smiled together.

"Oh right! How was dad and mum?"

"As good as a tick on a big, fat dog!" ChengXuan replied jovially, "Why didn't you go home?"

The mood immediately gloomed. Yaxin looked down and kept her lips sealed.

"Are you still angry about what happened?" ChengXuan asked softly.

Yaxin raised her eyes to meet his gaze, and slowly shook her head. "It's not that... I still have things to do and I don't want to go back, at least not for now."

Yaxin has always been stubborn and headstrong. Her dogged determination was no joke and ChengXuan knew that perfectly well growing up with her.

He too, did not wish to force her beloved sister.

"How is the company?" Yaxin tried to avert the topic.

"Everything is doing well. At the company and at home," He replied tonelessly.

"Did Mu Haoyu cause any trouble for the company?" Her body leaned anxiously forward.

ChengXuan shook his head, "No he didn't."

Yaxin rested back on her chair. She was pleasantly surprised, that Mu was quite the man of his words.

"Yaxin, why not follow me home? Dad and mum would be delighted to see you!" ChengXuan carefully put his words together to hearten her up.

"Brother, I have my own reason not to. When the timing is right, I will definitely go back!" Yaxin responded with uncompromising determination.

"So let it be then. I do not wish to force you as well." ChengXuan smiled bitterly. He knew if he tried any further it would just upset his little sister.

"Promise me not to let them know!" Yaxin frowned and said firmly.

"Alright I will..."

"Brother, please have faith in me. Everything I do is for the sake of our family!" She warbled unsmilingly. Her eyes radiated a fierce determination.

ChengXuan knew when his sister got serious. He nodded supportively and held her hand, "Alright, I got you. But promise me, if anything were to happen you must tell me immediately, NO SECRET!"

"I promise!"

Only then ChengXuan was able to ease back a little.

Meanwhile, their coffees were served.

Yaxin was stirring her coffee when her brother suddenly blurted out a question, "Oh by the way, where are you working now?"

Yaxin's gesture stopped and she averted her eyes to the side.

Umm...

Anyway she knew she was unable to keep this secret and she gritted her teeth and purred softly, "Yun Rui..."

ChengXuan thought he heard mistakenly. But as he met with Yaxin's reaffirming gaze, he took a shocking mind blow.

"Isn't that Mu Haoyu's company!?"

Yaxin nodded.

"So you are back together with him!?" He frowned.

"No! He couldn't even recognize me. Nor does he know my identity." Yaxin explained.

"What do you mean?" And ChengXuan squinted his eyes, his eyebrows pressed together even closely.

"He has no whatsoever recollection of me being

his ex-wife. Rest assured!" Yaxin explained and busted a titter?

ChengXuan's expression resembled that of the confused Jacky Chan. But he eventually found credibility in her words, after all, not even he, her own brother recognized her just now!

Yaxin looked so much different now than when she married Mu!

But even so, for her husband to fail so utterly until he couldn't even recognize his ex-wife standing before him, that just showed how bad their relationship was...

"Are you absolutely sure he couldn't remember?" ChengXuan unmindfully put his palm on his chest, as if his heart was feeling weak after the roller-coaster storytelling.

Yaxin nodded mechanically, "Actually I joined his company unknowingly, and I am sure he didn't have a clue! Don't worry!"

ChengXuan nodded in approval. However, his eyes narrowed to a slit and he had an idea in mind...



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ChengXuan nodded in approval. However, his eyes narrowed to a slit and he had an idea in mind...

Did Mu Haoyu really forgot about her?

Then why did ChengXuan still feel an inexplicable anxiety...

Their divorce two years ago was a beginning to a great start. ChengXuan swore to himself, he will never let the two get together again!

No matter what's the cost!

Yaxin noticed her brother's grim face and asked, "Brother, what are you thinking?"

ChengXuan was brought back to sense and he quickly hid his thought, he smiled to Yaxin and prattled, "Oh nothing, I was thinking where to bring you for dinner. How about it? Anything you want to eat specifically? It's my treat!"

"Hurray!" Yaxin raised both her arms to a V, "I heard there is a new sushi shop around the corner, I want to try it!"

"Alright, sushi it is!"

The two got up and walked out side by side.

Even though the siblings had been separated for a long while, but there was no air of awkwardness whatsoever between them, only a homely feeling of familiarity and closeness.

Aaaannd, the Charlie Brown karma strikes again!

Coincidentally Mu Haoyu and Han Yiqiu just reached together, and he saw them walking out the coffee house together. Yaxin and the man seemed to interact intimately and she was putting on a ray of sunshine on her face.

Han Yiqiu noticed them too.

Xia Yaxin again!

Everytime when she saw her it was like bull seeing red.

"Oh, if it isn't that Xia Yaxin," and her sight moved on to scrutinize the man next to her, "Isn't that man the president of Xia Group, Xia ChengXuan? Why are they...can it be that they are seeing each other!?"

Han Yiqiu deliberately heightened her tone to pique Mu's attention.

Her girlfriend-instinct was always tingling whenever Mu looks at Xia Yaxin. His gaze was unnatural and fervent even.

This was a perfect opportunity to 'jog' him a bit.

Even without her deliberate attempt, Mu had been eyeing vehemently at the two.

Wasn't Yaxin just back from London? And she is already seeing some other guys!

Moreover, it's Xia ChengXuan!

Mu thinned a humourless smile on his sullen face and couldn't avert his gaze from the two walking outside.

They seemed to have such blissful chemistry going on and looked so comfortable together, like a perfect casting for a Nicholas Sparks' book.

"Why all of a sudden sushi?" ChengXuan asked.

"My colleague recommended it strongly. So I was thinking to give it a try."

"Alright, sushi it is then!"

ChengXuan searched for the sushi shop online and made call to reserve for two.

After that, he opened the car door for Yaxin, and escorted her familiarly into his sedan.

Mu and Han Yiqiu were still in their car, watching them the entire time. As their car drove off, Han Yiqiu's lips curled up scornfully. "Looks like they have an unusual relationship," She said, "I'm impressed with this woman. She just came back and already managed to score the cakeboss from Xia Group!"

Mu gripped on the steering wheel, his eyes squinted at the leaving sedan and harrumphed, "What's so good about scoring a Xia ChengXuan? It's not like she scored me!"

Han Yiqiu's pupil dilated in shock hearing his words...



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Han Yiqiu's pupil dilated in shock hearing his words...

For a moment there she forgot to even breathe.

"Haoyu..."

"Why? Nervous now?" Mu grinned ruthlessly, his eyes burned with a mysterious thirst.

"You were kidding, right?" Han Yiqiu yanked his arms softly and she was fidgeting.

He was spot on, she was feeling very, very nervous now...

Previously, Yaxin's appearance had already caused her inexplicable anxiousness. And now, Mu's word struck a raw nerve and she was on tenterhooks.

Looking at how uncomfortable that made Han Yiqiu, Mu just laughed it off, "Of course, I am just kidding!"

But the woman did not get any sense of security from his words. She was positive that something was going on...

Before she opened her mouth, Mu shifted the gear and stepped on the gas.

"All of a sudden I feel like eating something else," He said as he drove off aimlessly...

Han Yiqiu sat beside him in downcast. She looked at the man with hazy eyes and the fear of losing

him sprouted within her.

Mu however, paid no heed and continued to drive.

When Yaxin then reached the sushi shop, she suddenly recalled something peculiar and raised a question, "By the way bro, how did you know that I am back?"

The two checked in their reservation and was led to their seat.

ChengXuan smiled awkwardly, "Why the sudden curiosity? You didn't plan to let your brother know?"

"That's not that. I just wondered how would you know..." Her eyebrows suddenly raised, "Tuan Tuan told you!?"

The three of them grew up together since childhood and still maintained closely acquainted. As only Tuan Tuan alone knew about her return, it wasn't hard to come up with that guess.

ChengXuan did not say anything in return and his silence reaffirmed Yaxin's assumption.

He could have easily lied or mislead her, but he didn't do that.

If there was one person in this world that he held ever so dearly, and never wishes to tell a lie to, it would be Yaxin.

"I knew it!"

"Don't blame her too much, she accidentally spilled it when we were talking on the phone!" ChengXuan said tensely.

Yaxin grinned cheekily, "I won't, bro. Don't be so nervous!"

"I'm not!"

"Of course you are!" Yaxin bossed and slapped him on the back, "Hey bro, Tuan Tuan is a good girl. If I have a sister in law like that I would be delighted!"

An adorable face flashed before ChengXuan and he stared into space.

"The two of you are like precious little sisters to me!"

"If you say so~" Yaxin knew there was no point to stir him further. Well the saying goes Love strikes like a lightning. What can she do when the sky is clear now?

Que sera sera!

However, deep in her heart she would kill for the two to be together.

"Okay don't be a nebbly!" ChengXuan said.

"Haha alright~"

"Mr. Xia!"

As the two were chirping about, a sudden voice rang in front of them like an alarm clock.

And it sent a shiver down Yaxin's spine.

This voice, who else can it be but that Mu Haoyu!

They are sitting face to face. And the moment ChengXuan saw Mu, he too, was stupefied.



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They are sitting face to face. And the moment ChengXuan saw Mu, he too, was stupefied.

He instinctively glanced to the side at Yaxin. Upon recalling her words, he composed himself and stepped up, slightly shielding Yaxin behind.

"Mr. Mu, good to see you! What are you doing here?" He asked.

"Of course it is for food," Mu replied humourlessly, and his eyes widened in 'surprise' when shifted his gaze at Yaxin, "Miss Xia you are here too, what a coincidence!"

Coincidence?!

Han Yiqiu's body tensed in disbelief and stare tightly at Mu. Colours quickly drained from her face.

She had never seen Mu Haoyu like this before!

It was all because of this woman! Ever since she appeared, Mu has changed!

As Mu greeted her, Yaxin had no choice but to step forward. She squeezed a smile from her face and greeted, "Hi Mr. Mu, what a coincidence!"

City A was such an immensely huge city but why does he appear just about EVERYWHERE?

Does he like sushi too? Or perhaps it is Han Yiqiu's preference?

Yaxin thought to herself and suppressed an eye-roll.

Mu ping-ponged his glance between the two suggestively and asked, "I didn't know the two of you know each other so well!"

Han Yiqiu could no longer hold back too and she interrupted, "Mr. Xia, are you two dating? You look purrfect together!"

Her voice broke the silence like a chirruping nightingale. Mu Haoyu kept quiet and smile humourlessly waiting for their respond. He was eager to know too.

Yaxin caught a hint of animosity in Han Yiqiu's eyes whenever she looked at her.

Just when she was about to respond, Xia ChengXuan grabbed her in by the waist and said, "Is that so? Haha, thanks for the kind compliment."

Yaxin reserved her action and stood meekly beside ChengXuan.

Mu's eyebrows loured faintly, almost unnoticeable.

At the same time, Han Yiqiu let out a breath she had been holding. She was relieved to find out that they were dating. She put her arm around Mu's, "Let's not interrupt their sweet time. I am hungry, let's eat!" She moaned.

Mu Haoyu turned his head to her and nodded unwillingly.

"Then let us excuse ourselves!"

Han Yiqiu gripped tightly around Mu's arm and glowered resentfully at Yaxin.

But right before they stepped away, a blind impulse came to Mu and he turned to ChengXuan and asked, "By the way Mr. Xia, how is your sister?"

His question resounded like a gong. Yaxin's mind went blank and she could only hear ringing in her ears.

Her heart palpitated rapidly, but she mustered all her strength to appear unmoved. She can feel Mu's gaze scanning on both her brother and herself.

ChengXuan however, was calm as sea and replied, "All good. Thanks for asking!"

hmm...

"Glad to know. See you then, brother in law"

As Mu turned back and leave, his eyes sparkled in a mystifying satisfaction...



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As Mu turned back and leave, his eyes sparkled in mystifying satisfaction...

This time, it was Han Yiqiu that had a short circuit.

Brother in law?

So that means Mu's ex-wife was actually his sister?!

By the time she worked things out, Mu was already few steps ahead. And she hurriedly caught up to him.

Mu never liked Japanese food. He didn't like their mild and chilled flavour.

But today, he had an unspeaking meal.

When the meal was almost done, Han Yiqiu absent-mindedly asked, "Haoyu, your ex-wife was actually Xia ChengXuan's sister?"

"Yeah, what's the matter?"

She observed that Mu appeared to be completely unbothered. And she shook her head mildly to stop overthinking. "Nothing, just asking. What a small world..." She murmured.

Mu couldn't help but casted his mind back to the time when he first met her...

In his memory she was always wearing something thick and draggy. She had a slouching posture and on her pale face sat a dull, murky pair of glasses.

He recalled she smelled like an old storeroom and she was unhygienic when she ate.

Her first impression was repulsive to Mu and so he never bothered to pay her further attention after that.

It was odd that he could recall to the last detail. His nose flared in irritation and a de-appetising stir crept up from his stomach.

"Don't remind me of that woman!" Mu grumbled.

If it wasn't to get on ChengXuan's nerves, he would've long forgotten about his ex-wife.

Mu's reaction was reassuring to Han Yiqiu. She can safely presume that his ex-wife was either ugly as sin, or just generally displeasing.

And furthermore, they had never gotten intimate in the two-year marriage.

Now she got a more pressing problem, Xia Yaxin.

"Oh right, Haoyu, any updates with the project Yaxin handles?" She wondered.

Mu raised an eyebrow and looked at her surprisingly, "You didn't know?"

His respond jolted Han Yiqiu and made her palm sweat. "Haoyu, I don't understand what you mean..." She forced an awkward smile.

Does he already know that I planted someone

inside?

No... It must be Yaxin! That wretched woman must've told him something!

And hatred boiled within her.

"Oh it's nothing. The contract was signed off and now she is handling this case," Mu explained.

What? She did it?!

Han Yiqiu squinted her eyes.

There weren't many that could pull off such feat from Mr. He. And unbelievably, Yaxin did it. Now not only she wouldn't get into trouble but she was made in charge of the principal case!

Han Yiqiu's face gloomed with poison of jealousy, Yaxin must be her nemesis!

However on the other hand, Yaxin was completely unaware about all this.

Not only was she downright uninterested with Mu Haoyu, she desperately dreaded and wanted to stay away from him, as much as possible!



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However on the other hand, Yaxin was completely unaware about all of this.

Not only was she downright uninterested with Mu Haoyu, she desperately dreaded and wanted to stay away from him, as much as possible!

Yaxin had brought out many different sides of Mu Haoyu and Han Yiqiu just couldn't take that. Ergo, a seed of hatred was sowed in her heart and she conspiratorially made a decision...

On the other side of the table.

"Hey bro, what you said will cause misunderstanding!" Yaxin pouted her face and complained.

"You are afraid that he might misunderstand?"

"Of course not, but Mu isn't an easy person to deal with. You shouldn't do anything unnecessary!" Yaxin retorted. Two years ago, Mu was simply egoistic and conceited. Now, he was like a changed man, shrouded in mysterious enigma...

"It was all to protect you!" ChengXuan asserted.

"What do you mean?"

"Nothing!" ChengXuan continued, "Just remember, I will protect you. Incident like two years ago will not happen again, I promise!"

Although Yaxin felt odd, she held back her curiosity when she saw ChengXuan's genuine

conviction. A grateful smile blossomed on her face. To have a guardian angel that care and safe keep oneself is a true joy and blessing.

Her two years in London had taught her to be headstrong and independent, she respected his goodwill and kept her thoughts to herself.

"Yaxin, listen to me and quit your job. Come back to our company and help out your brother. If you continue to stay at Yun Rui, eventually he will find out about that!" ChengXuan preached relentlessly.

He couldn't help but worry, now Yaxin had turned out to be so attractive compared to last time. And a gut feeling was telling him Mu Haoyu had an obsession towards her. ChengXuan didn't like the way he looked at her that resembles the fervour of a hungry lion at a little lamb.

"Now I have important matters at hand, I can't just quit like that!"

"But have you thought about the consequences? What if he finds out? It definitely wouldn't end well!" ChengXuan fretted.

Yaxin responded with a confident smile, "We were divorced. Even if he DOES find out, what can he do?"

What she said was sensible and ChengXuan couldn't find more to quibble.

Sigh, if only things were as simple as she said.

Coming from a fellow man, ChengXuan was positive that the interest displayed by Mu towards Yaxin was not innocent.

Moreover, that Han Yiqiu was also an involute woman. How can Yaxin, so pure and simple like a child dwell in a wolves' lair!?

ChengXuan rubbed his temple perturbingly. Seeing as how determined Yaxin was, there was no stopping the young lady.

"Alright, do as you see fit. I'll only ask for one thing, call me if anything happens!" He gave in.

"Don't worry," Yaxin gave him an old man's pat, "When I'm done with my things, I promise to go back!"

"Ok!" He nodded enthusiastically. Finally, a music to his ears.

Once the food was served, they stopped their discussion and indulged in their meal. They were pleasantly surprised at the good food, and thrilled to hear so many stories from each other; some made them laugh, some made them teary.

"You are now a grown-lady, but still so careless with your table etiquette!" ChengXuan giggled at the rice grain stuck on her chin, and he wiped it off gently with his finger. She flashed her teeth and tee-heed.

Little did they knew, their close intimacy had made a certain someone tightened his jaw, and a flame

of jealousy was ignited...



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After their meal, Yaxin and ChengXuan were ready to go. He walked up to Mu and greeted, "Mr. Mu, we will take our leave first. Enjoy your meal!"

Mu sat restfully with a radiating charisma, his presence is like a physical force, demanding reverence at every turn.

"Ok!" He acknowledged with a mild nod.

Han Yiqiu looked at the two then interjected, "Mr. Xia, are you sending Miss Xia home?"

"Yes of course."

After hearing what she wanted, Han Yiqiu's lips curled up, with a flirtatious tone she sneered, "Then let's not interrupt them, have fun!"

"Thank you," ChengXuan smiled back refinedly and gestured Yaxin to leave.

Just when the two turned away to leave, Mu suddenly called out,

"Hey Miss Xia!"

Yaxin stopped hesitantly to respond, "Yes, Mr. Mu?"

"It's regarding the Yuan Shi contract, I wish to see a detailed design by tomorrow."

"Tomorrow?!"

"Yes, tomorrow."

Yaxin's eyebrows pressed together into a frown. Her sixth sense was catching a spite.

So it's Mission impossible part II now... To finish a DETAILED draft by tomorrow!?

"I'll try my best!" She hissed.

"Do or do not, there is no try."

.....even Yoda came out.

"Alright!" Yaxin's eyes were grudgingly glaring. Seeing that Mu averted his attention back to his plate, she too turned around and walked out the place.

ChengXuan glanced momentarily at him and Han Yiqiu with complicated feelings, and followed Yaxin off.

He understood clearly what Mu's intention was and it didn't bother him too much. The one that felt most disturbed now would be Han Yiqiu...

Han Yiqiu stared intently at Mu, hoping to find even a slight inkling from his unemotional face.

He remained his poker face, and she hoped optimistically.

When ChengXuan sent Yaxin back, she grumbled a little, "Bro it's getting late, not gonna invite you in this time round!"

"Ok, I'll find you next time. Rest earlier!"

"Ok!" Yaxin nodded hurriedly and got down the car.

Just as Yaxin entered her house, her phone rang.

Her lips curled up beguilingly when she saw the displayed number.

"Yaxin, I'm so sorry..."

It was Tuan Tuan.

"Oh, what happened?" Yaxin decided to tease her a little.

"Today your bother called and I accidentally blurted it out, that... that you came back. Sorry, it really wasn't intentional!" Tuan Tuan gulped with a leaden tone.

"You must've known that I was out with him, and waited until now to call right?" Yaxin leaped and curled herself on the couch like a golden retriever.

"Yea, nothing escapes the great Miss Xia!" She admitted.

"Hoho, good try woman!"

"Sorry..."

"Okay, I'll forgive you this time~"

"I knew you wouldn't take it on your best friend!"

"I heard there's a new, super nice, super expensive restaurant opening..."

"Ok no problem! My treat!" Tuan Tuan swaggered.

"Haha, alright! See you then, gotta go now, plenty of work. Bye!"



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"Haha, alright! See you then, gotta go now, plenty of work. Bye!"

"You still have to work at this hour? What work?" Tuan Tuan was puzzled.

"From the contract last time. Now that I'm in charge, I have to come up with a design proposal by tomorrow!"

Yaxin moved down to the carpet and flipped through the contract.

"Son of a monkey! he must be doing it on purpose!"

"How did you know?!"

"What a rat's arse right?"

"Exactly," Tuan Tuan affirmed, "It's all my fault Yaxin, sorry to drag you into this!"

Tuan Tuan was guilt-ridden. She knew that Yaxin had to go back to Yun Rui in exchange for her charges to be dropped, even if it was totally a sham orchestrated by Mu!

"I know I know, say no more, just remember you owe me a super expensive, super nice dinner! Alright I reeaally gotta go, talk to you later!"

"Hahaha alright, see you soon!"

"Bye!"

Yaxin just hurled her phone on the couch and redirected her attention towards work. Sometime later, she already got a good idea in mind and decided to take a quick bath and resume work after that.

She removed her make-up, stripped down and stepped slowly into the tub. She turned the water on high and letting it beat over her head in steamy rivulets, closing her eyes as the coolness soaked into her skin. She leaned against the tiles and started brain-storming. The sensation of water gently caressing her body calms her, it was like being under an everlasting waterfall and her imagination and creativity would just soar freely.

About half an hour later, Yaxin came out brimming in freshness and confidence. She poured herself a small glass of wine and decided to draft out her thoughts.

Her darkened hair was let loose, and her flawless skin was shimmering like the keys of a grand piano.

She loved designing works. She found loveliness in the freedom to evince her imagination and highlight her personality.

Her work often reflected her attitude in life; modern sophistication, unrestrained and unchained.

Ever since the divorce, she had found restfulness and flourishing in life.

Bzzz Bzzz

Yaxin's phone rang. She looked up to check on the time and realized it had been a productive two hours. She frowned faintly when she saw an unknown number on the screen, except for Tuan Tuan, who would call at this hour?

She hesitantly picked up the call...

"Hello?"

"....."

"Hello, may I know who is this?" She raised her voice slightly.

"It's me."

Yaxin sprung like a cat when she heard that bossy, deep voice from someone that she was all too familiar.

"Why do you have my number!?" She yelped like a pain reflex.

"Isn't it normal for the boss to have the contact number of their employees?" Mu ridiculed and rolled-eye.

.....

Umm, True that.

"So what do you want at this hour?"

"Oh nothing, just checking on your work progress."

"In the middle of it!"

"All by yourself?"

"Yes all by myself," Yaxin bleated impatiently, "So what do you want?"

There was a momentary silence, then Mu replied light-heartedly, "It's nothing, keep up the good work. Just continue it tomorrow if you can't finish it by today!"

He sounded like he was in a good mood.

"I thought you needed to get it done by tomorrow?"

"Yuan Shi just called and the schedule has been a postponed for a few days. You have time." He explained leisurely.

.....

Should I even thank him?

Why do I keep feeling that everything he does was so suspicious and questionable?

Why do I keep feeling that everything he does was so suspicious and questionable?

Well, since the big bad boss said so, Yaxin was more than happy to oblige and she went to bed right after ending their call.

On the other side, Mu was alone in his car. The repetitive flashing by of headlights shone shadows on his curled lips. He seemed to be in a fine mood.

Mu had just sent Han Yiqiu home, despite her eager hinting and passionate attempts to spend the night with him. His mind was not with him and he was deeply disturbed.

What was the relationship between Yaxin and Xia ChengXuan?

Are they really seeing each other?

Mu's eyebrow knitted in an undecided irk when he recalled the way Xia ChengXuan looked at Yaxin.

This woman really has a lame taste in men!

Next morning.

When Yaxin reached office, her colleague hurriedly informed her that Mu had called her in.

Yaxin intuitively puckered her face in rejection. But she really didn't have much choice with Mu being her employer.

Yaxin came to his office and knocked on the door reluctantly, "Mr. Mu, you sent for me?"

"Come on in."

Yaxin nodded and entered the room, but with a tightness to it.

"What's the matter?" She asked.

"Progressing with the design?"

"...I thought you said there's time?"

"Yeah, no rush. How about the registration form? Have you filled it?" Mu was oddly formal with her today.

Registration form?!

Her pupils instantly dilated. The SRD Competition!!

"No...Not yet!" Yaxin gulped.

Mu widened his eyes and looked at her speechlessly, then at his watch and drawled, "You have half an hour, after that your offer is voided!"

"I'll do it right away!" Yaxin answered in jittery, her entire motivation to stay in Yun Rui rested on this competition. It was unimaginable if she'd missed it due to carelessness!

"Ok, hurry!" Mu barked her off.

Yaxin had prepared herself for another torment

from Mu, but to her greatest shock, he didn't say anything!

She rushed to her desk and it only took her a few minutes to fill up everything. There was just one detail that she didn't know what to fill...

Marriage status: _____

Should she just fill in Divorced? What if Mu saw it?

Grr... Yaxin bit on her lips and pulled on her hair.

Fishsticks! Why is the organiser so busybody!?

By the time Yaxin realised, time was already running out and she quickly jotted down in panic then rushed back to Mu.

"Mr. Mu, here you go!" Yaxin handed the form over and tried to calm her breath.

Next thing her eyes widened slowly in panic when Mu lowered his head to double check it.

Knock knock

In the nick of time, his secretary entered the room and reported, "Mr. Mu, Shin Rui's representative has arrived."

"Noted, bring them to the VIP lounge and I will be there shortly," Mu directed, "And pass this to them too!"

Yaxin released the big breath she unknowingly

held when Mu passed her registration form to his secretary. She honestly felt that she needed to stay happy and positive or the stress being in Yun Rui will kill her; and the only good side was that she can burn some good calories from it...

"Mr. Mu, then I'll excuse myself," Yaxin retreated to the door, feeling slightly drained riding the emotional roller coaster.

"Wait!"

"Is there anything else?"

"You will be joining the meeting."

There was a moment of silence and Yaxin gave him a jaw-dropping look...

"WHAT!?"



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There was a moment of silence and Yaxin gave him a jaw-dropping expression...

"WHAT!?"

"As Yun Rui's representing designer, shouldn't you tag along?" Mu tilted with a raised eyebrow.

Well that does make sense...

"Ok, sure..." Yaxin nodded.

Yaxin was still unnerved from the close call just now. Just a few more seconds and Mu could've seen it. It was her guilty conscience that made her felt as if she was walking on tight ropes, frightful at every tiniest sign and detail.

She was overly anxious to not raise his suspicion.

She had her CV in Yun Rui in which she declared Unmarried. However she reckoned Mu did not review it because it was sitting in the HR department the whole time.

"What were you thinking?"

Yaxin refocused her vision and saw Mu staring wackily at her.

"It's... it's nothing!"

"Let's go then."

Yaxin nodded in acknowledgement and followed after him obediently.

In the VIP lounge.

As Mu entered the room, he immediately changed to a bright and cheerful amico, "Hey Nicco! So sorry to keep you waiting!"

"That's alright, I got to taste this heavenly coffee from Mr. Mu! Worth every minute!" Nicco cheered.

"Nicco, this is the candidate I mentioned," Mu smiled, "And Yaxin, this is SRD's person in charge, Mr. Nicco!"

Yaxin stepped up and greeted him immaculately, "Pleasure to meet you, Mr. Nicco!"

Nicco had a lush, mother lode-gold hair he groomed so carefully. His mariner-blue eyes were orb round and gleaming with passion and triumph. He had a bass voice and laden scent. A pretty standard Italian man.

Nicco shook her hand impassionedly, his eyes twinkled with keen as he sized her up, "Miss Xia, you look sensational!"

"Thank you for your kind words!" Yaxin bubbled with dazzling confidence. She was familiar with the western culture that does not appreciate meaningless humility.

The difference was striking with Yaxin who had sufficient exposure overseas, Mu was pleasantly pleased.

"Alright, let us proceed with the competition

briefings and rules! Shall we?" Mu chimed in and gestured everyone to sit.

Although Yaxin was clueless, she instinctively felt a sense of security with Mu by her side.

The three of them spent about half an hour to get all the terms and conditions properly communicated. And Nicco just grew more and more fond of Yaxin. He admired her quick-mindedness and enjoyed her disposition of subtle but distinctive intelligence.

"Miss Xia, you are young and promising! I can tell you are full of thoughts and ideas!" Nicco exclaimed.

"Well, as the famous Italian writer Voltaire says, no problem can withstand the assault of sustained thinking!" Yaxin giggled heartily, and Nicco was made very jocular of her too.

Mu was very well contented with Yaxin's presentation. Judging from the adoration from Nicco towards her, it was likely that she will be in an advantageous spot in the competition.

"Miss Xia, I noticed it's written here that you were divorced. If it wasn't for this, I couldn't even have imagined you were married!" Nicco stammered.

All of a sudden, the room hit freezing point.

Yaxin froze.

Mu froze.

A divorce?

Xia Yaxin was divorced!?

His pupil dilated in disbelief and he instantaneously turned towards Yaxin.

Yaxin was sitting in raw nerves and she could feel cold sweat from her palm. She looked away rigidly and petrified as she could feel an unfriendly stare needling her from behind...



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"That was not the best experience," Yaxim smiled bitterly.

"He was a foolish man. If it were me, I would've cherished you dearly!" Nicco exclaimed.

"Thanks!"

Yaxin smiled joyously and it was like the room was sunny and bright all over again.

However, at the back of the room, a thunderstorm was slowly brewing...

"Be confident, know that you're the best!" Nicco beamed and gave her a thumbs up.

"I will, thank you!"

"Alright, until we meet again, peace!"

It was comical to see a European spoke so volubly in Mandarin.

Mu suppressed his chaotic mind and stood up to send him off.

"Looking forward to your good work!"

"We most definitely will!" Mu assured, with a bright and confident smile.

But it was unnatural and hair-raising for Yaxin...

"Miss Yah, please see Mr. Nicco off."

His secretary nodded dutifully and proceeded to show Nicco and his team out.

Now then the lounge was left with Yaxin and Mu. It was undisturbedly quiet like the calm before storm.

"Mr. Mu, then I'll excuse myself too," Yaxin followed her flight response and hurriedly headed for the door, closing her ears shut.

Out of the blue, she felt an overpowering pull and the next thing she knew her back was leaning on the meeting table. Her hands were supporting on both sides and her body tilted backwards.

In front of her stood Mu, pouncing on her in the manner of Mufasa at the hyenas.

"You..." Yaxin was short-circuited, too shocked to even assemble her words.

"You are divorced!?"

There was a dry, bitter taste in the back of her mouth that she couldn't seem to get rid of. Her hands were shaking in an odd rhythm under his menacing pressure.

"So what!? Can't a divorcee take part in SRD!?"

"Shut up! Who was it!?" Mu roared.

The thought of Yaxin belonging to another man... It drove him crazy!

Yaxin's lashes fluttered, "This has NOTHING to do with you, Mr. Mu!"

"Was it Xia ChengXuan?"

"NO!" Yaxin gnashed her teeth.

How in the world can it be Xia ChengXuan? It seems like Mu Haoyu really misunderstood...

"Then, who is he?!"

"This has nothing to do with you!" Yaxin could only repetitively stammer these words. Her heart was hammering against her chest.

Mu was unmoved and he continued to stare fervently at Yaxin.

"Mr. Mu! Are you in love with me or what?!"

In love with...you?

Her words echoed through him and throbbed in his ears.

"In love with you?!" Mu derided, "Pfft, do you think it's possible? How could I fall for a leftover!"

THAT blew a fuse in Yaxin, "What's wrong with divorced woman!? Mr. Mu may I remind you, you are also divorced. YOU, ME, WE ARE THE SAME!" She fumed with anger.

Mu's eyes flickered momentarily, "How did you know?!" His voice was cold and hardened like a

stove lid.

.....

Yaxin face tightened and she quickly gather her wits.

"Everyone in the company knows!"

Mu mulled it over and believed her. It was common news among the personnel.

However, he still held a puzzling grudge and refused to let her go.

"So, don't act so high and mighty Mr.Mu. You of all people are also divorced, you have no right to judge me!" Yaxin raged, pushed him off and stormed out the door.



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"So, don't act so high and mighty Mr.Mu. You of all people are also divorced, you have no right to judge me!" Yaxin raged, pushed him off and stormed out the door.

Mu's eyes locked at Yaxin like a magnet, all the way until she left the room. He clenched his jaws and frowned tightly. What she said was true enough, but it wasn't to his liking.

Yaxin breathed a sigh of relief when she got out of the lounge. If it weren't for her quick-wittedness, Mu could've dug deeper and eventually, he would find out the truth.

Imagine when he found out the man who divorced her was none other than he himself!

Nonetheless, it was not bad thing now that the cat was out the bag. At least that was a worry taken out her mind. She was even amazed at Mu, his cluelessness until this extent, he must have completely forgotten about her...

Now then, Yaxin started to feel a little piqued. Just like everyone else that was forgotten or left out, a petulant feeling stirred within her. But Yaxin was substantially more relieved at how things turned out, it was definitely a lead off her chest.

For the following two days, these two did not meet, nor did they have any kind of interaction. Yaxin thoroughly enjoyed her peaceful time at work and she was also preoccupied with the SRD preparation. It was fruitful and fulfilling for Yaxin.

The Xia Group.

ChengXuan was working in his office during a lazy afternoon when his secretary notified him, "Mr. Xia, there's someone looking for you."

"Who is it?"

"Miss Han Yiqiu from the Hans Group," she replied dutifully.

What is that woman doing here?

ChengXuan cocked his eyebrow and ordered, "Alright, let her in."

He was curious and bewildered at her visit. Why so sudden when they had never associated before?

As he was still squeezing brain-juice, his office door was pushed open and Han Yiqiu strode in.

She wore a black dress that hugged her hips tightly and a pair of motif heels, together with a tasteful amount of jewellery and a Burberry small leather handbag. Everything about her trumpeted wealth. But she was undeniably a stylish and attractive woman.

"Mr. Xia," She greeted him with a dimple smile and carried herself elegantly.

"Miss Han, what a pleasant surprise!" ChengXuan chortled neighbourly and picked up his office line, "Miss J, two coffees please."

"Please have a seat, Miss Han."

Han Yiqiu nodded and settled elegantly on the chair, crossing her long legs like that of a supermodel.

"May I know what is your business visiting me?" ChengXuan studied her and gave a tight-lipped smile, he did not have a good feeling with her visit.

"Why so unwelcoming, Mr. Xia?"

"If I was unwelcoming, my secretary would've told you off," ChengXuan contended in a friendly manner.

Han Yiqiu chuckled, "Mr. Xia, I can see that your company has been doing great for the past two years!"

"Miss Han, let us just speak our mind," He interjected, "after all we are both young people, why bother beating around the bush?"

Han Yiqiu paused a little, "If Mr. Xia say so, then let me be frank. I wish to propose a deal!"

A deal?

His eyebrow rose quickly in eager, "I am all ears!"

ChengXuan was curious and puzzled, what exactly was she brewing!

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Han Yiqiu leisurely stood up and approached him, "Mr. Xia, now that you are seeing Xia Yaxin, why not you let her work in your company?"

And now ChengXuan totally grasped her motive – Yaxin!

He raised his eyes uninterestedly and reclined on his chair, "And then?"

"There are so many outstanding lads in Yun Rui, are you not worried that someone else could win her heart?" Han Yiqiu crooned light-heartedly. She was trying to stir unease and purposely omitted Mu Haoyu.

However, ChengXuan's lips curled upwards and he did not seem to be bothered at all, "Thank you for the heads up Miss Han, but I'm not worried."

Han Yiqiu's eyebrows slowly gathered and jeered, "Mr. Xia, I applaud your confidence!"

"Well, should I be the person who worry over that, or should you, Miss Han?"

Han Yiqiu was taken aback for a moment, "What do you mean?"

"You should know very well what I mean," ChengXuan enunciated each word slowly, maintaining a faint smirk, "If we are to discuss a deal, shouldn't Miss Han be more transparent?"

Han Yiqiu tightened her fist. Others had always said Xia ChengXuan was a simple minded man, but she would definitely vouch otherwise!

Since ChengXuan had laid it out blatantly, she now needs to negotiate terms with him. As long as she got to keep Mu Haoyu, anything can be ceded.

"I know that you are competing with our company for a land auction. If you can convince Xia Yaxin to leave Yun Rui, in return I will persuade my dad to concede that land to you!" Han Yiqiu spoke determinedly.

ChengXuan's interest was aroused, that piece of property was of paramount value to him! He had been eyeing it for so long and trying every means to get it.

"Miss Han, I think you have yet to bring out the main dish..."

Han Yiqiu's eyebrows pulled together into a frown, what more did he want?

"Your concern lies in Mu Haoyu, am I wrong?" ChengXuan made a confident implication. His poised and self-assertive gesture showed that he was likely to clinch advantageously. After all, he already knew Han Yiqiu's uncompromising margin the very second she mentioned Yaxin.

"Correct. The sole reason this collaboration even exist was because of Mu Haoyu. Therefore, if you can get Yaxin to leave Yun Rui, I will manage my dad's side!" Her eyes were gleaming with unwavering determination and restlessness.

That was a sweet bargain! ChengXuan was tempted.

They looked at each other keenly in silence. Then it was ChengXuan that first spoke, "What makes you think that I can't get the land by myself?"

The Xia Group was no longer the shagged company it used to be few years ago, now it was more or less a fair competition with the Hans group.

"Mr. Xia, then are you rejecting my offer?" Han Yiqiu challenged, "I see where your confidence comes from and I acknowledge the capabilities of your company. However, if our Hans Group were to commit fully, can you still be as optimistic?"

She swaggered nearer to ChengXuan and lowered her voice, "The truth is, the owner of that land is a family friend!"

So that was it! Han Yiqiu's trump card!

She swaggered nearer to ChengXuan and lowered her voice, "The truth is, the owner of that land is a family friend!"

So that was it! Han Yiqiu's trump card!

ChengXuan had heard what he needed to hear, and he reserved his words.

"I do not have any ill-intention towards Yaxin, nor am I asking you to put her in harm's way. All I asked is for her to leave Yun Rui. Isn't that better for both of us?!" Han Yiqiu began to lose her cool. Why won't he agree?! She was willing to sacrifice whatever it took for the sake of Mu Haoyu!

Undeniably, ChengXuan was enticed! He wanted the property so badly and even more so Yaxin to leave Mu Haoyu!

However, two years ago Yaxin was traded like merchandise for the sake of Xia Group. And for her family she chose valiantly to marry the Mu family. How can he, being her guardian angel once again use her this way for his own gain?

ChengXuan was deeply perturbed. He sat quietly staring into space.

Han Yiqiu stood right beside patiently. Watching the man hesitate gave her confidence that he will eventually bite the hook. He just needed a little more push...

"Mr. Xia, this deal is generously sweet for you. Think about your career, your woman!"

ChengXuan refocused his gaze at the sassy woman, "Miss Han, actually you've made a good deal for me. Just like you, I sincerely hope Yaxin would leave Yun Rui. I've tried to talk to her but she rejected me. Nonetheless, I'll stand by her and respect her every choice," he looked up at her and the veil of gloom was lifted in his eyes. Han Yiqiu noticed that he had the same serene eyes as Yaxin.

"As for the property you mentioned, I will definitely invest the best of my effort. If it turned out to be a let-down, I'll live with it." ChengXuan smiled light-heartedly.

Joy quickly faded from Han Yiqiu's face and she fretted with a deep frown, "She refused?!"

"She can best execute her expertise in Yun Rui. So if she wishes to stay, I respect that."

"Aren't you afraid that she might have a change of heart!?"

ChengXuan jolted from his chair, will she get infatuated with Mu Haoyu?

If she's attracted to him, wouldn't she had dived in two years ago?

And they wouldn't end up divorcing.

However, nothing is impossible!

Mu had shown zero interest in Yaxin two years ago. And now he could barely avert his attention

from her!

Even ChengXuan was timorous now...

Most importantly, Yaxin had a dogged tenacity. She wouldn't listen to his advice.

ChengXuan let out a helpless sigh, "Miss Han, to be frank I really wanted that land. But Yaxin's freewill precedes it. And I too, have complete faith that Yaxin will absolutely not be interested in Mu Haoyu!"

If he can't change her mind, then might as well support her unswervingly! ChengXuan had closed the door to his golden ticket.

"Can you really not worry?!"

"If a problem is fixable, then there is no need to worry; if it's otherwise, then there is no help in worrying. I trust her." ChengXuan orated.

Han Yiqiu's eyes narrowed until there was a vertical wrinkle between her, "Mr. Xia, you are truly a self-possessed man!"

ChengXuan responded with a nod and smile. He believed that was for the best.

"Then we shall wait and see, how long can you stay unmoved!" Han Yiqiu grabbed her bag and click-clack to the door, "Mr. Xia, thank you for your time. I hope you are right!" And she left the room.

"Miss Han you are welcome anytime! Miss J,

please help to see her off!" ChengXuan remained seated and showed no enthusiasm to entertain her further.

Once he was all alone again in his room, his face slowly gloomed...

What if Yaxin really falls for Mu Haoyu?



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There are certain times when you can't avoid the inevitable and such is the time for Mu and Yaxin. The SRD organized a jewellery exhibition and all candidates are required to join in and thus, they had to go together.

Ever since that day, they had mutually steered clear from each other and now it was just downright awkward to be in the same car.

Initially Yaxin intended to get a cab, but when she saw the thunder on his face, she swallowed her words and followed obediently behind. She was willingly to compromise as long as it meant saying one less word to Mu.

Yaxin nimble-footedly moved into the backseat and shut the door immediately. While Mu sat in the front driving, just like a chauffeur escorting his young lady...

Yaxin didn't care about that and all she did was countdown the time needed to reach the exhibition.

Mu too, sealed his lips the entire journey.

There were only the quiet, monotonous sound of gust from the air-conditioner and sound of them breathing.

Yaxin was glad that Mu did not try to strike a conversation. She stared aimlessly outside the window, slowly letting her thoughts wandered.

Her tranquillity allured Mu. He had been staring at

Yaxin unconsciously through the rear mirror.

On the spur of the moment, Yaxin shifted her gaze to the front and their eyes met and held.

It was a rather peculiar feeling and all of a sudden the mood changed. They shifted their gaze simultaneously and as if it helped to keep away from each other, they looked as far as possible in opposite directions...

Yaxin could feel her heartbeat increasing slightly. She was always anxious that Mu might just suddenly recognize her.

Mu however, did not seem to be too bothered.

The car engine continued to roar and the two remained tongue-tied.

About 20 minutes later, they reached the exhibition hall. First thing that impressed them greatly was the security policies and measures, they were on par with international level due to the A-class exhibition goods!

After authenticating their invitation pass and undergoing security check-up, the two were led into the hall. At first glance Yaxin could already name a few reputable socialites and even politicians.

"This is a rare opportunity for you. Try to sponge up as much as possible and don't embarrass Yun Rui!" Mu bossed.

Seriously, his words can always find ways to get on others' nerves... Yaxin loured her eyebrows faintly but nodded in acknowledgement. Well, the golden rule of work is the boss is always right.

The two moseyed around side by side, appreciating and admiring the exhibition goods. There were some that was striking and gorgeous; and some that lack sophistication. For the first half and hour, Yaxin did not find anything that impressed her, or even roused her interest, until she came by a unique necklace...

The design was an intriguing and tantalizing, simple yet elegant with a mesmerising oval-shaped sapphire. Yaxin stood rooted in front of the piece of art and she just couldn't avert her eyes. Mu noticed and followed her gaze.

"You like it?" His eyes flickered with awe too.

"Don't you think this design is very, umm... unusual?"

"How so?"

"Take a look here. The pendant, I feel that it represents someone's tear..."

Mu squinted his eyes in a serious demeanour. The oval-shaped sapphire did look tear-drop like. Furthermore, there is something intriguing about the ocean blue and the gem's definition.

"I think so too!"

"I think this necklace must have a deeper, hidden meaning behind!" Yaxin articulated in confidence.



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"I think this necklace must have a deeper, hidden meaning behind!" Yaxin articulated in confidence.

When it came to art, it was as if Yaxin brightened up and gleamed with lustrous charm. Mu's eyes sparkled with her reflection and he nodded in agreement, "Yes, I think so too."

Whilst they were talking, a man noticed from afar and approached them. It was Nicco. He smiled affectionately and said, "Miss Xia, you truly have excellent perception! This is the title-holder for last year's competition!"

Both Mu and Yaxin turned back and greeted him. Yaxin was a little surprised, and she conferred, "I like this design, it feels as if there's a story behind it!"

When it came to her expertise Yaxin became chatty. Her voice was pleasant and gentle like a mother's murmur and her audience were comfortably captivated. And Nicco's adoration for her grew even more.

"You are absolutely right! I have always believed that only a design with story can invoke resonance!" Nicco expressed.

Yaxin nodded and looked down on her nose. It was a sudden revelation for her.

"Miss Xia, I believe you will produce an art on par to this. Looking forward to your good work!" Nicco encouraged earnestly.

"Thank you for the kind words Nicco. I'll definitely try my best!"

Mu was left aside like a bystander and he did not find Nicco's keenness towards Yaxin too comfortable. He stepped up and interjected with a handshake, "Mr. Nicco, we truly thank you for your support for Yun Rui!"

Nicco was momentarily dazed but he quickly responded manneredly.

Simultaneously, someone was also calling for him. He shrugged and told them, "Mr. Mu, Miss Xia please enjoy yourselves and have a pleasant evening. Seems like the devil's calling!"

"Ok!" Yaxin smiled vivaciously.

Mu nodded and put on his socialite-mask.

As Nicco left, the two were left with mild awkwardness.

"Do you already have something in mind or the coming competition?" Mu asked.

"Nothing at all," She confided.

"There's no need to feel pressured even though you are representing Yun Rui. Relax and just do your best!"

Yaxin jerked her head towards him. Her eyebrows arched high and looked at him with unblinking

eyes.

Did he hurt his head or something?

"Don't worry. I can manage it." Yaxin affirmed. She had substantial experiences during her few years abroad, her performance will not be affected by stress or nervousness.

Looking at how poised she was, Mu was pleased, "Good."

Their attention was focused on the artworks and while they were speaking, they didn't notice another couple was ambling closely. A large sized woman ended up bumping on Yaxin and she tripped on her heels.

Mu was in the perfect spot and he reflexively held and secured her by the waist.

"I'm so sorry, are you alright?" The woman quickly apologized.

"No worries, I'm fine!" Yaxin replied chummily with a smile. But as she turned her head and realized she was in Mu's embrace, her mind went blank and did not separate herself immediately.

Mu too, did not let go of his arms. There was an air of awkwardness but also a conflicting snugness between them.

Unbelievably enough, during the exact wrong time, wrong place, a wrong person saw this scene...

Unbelievably enough, during the exact wrong time, wrong place, a wrong person saw this scene...

"Haoyu... what are you doing?" A feminine voice emitted from behind.

Yaxin and Mu simultaneously turned their heads and saw Han Yiqiu stood right in front, with misty eyes like that of a hurt puppy.

In split second, Yaxin struggled off Mu's arms. Her action was even more suspicious and suggestive in Han Yiqiu's eyes.

Why are they so intimately together!?

She was simmering in extreme jealousy and hatred.

Sigh, and she saw it not a second earlier or late, they say coincidence is Karma's way of staying anonymous. Did I murder a kitten or something?

Yaxin cried out loud in bafflement inside.

She completely gave up to even try to explain, sometimes things happened and it was too coincidental to call it a coincidence...

Mu was cool as a cucumber too. "What are you doing here?" He asked.

"I'm here to check out the jewellery exhibition. How about the two of you?" Han Yiqiu mumbled.

"We are also here for the same reason."

"We are also here for the same reason."

"You...together?" Han Yiqiu quavered, she was trying her every effort to maintain composure. It was under public eye and she had a reputation to care for.

"Yeah, she is our representing designer in SRD, so we came as a requisite."

Is that so?

Is that really so?

Han Yiqiu was dubious. However as the words were coming out from Mu's lips, she wouldn't want to behave like a psycho and go full bag of crazy interrogating him, She understood fully that it would only leave a bad taste.

She swallowed her humiliation and rage and curved her lips upwards, "Oh I see... Miss Xia, we are in public, you should be mindful of your etiquette."

Her scorn did not offend Yaxin one bit. She even smiled light-heartedly and prattled, "Miss Han, there is no need to be pretentious and poisonous. There is absolutely no reason for such resentment and enmity between us, a man's treasure is another man's trash. What you valued highly may not be so for others. Even if it's a valuable good, I'm not interested in leftovers!"

She then turned to Mu and said, "Mr. Mu, I am done here. Wishing the two of you a delightful

evening! Bye bye." And Yaxin sashayed off without even bothering to look at Han Yiqiu.

Yaxin's words were like hitting two birds with one stone. No, more accurately, killing two flies in one slap!

Han Yiqiu was bristling with anger, but she can only swallow them.

Looking at Mu's face, it was like a thunderstorm brewing!

Is that woman implying I am a LEFTOVER!?

Don't she forget, she is also the same!!

Mu was offended, and maybe even somewhat upset! He had never encountered a woman that ditches him like that. His entire life he was used to being the centre of affection amongst them!

"What a boorish woman!" Han Yiqiu's jeer brought Mu's attention back to her.

He looked annoyed and said no words. Han Yiqiu came meekly and put her arms around him.

"Haoyu, how come she became Yun Rui's representing designer?"

Han Yiqiu's coy tone just sounded like a pregnant clucking hen in Mu's ear. He tried his best to suppress his irritation and replied her, "She earned it!"

After the exhibition, Yaxin deliberately avoided Mu.

However the more she attempted to distance herself, the more it piqued Mu and he closed the distance.

How dare this woman say that I'm a leftover?

She herself said that we are the same! Ergo she doesn't have a right to think that way!

Mu was able to console himself thinking like this.

Now Yaxin was focusing all her mind and might into designing. She was patiently assimilating the philosophy of subsuming a story into her work. She aspired to create a masterpiece that can resonate timelessly!

After a long day, she was unfruitful and decided to take a coffee break. Concurrently, she received a call from ChengXuan and it cheered her off her moodiness.

"Hey bro!" Yaxin bubbled gleefully.

"Hey, what are you doing?" ChengXuan's soft, bassy voice emitted from the phone.

"Working~"

"I heard you are the representing Yun Rui and taking part in the SRD competition, congrats!"

"Teehee, how did you know about that?"

"A lovely little bird told me the good news!"

"Tuan Tuan must be your lovely little bird then~" Yaxin chuckled.

"OF COURSE NOT. I saw you together with Mu during the exhibition, then I knew for sure you are in the competition!"

"I see~"

"Are you free tonight? Let's celebrate, your big bro is paying!"

"Wow! Of course I am, let's ask Tuan Tuan along too!" Yaxin hoorayed.

ChengXuan let out a helpless laugh, "Whatever, as long as you're happy!"

"Okay! Then I'll assign you to talk to her, I'm too busy with work here."

"Ok."

"See you tonight!"

"See you!"

Yaxin ended the call and walked out the office pantry. Right before she could savour her fresh brewed coffee, she was interrupted by Mu's secretary, "Miss Xia you're here! Mr. Mu has been looking for you, please head to his office soon."

"Noted, thank you!"

"You're most welcome."

And Yaxin dragged herself to his office.

knock knock

"Mr. Mu, you looking for me?"

Her presence was like fragrant chamomile to Mu and it calmed his restlessness. He looked up at her and asked, "Any progress with the design? Got an idea already?"

"Nothing at all for now," She shrugged truthfully. If it were any other personnel, they wouldn't be able to say that with a straight face.

Her few years of exposure in western cultures had influenced her frame of thoughts and she adapted straightforwardness.

"Alright. If you need any referencing materials at all just call the secretary," Mu advised.

"Ok I will."

"Are you busy tonight?"

"Yes."

"...busy with?"

"I'm going out."

And first thing that came to Mu's mind was Xia ChengXuan!

"A date?!"

"I think so." Yaxin answered nonchalantly.

Mu was vexed with her lukewarm attitude. He straightened his face and spoke weightily, "Sorry to disappoint, but today you need to stay overtime."

"OT?" Yaxin's eyebrows drew close together.

"Yes. The secretary had searched high and low for some helpful materials for you. There are many rankers and winners from the past years, hopefully it can be of help!"

"But I am busy tonight!" Yaxin bickered.

"Miss Xia, is your career, your future more important or your dinner date?" He firmed his tone, "be reminded that you are not only representing yourself, but the whole of Yun Rui, I hope you treat it seriously!"



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"Miss Xia, is your career, your future more important or your date?" He firmed his tone, "be reminded that you are not only representing yourself, but the whole Yun Rui, I hope you treat it seriously!"

Yaxin felt like words were choking in her throat.

She had been professional, and had separated work time and private time prudently. And now through her boss's lips it sounded otherwise.

Furthermore, she wasn't even informed of the overtime!

What more can she say? A good employee is always wrong...

"Alright, I will stay back later." Yaxin said reluctantly with a faint frown.

"Ok, that's good, you may go back to work now."

Yaxin nodded and went out. She was too absorbed in musing her design and failed to notice Mu's mischievous grin...

As she returned to her desk, she drew out her phone and called her brother.

"Hey Yaxin!"

"Sorry bro, I can't make it tonight!" Yaxin purred coyly.

"Why?"

"Have to stay back in office, OT!"

There was a slight pause over the phone, and ChengXuan chortled, "No problem! Just focus on your work for now, we can go anytime when you're free!"

"Yep alright!" She babbled, "Talk to you soon! Bye!"

"Bye!"

As soon as Yaxin dropped the call, Mu's secretary walked up to her, "Miss Xia, these are the materials from Mu." And she unloaded a thick deck of magazines on her table.

"Thank you so much!"

"You're welcome!"

Yaxin picked up the one on top and had a quick glance. Immediately her eyes widened in amazement.

These are the limited issues of luxurious magazines! They are so rare and recherché that Yaxin had come by only a few times during her time abroad. It was baffling that Mu had a collection of the complete edition here! Yaxin was absolutely mind-blown!

She brought a few to the lounge and leaped on the couch to read like nobody's business.

Yaxin loved genres like this and definitely the magazines she held were best of the best. She

completely lost herself in her own bliss and time fled. Everyone else had left the company and she was all alone in the lounge, still enjoying her sweet time.

When it was late and Mu finally finished his work and readied to leave, he noticed the lights were still on. As he approached, he saw Yaxin was curling comfortably like a cat on the sofa, she was completely absorbed in the magazines and she flipped the pages so tenderly as if it was a delicate artefact.

So she didn't went for her date, good girl!

Mu smirked heartily and his legs brought him forward.

"How was it? Good?"

Yaxin sprung as if she'd seen a ghost. She was so absorbed that she didn't even notice Mu was just sitting closely next to her.

"Are you a ghost? I didn't even hear your footsteps!" Yaxin growled. She was startled for good and pissed at being interrupted.

Yaxin pouted her lips and fumed her nose exaggeratedly, like an angry tomato, but it was just adorable in Mu's eyes.

"It's on you. You were so absorbed that you didn't realize anything at all."

Yaxin ignored him and continued to browse her

magazine.

"Not too shabby right?" Mu asked with a conceited eyebrow raise.

"Yeah!" She nodded excitedly.

"These are all limited edition, not just anyone can put their claws on it!" He continued to prattle.

Yaxin turned her face to Mu and smiled genuinely, "Wow, thanks a million Mr. Mu!"

And it was as if the whole world was smiling together at him...



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Yaxin turned her face to Mu and smiled genuinely, "Wow, thanks a million Mr. Mu!"

And it was as if the whole world was smiling together at him...

"You're welcome!"

"However Mr. Mu, a bone should be shared with the dog. Instead of collecting dust, why not share it with the DoD, then everyone can benefit from it!" Yaxin's smile grew even wider.

Mu felt a strange but didn't bothered.

"You are right. Permission granted!"

Yaxin nodded satisfiedly and continued to indulge in her own amusement.

"Have you eaten?" Mu randomly fired a question.

"No, boss said work. Yaxin work." She snubbed.

Now she is showing me attitude...

"I asked you to work, not starve!" He protested.

Yaxin paused to think for a bit, "Forgot!" and continued to dive back in. She was like a kid that was infatuated with her new toy.

"Let's go. I'll buy you dinner."

Yaxin looked up in bewilderment, and blinked like she just heard the most outrageous joke.

Getting dinner with you? No thanks.

"I still need to work!" Yaxin rejected resolutely.

Mu took a look at his watch, it was almost 9pm.

"I hereby declare that work time had ended!" Mu dictated, "Now you are to go have dinner with me!"

How capricious, the perks of being the boss!

"Since work time has ended I think I'll just head home then," Yaxin grumbled, she didn't have the slightest intention to join Mu for dinner.

Having being rejected over and over and over again aroused an irk within Mu, "Xia Yaxin, how can an employee oppose their boss like this!? Follow me to dinner, and you're not allowed to reject!"

"Are you a fascists?"

"I am!"

"Then let me be more liberal. Option A, dinner at home, your house you cook; Option B, we eat outside!"

"...I choose B."

"....."

Mu gave her an eye-roll and led the way.

Yaxin stared helplessly at his overweening back,

shook her head and tidied her stuff. When she walked out the hallway, Mu was already waiting in the elevator, holding the door for her.

The two stood rigidly and the small compartment was filled with awkwardness.

None of them opened their mouth.

gring gring gring

The sound of the silent grinding belt was deafening loud and Yaxin was cursing at how painfully time flew.

Finally, the door opened and the two strode out. Right before they entered his car, Mu suddenly turned to her and barked, "Sit in the front!"

Yaxin's pulled back her finger that just reached the backseat's handle as if she was zapped.

She lowered her head like a child and moved to the front seat.

"What do you want to eat?" Mu asked.

"I'm just your escort. You decide!" Yaxin replied uninterestedly, staring straight in front.

"....." Mu arched his eyebrows cheekily, and Yaxin immediately knew that he was having mischievous thoughts.

"I believe an honorable person like Mu wouldn't have inappropriate thoughts."

"Who said that I'm an honorable person?" Mu turned his head and snickered.

"I can most definitely tell!"

"Sorry to break it to you, but I'm not honorable at all..." He stared salaciously at her like a salivating lion looking at a lamb, and made a menacing tone.

Yaxin however, was no young gullible girl and she wasn't intimidated at all.

"Hahaha Mr. Mu, you finally admit it! I was just messing with you...HAHAHA!"

"....."



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"Hahaha Mr. Mu, you finally admit it! I was just messing with you...HAHAHA!"

"....."

Watching her giggling like a baby made him laughed uncontrollably as well. He found this woman deeply fascinating and she also had a pure, irresistible charm.

He didn't say anything else, nor did he ask for her opinion, and they just went on their way.

Soon after, they reached an eclectic western restaurant. Mu looked at the time, 9pm, perfect time for a date.

The restaurant had a dimmed atmosphere with sensual candlelight, high beamed ceiling and luxurious décor. Everything about it was beaming with romantic vibes. However for Yaxin, they just looked wickedly expensive. All the better as long as Mu was paying.

The restaurant was fully booked, but when the manager saw Mu, they deferentially arranged a special room for him. It seemed like he was an esteemed VIP here.

"Mr. Mu, this way please!" The manager personally came to led them to seat, it was a secluded table for guests that preferred more privacy.

Mu sat himself down like a king, and Yaxin sat opposite him, trying her best to be transparent.

"Mr. Mu, please make yourself comfortable, we will take your orders shortly." The manager maintained a humbled posture when he left and Yaxin liked his deep soothing voice, it was like a lilting xylophone.

It wasn't difficult to tell that Mu often visits this place. In front of others, he always had this natural pressuring presence and Yaxin observed the people served him timorously.

As soon as a waitress came over, Mu ordered, "Two Chateaubriand steak, medium rare, one Chateau Lafite."

And Yaxin saw her nervously jotting down, as if Mu was ordering human steak.

"....."

A Chateau Lafite for a simple dinner, despicable capitalist! But I won't complain!

The waitress nodded, "Yes sir."

Right before she turned away, Yaxin called out, "Wait a moment please!"

"Yes miss?"

"Medium well for the steaks please!"

"Ok got it!"

Mu looked at her with mixed feelings, "Medium rare is perfection..."

"Too bloody for me, I like it medium well."

Yaxin gave an I-couldn't-care-less reply but Mu noted in consideration and remembered it by heart.

The whole restaurant was filled with lovers, relishing their romantic candlelight date. And Yaxin felt edgy that she was being there with Mu.

Mu however, was pleasantly satisfied; everything was exactly how he wanted!

"How was it? Was your evening productive?"

"Very!"

"So you already have an idea?"

"Nope~"

"....."

Mu realized that this woman can always leave him at loss of words, and he found her amusing. What he didn't realize was that her unique character and mysterious charm had pulled him closer every time they met.

"So you wasted an entire evening..."

"Not at all. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest – Benjamin Franklin!"

Before Mu could say anything, the waitress came with a fancy trolley, "Mr. Mu, your dishes are

ready!"

And she meticulously served and arranged the food and poured their wine.

"Please enjoy your meal!" And she excused herself.

The two of them stopped chatting and indulged themselves in the appetizing food.

The steak was an inch thick, nearly a foot wide. Crosshatched from the grill and lay in seductive succulence. The aroma was driving Yaxin crazy and one bite she was in heaven! The sensation when crushed between upper and lower molar, as the rich flavor, tenderness and juiciness all exploded together, COMPLETE BLISS!

Yaxin enjoyed her dinner very very much. Top notched food and services, it must be painfully expensive, and Yaxin enjoyed even more knowing that. Two years ago she didn't get to rip him off and now, he himself forced her to. Life can be humorous sometime!

Looking at how Yaxin was constantly giggling, Mu too, was made delightful.

"What are you thinking?"

Yaxin quickly hid her giggle and acted indifferent, "Nothing!"

Yaxin gave Mu an impression of always being secretive and mysterious, like a woman with

history. And he couldn't help but being drawn in closer and closer...



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Yaxin gave Mu an impression of always being secretive and mysterious, like a woman with history. And he couldn't help but being drawn in closer and closer...

Little did he knew, if he were to find out her secret...probably he would need an ambulance.

"How is the taste, pretty awesome right?"

"Thousand over dollars for this, how can it be bad?"

"Glad to hear that! Remember, you owe me a favour!"

"Huh?" Yaxin finally raised her eyes and looked confused, "What favour?"

"Haven't you heard of the saying there are no free lunch, in this case dinner?"

"Wasn't I the one to accompanied you!?" She popped her eyes comically. This stingy capitalist was too good at taking advantage!

"But you ate it anyway. That counts!" Mu chattered seriously, determined to flimflam her.

"....."

Can I hurl the meat at him and leave?

She looked down at her inviting steak.

.....

Since I've already eaten, even if I didn't finish it, no chance in hell would Mu let this slide. Might as well enjoy life to the fullest first, worry later...

Yaxin lifted her glass and tasted the wine. It was well-aged in oak, rich and flat. It hit the middle of the tongue almost like butter and had a smooth finish. And she enjoyed more with the combination.

Mu's attentiveness was with her. As he gazed adoringly at her he noticed that he felt unusually comfortable and delightful by her side. It was relaxing, even somewhat nostalgic.

Yaxin eventually felt his stare and looked up. When she saw how he looked at her, her heart fluttered.

"Mr. Mu, you got me eating dinner with you here, swindled a favour from me and if your girlfriend see us again, I reckon she's really gonna chew me alive!"

"Are you afraid?" Mu raised an eyebrow and asked.

"Of course I am!" She responded instantly, "Who wouldn't? It's very annoying to deal with those pesky things!"

Mu harrumphed at her reply. He didn't think she was even marginally afraid of Han Yiqiu. Every time when they clashed, she managed to utterly piss off Han Yiqiu.

He took his time to cut himself a mouthful and mumbled, "I guess you'd have more of that

coming..."

"Huh? What do you mean?"

"Nothing, let's eat!" he chuckled.

Yaxin was puzzled but she decided to leave it at that, she had something much more important on her plate now.

Sometimes the amount you pay really made a difference. A good steak and a substandard one could be so vastly different. Yaxin had an enjoyable time.

When they were done, Mu wanted to send her home. She didn't protest, partly because she basically gave up knowing how domineering he could be, and partly because it was difficult to get a cab at this hour.

It was another quiet journey. But this time, there was no awkwardness anymore.

Mu turned to his right and looked at her, she was daydreaming again, gazing into the distance outside the window.

"What are you thinking?"

"Design."

"Any idea?"

"Still nothing..."

"Still nothing..."

Mu twitched his eyebrow and said, "Remember what Nicco said? Only by immersing a story into art you can create resonance. I think you should incorporate your very own story!"

"Story comes from romance, friendships, families or life. My entire life was pretty monotonous; standard family background, standard friends, I really can't think of any good story materials!"

"Then how about romance?" Mu finally waited until this moment.

Yaxin turned and glare at him like an angry puppy, "Mr. Mu, don't be a jerk, you knew I was divorced!"

"Before that? Didn't you have any other experiences?"

.....

Yaxin was quiet and sank into a deep thoughts.

"Your ex-husband, what kind of man was he?"



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"Your ex-husband, what kind of man was he?"

Yaxin raised her ears like a Doberman.

Is he asking this on purpose? Then if I avoid this question it would be suspicious...

She recollected shortly and jabbered, "Oh him? Horrible!"

"Horrible?" Mu's eyebrows knitted into a frown, "Like how?"

"Crude, indecent, cocky, unreliable, ostentatious..." Yaxin gave a long list of description.

And for Mu, he had long forgotten how he used to behave. Now he would think of himself as a low-profile, refined young man.

If one day he were to find out all these descriptions were pointing to him... Probably he would need to call an ambulance again.

"Wow, it seems that you have quite the bad taste!"

Yaxin gave him an eye-roll but made no comment. She wouldn't want to continue this topic and risk triggering his thought.

"Then where is he now?"

"Dead!"

"...how did he die?"

"Death penalty!"

"....."

Yaxin did not wish to continue on so she averted the topic, "How about your ex-wife?"

Now then the two were having a communicating session similar to that of blind dating.

"Hmm... I can't really remember."

Yaxin's face twitched in irritability.

I feel like giving him a high five now...with my fist... on his face...

There was a momentary silence. Mu's eyebrows drew closer trying to recall, "I only remember that she was unpleasant and unattractive. Had a slouching back and always wear the same thick, baggy dress. It was as if she custom made it from an old curtain, smell like one too!"

Yaxin's face flashed a hint of prideful grin, and back to poker face.

If it weren't for that, how would they end up divorcing?

"It looks like Mr. Mu was a superficial person who judged a book by its cover!" Yaxin smiled sarcastically.

Mu accepted her remark unfeelingly, "Everyone is attracted to beautiful things. Even if I am not a

superficial person, she wouldn't be someone I could love. She lacked zest and sparkle, too lifeless for me!" That was an uncompromising reason.

"More importantly, she was faithful no?"

Mu looked at her smugly and bragged, "Do you think any woman will have second thoughts when they are with me?"

Yaxin's face twitched uncontrollably again.

I feel like I want to give you a high five again...with a chair...on your face...

Man, I think your cocksure-meter is running at full power!

Yaxin tried her best to swallow an outburst of cuss and gave him a gentle nevermind-you-are-special-need-kid smile.

"I wouldn't have thought that you are a woman with story!"

Yaxin grinned winsomely, "Don't you find woman like this more enchanting? Only those who experienced life know what they truly desire!"

Mu hit the brakes and the car slowly came to halt. It was pretty late at night and the street was quiet, they've reached her apartment.

"What a woman! So full of stories but wasn't able to create a design with story!" He ridiculed.

"Can it be you lack passion?" Mu asked. The next moment he briskly closed their distance.

"Maybe, I can help you now..." He breathed softly and it tickled her ear.

Yaxin's heart pounded rapidly, and nervousness sucked the very breath from her mouth.

WHAT IS HE TRYING TO DO!?



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Yaxin's heart pounded rapidly, and nervousness sucked the very breath from her mouth.

WHAT IS HE TRYING TO DO?!

In the shadows their faces were so close to each other and there was a sweet, rosy fragrance of the wine they have been drinking. As his entire body slowly inched closer, Yaxin crept backwards in panic. Nervousness washed over her, raising the fine hairs on the back of her neck and she stared into Mu's eyes unblinkingly.

Neither of them spoke.

Initially Mu intended to just tease her. Now heat rose from his stomach to his chest. Yaxin was making such a vulnerable and inviting face. His gaze slid down slowly to her lips, and he moved in closer...

Yaxin forgot to breathe, her heart was suspended right at her throat.

IS HE CRAZY!?

In the spur of the moment, Yaxin's trembling fingers found their way to the door handle. She unlocked it and sprung out the car.

"Mr. Mu, thanks...thanks for sending me home! I'll get in now!"

Mu was a little unsettled losing his chance and he tried his best to appear unfeeling.

He was tickled looking at Yaxin nervous like a bride.

"Aren't you inviting me in for a cup of tea?"

"That's too bad Mr. Mu. I've never drank tea. There's no tea in my house too, so I guess we'll take a pass. Thank you, drive safe, bye bye!"

"I don't mind coffee too!"

"I just moved in, everything's a mess inside. Not only coffee, I don't even know if there's water supply! Therefore I don't think it's possible to host you Mr. Mu!" Yaxin gave no room for bargain.

Her comical attempt made Mu chuckled, "Okay it's getting late. I'll go now!"

Yaxin interjected impatiently, "Bye, see you, drive safe!"

Looking at how desperate Yaxin wanted to send him off but still pretended to be courteous, he had an impulse to tease her more. But then he would just appear untactful and desperate. Furthermore he earnestly enjoyed this chemistry with her...

He wanted to take it slow and patiently unveil this woman!

Mu said no more and revved his car off. There was a satisfied grin on his face.

Yaxin almost had a heart attack when his car suddenly vroomed and screeched off!

This jerk, he must be doing that on purpose! Can't he just drive normally?!

She waited until his car completely disappeared in sight, then she released the breath she unknowingly held.

She moseyed to her apartment and had a troubled expression. Right before she entered, a high-pitched voice like that of a dentist's drill pierced from behind.

"XIA YAXIN!!!"

She turned back and was stupefied with a painful, burning sensation that gradually pulsed through her face.

Yaxin squinted to focus her vision, her teeth and jaw were numbing with pain. She saw Han Yiqiu stood right in front of her, her face was twisted and she was dark red as if molten lava flowed under her skin.

"ARE YOU CRAZY!?"

Yaxin cried out in shock. She was dumbfounded and did not do anything in return.

Han Yiqiu had come by today to hammer out some terms with her. The goddess of fate must be playing a trick with them when she saw Mu's car. Although the windows were heavily tinted and she

couldn't peek through it, but she saw Yaxin exited after a long while and they continued to chit-chat intimately!

WHAT ELSE COULD THEY'VE DONE INSIDE?! Han Yiqiu was utterly consumed by rage.

"Crazy?! Xia Yaxin! Do you deny that the one who sent you back was Mu Haoyu!?" Han Yiqiu lost it and shrieked.

Yaxin was taken aback, surely it was him and she had no intention to cover up.

"And so what?" Yaxin was unruffled.



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"And so what?" Yaxin was unruffled.

So what?

"He sent you back, and the two of you spent such a long time in the car, doing God-knows what! Do you take me for a fool? Xia Yaxin, it's best you leave Mu Haoyu alone, or else you better watch it!" Han Yiqiu stared menacingly at Yaxin, like a psychotic killer.

I better watch it?

An anger was roused within Yaxin too.

"Han Yiqiu, I don't know what you think you saw, but don't make me your imaginary enemy.

I have zero whatsoever interest in Mu Haoyu. And let me repeat, you liking him doesn't necessarily mean others would too!" Yaxin paused to pat her pulsing cheek very tenderly, "I'll overlook your lawlessness this time, HOWEVER! If you continue to harass me, I won't let it slide so easily again!"

"I see... so you're still not giving up!"

At this point of time, Han Yiqiu was obsessed and she could no longer think straight. Yaxin did not bother to clarify further, she believed she had said enough.

Han Yiqiu glare hatefully at her and hissed, "Xia Yaxin, just you wait! I'll make sure you pay for it!" And she angrily stomped away.

Yaxin waited all the way until she entered her car, drove away, and then she entered her apartment.

What a pathetic woman!

And what a small world! It's just like what Ian Fleming said; once is happenstance, twice is coincidence, three times are definitely enemy action!

Yaxin took a quick rinse and removed her make-up. She sat in front of her dressing mirror and inspected her cheek. There was a faint but noticeable fingerprint. Yaxin's eyebrow furrowed closely, it was still sizzling in pain.

What a savage!

She applied a generous amount of cream on her cheek and went to bed.

.....

Usually after a long productive day, Yaxin would drop sound asleep within minutes after climbing up her bed. That night though, for reasons she couldn't put into words, her shoulders were tight. An uncomfortable pricking worked itself up her stomach to her chest and she flipped repetitively.

Whenever she closed her eyes, her mind would bring her back to the vivid memory in the car with Mu, and she would see his lips slowly closing in... Then Yaxin's eye would jerk open and she could feel her pyjama getting chilly from her cold sweat.

Darn it! I am going crazy!

Yaxin got up in distress and went to the kitchen to pour herself a full glass of wine. She ambled to the balcony and drank with the night, rewinding time and slowly sank in Han Yiqiu's words.

As she finished up, she drew a conclusion and mustered her resolve; she will leave Yun Rui right after the SRD competition.

It was an infuriating experience being dragged into their mess. Moreover, she didn't want Mu to eventually find out about her.

She let out a helpless sigh as she crawled back on bed and closed her eyes...

When she woke up, it was already bright.

Yaxin dressed up and put on some concealer on her cheek, it didn't help much and she could still notice a swollen, maroon mark. Since there was nothing more she could do she just went directly to office.

It was a busy day in office and Yaxin was swamped with work. Extensive meetings and never-ending discussions regarding the Yuan Shi collaboration and SRD competition.

Yaxin was overwhelmed.

By the time Mu entered the meeting room, everyone was already seated and prepared. His eyes searched eagerly for Yaxin and immediately

noticed something unnatural on her face. He suppressed his curiosity and turned to Coco, "Now that Yaxin is overbearing with two pressing assignments, Coco I'll assign you to help her with the Yuan Shi contract!"

"Alright noted!" Coco nodded enthusiastically.

It was a considerate arrangement for Yaxin to share her burden and give her more ample time to prepare for the competition.

The meeting dragged on for another hour.

When the last agenda was done, Mu stood up and announced, "If no one has anything else to add, then we'll wrap this up. Miss Xia, please proceed to my office after this, we still have more to discuss regarding the competition!"

"Noted!"

Yaxin followed behind Mu into his office and the rest were dismissed.



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The rest of them were dismissed.

In Mu's office.

Mu went straight to his personal spot while Yaxin just remained standing in front of his desk, she had no intention to stay alone with him for long.

"Mr. Mu, anything you need?"

Mu did not answer immediately but carefully scanned through her face.

"What happened to your face?" He frowned and asked concernedly.

Yaxin was a straight-forward person and she had no intention to evade his question, "Nothing much, a psycho happened!"

Psycho?

Mu looked at Yaxin closely, he could sense a scorn but couldn't understand why.

"Even YOU gave in?" He exclaimed in disbelief.

And it was all because of who?

If it wasn't Mu that caused all the mess, why would Han Yiqiu confront her like a crazy woman?

"If not? If a bog bites you do you bite it back?" She retorted.

Zzz...This woman can always produce a witty

comeback...

Mu narrowed his eyes and said, "Never back down, that is the iron rule!"

"I'll remember that, and I'll make sure I won't go easy next time!"

Mu felt a strange aggressiveness from her. But before he could dig further, Yaxin interjected, "Mr. Mu, what exactly do you need from me?"

Mu did not cling to the topic and went back to business, "The date for SRD has been finalized!"

"When?"

"This Saturday!"

"Does that mean... Only five days left!" Yaxin gasped.

"Correct, that means you would need to come up with the design in five days."

Yaxin nodded consequentially, "Understood!"

"Don't stress yourself, just do your best!" Mu encouraged earnestly, he didn't want to give her any additional pressure.

Whoa, since when this cold-blooded man can be so compassionate! Maybe it's the day of the month!

And Yaxin chuckled at her own thought, "Alright I

will!"

"If you encounter any plateau, you can always seek my help!"

Seek his help?

Was he adept in designing too?

Looking at how Yaxin was perplexed, Mu snickered cheekily, "I can give you unlimited motivation and inspiration..."

The episode in the car instantly flashed vividly in her mind and her heart raced.

"Mr. Mu, if there's nothing else then I'll go work now!" And Yaxin clumsily ran out his office, not waiting for any response.

Mu laughed uncontrollably, he was always very entertained to see that adorable woman and make her skittish. And not even he himself was aware that it had been a long while since he laughed so heartily...

Mu picked up his line and called his secretary, "Help me to get an arnica cream from the pharmacy, and send it to my office."

"Noted sir."

He dropped the call and continued to reminiscence and grinned from time to time. After a while he suddenly jolted up and quickly went back to work...

Yaxin sat on her desk and in front of her lay a piece of blank paper. Nicco's words resounded in her mind; only a design with story can bring resonance...

She yanked on her hair in vex, she only had experiences, no worth-mentioning stories. And the only irregular in her life would be the intrusion of a man named Mu Haoyu.

But the two did not have much of an acquaintance, there's nothing to pen about.

For the first time, she was hit with a dry spell.

When office hour ended, Yaxin still sat stubbornly in her seat, the piece of paper was still blank.

"Yaxin, still not leaving?"

"Almost, you guys go ahead first!"

"Ok, you are so hardworking! See you tomorrow!"

"Ok!"

And she was alone in the office again.

She turned on her computer in humdrum and checked out some vintage artistry for inspiration.

Whilst she was scrolling wearisomely, Mu came out of his office and walked towards her, with a bruise cream on his hand.

"Still working on it?"

Yaxin raised her head and looked at him, "Yeah."

"What are you looking for here?"

"A muse!"

Mu eyebrows raised slowly, "No spark at all?"

Yaxin just shook her head in low spirit, and continue to browse mechanically on the computer screen.

An idea glinted on Mu's mind and he let out a cheeky grin...

"Stop wasting your time. Come, follow me!"

"Oh yes definitely, you're right, ok..."

.....

Seeing as how Yaxin completely paid no heed to him, he grabbed her hand and pulled her up.

"What...What are you doing!?" It surprised her.

"Come with me!"

And he grabbed her hands firmly and led the way, paying no heed to her protests.

After he opened the car door, her hand was released. Yaxin stroke her hand dissatisfiedly and complained, "Where are we going?"

"To find spark!"

Spark?

Then why do you have that cheeky look on your face when you say that?

"It's ok, I can do it myself!" She protested and wanted to get out.

Suddenly, Mu drew his face close and barked at her, "Sit!"

And she immediately stopped struggling and moved her hips in.

Darn it! Am I a puppy or what!

He said sit and she sat obediently...

Mu turned his head towards her and jeered, "Hey, don't think too much!"

"Wh...What?!"

"Don't act stupid."

"....."

"I've told you before, not only are you carrying your own dreams and future, but the reputation of Yun Rui also lay heavily on your shoulder. That's why

we need to take things more seriously!" Mu enunciated weightily.

Take things seriously? How can I do that when I'm with a joke like you?

Yaxin kept her remark to herself. Almost said it for the sake of not wasting a good come-back but she knew Mu would just get back at her.

She nodded dutifully as expected of a good employee.

Mu started the engine and suddenly recalled something, he reached to his pocket, drew out a tube of cream and shoved it to her.

Yaxin looked down, it was an arnica cream for bruise, sealed.

"This is..."

"Xia Yaxin, I know some artists have weird habits. But coming to office in such stylish fashion...a fingerprint on your face isn't something very appropriate in Yun Rui. So even if you don't mind your own name, watch out for Yun Rui's reputation ok?"

.....

Yaxin was rendered speechless. Suddenly her eyes widened and she turned to him, "So, YOU bought this for me?"

"Nope, Batman!"

Yaxin struggled to hold her laughter and her face turned funny red like a choked man, she waved the tube of cream in her hands and bubbled, "Mr. Mu, this is part of employee benefit right?"

Mu's eyebrow knitted in annoyance, "If not?!"

"Just asking~ Best not cause any further misunderstanding with your girlfriend, otherwise I'd have a matching make-up tomorrow!"

Mu's eyes widened and he almost yanked his head towards Yaxin, "She did it that to you?!"

"Of course!"

"Why?"

"Mr. Mu, don't you think that's a stupid question?"

"...Because of me?"

"Who could've guessed that, Sherlock!"

"...And you just let her do that?" Mu rested back on his chair and looked at Yaxin, puzzled.

"Are you suggesting I should exchange blows with her?"

"Isn't that your personality?"

The two felt that chit-chatting with each other was a little, tiny bit...entertaining, just like battleship! She grinned widely showing her teeth and said,

"Alright, next time I'll make sure she loses a tooth!"

Looking at her crafty expression, Mu had a feeling that Han Yiqiu's going to get it good next time.

He said no more and drove off.

Yaxin too, kept her lips sealed. Since even Mu said so, she would most definitely show her some colours should there be a next time!

Deep down, Yaxin felt a pity for Han Yiqiu. She concluded that being Mu's lover would be a depressing experience. If Han Yiqiu had heard what he said, she would be devastated! What a heartless man!

Seeing as how Yaxin was lost in thought again, Mu alerted her, "What are you thinking again!"

Yaxin was a little taken aback and she looked back at Mu with shocking eyes.

Can he read minds?

Yaxin couldn't help but wondered, every time when she thought badly behind his back he would ask her like this!

She pretended to laughed it off meekly, "Nothing~"

"Oh right, where are we going?"

Mu squinted his eyes sceptically at her, then curled up his lips and mumbled mysteriously, "Soon you will know."

Since Mu was being secretive, Yaxin also didn't bother to ask further, she was always good in putting out curiosity.

Approximately 40 minutes later, the car stopped by the roadside.

"This is it?" Yaxin asked.

Mu nodded and slid down their windows.

It was a rural and poverty-stricken place. However, there seemed to be no pollution and minimal carbon footprints.

Yaxin drew a greedy breath, the air was so pleasant and refreshing, "Mm...?"

"Inspirations come from stories and stories come from realities; we should tread closer to life if we want to spark some inspiration!" He explained.

Yaxin was impressed that he could come up with a quote like this and even more impressed that he even knew a place like this.

She fell in love with the place at first sight and they got out the car.

They were at a small, busy street. There were shops and street vendors stuffing the sides and the crowd were walking in herd like sheep. The setting sun was painting a gold hue on this peaceful and lively street.

Mu smiled gently at Yaxin, "Do you want to go in?"

"Of course!"

And they walked side by side closely into the hustle and bustle.

One wouldn't think that they were searching for an inspiration, but more of going out on a date!

Yaxin was genuinely joyous. The sight of the two attracted attentions, anyone could tell that they were well heeled and came from another side of the world.

"I'm surprised you knew a place like this!"

Mu harrumphed light heartedly, "Well, not everyone was born in a silver spoon..."



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Mu harrumphed light heartedly, "Well, not everyone was born in a silver spoon..."

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"Huh?" Yaxin look perplexedly at him.

"It's nothing, let's go, I'll bring you further up!"

Since Mu had no intention to talk, Yaxin didn't pry because she respected his privacy.

Although the whole place seemed a little run down, but strangely enough everyone looked contented and blissful. They were at peace with what they have and they were living in such cheerful atmosphere.

Sometimes life is really, really simple, but we insist to make it complicated. Too much unhealthy comparisons, politics and covet had complicated our lives. To be content in one's life is to know what to overlook!

Yaxin was influenced by the peaceful tranquillity and she too, was radiating joy from inside out. She grew up in A City but had never heard of this place.

She was thankful to Mu.

As they rambled around, Mu was peeking at her from time to time.

Her sparkling eyes, joyous smiles and excited hops... everything of hers was delighting.

If it were somebody else, they must be grumbling

at the mucky place, right?

But not her, every emotion of hers was unadulterated and genuine. Mu thought to himself and smiled.

"Not too bad right?" He asked.

"Yeah!"

"Sometimes less is more. And it is the same with designing."

Yaxin nodded like a little girl. Simplicity can be harder than complex, especially for them who lived in the city, constantly being bombarded by convoluting information. Even their minds would become entangled.

So that was quite the word of wisdom, less is more.

Yaxin suddenly stopped and stared at Mu, "Mr. Mu, what's gotten into you today?"

"What?"

"Today you speak like a philosopher, your words were quite sensible!"

"Because I am wise and knowledgeable." Mu flared his nose with pride.

"....."

Sometimes it was difficult to even give

compliments...

Can you explain to me once and for all why do you admire yourself so much?

Yaxin could barely swallow her comment and just gave the narcissist an eye-roll.

Out of the blue, Yaxin quickened her steps to an accessories stall. Her eyes twinkled as she saw a carmine coral bracelet.

She put it on and it contrasted beautifully on her fair wrist.

"Nice?" She turned her head back to ask Mu.

"Yeah, not bad!"

The seller was a lively middle-aged lady, she cheerfully praised, "Young lady, it look cute on you! Although these things are not pricey goods, but they were all locally handmade!"

Yaxin smiled manneredly back at her, "Hi aunty, may I know how much is it?"

"Fifteen dollars!"

"Okay!"

The bracelet was decent at best but Yaxin didn't mind at all, she withdrew the cash notes and handed them over with both hands.

"Thanks!"

"Welcome!"

And she turned away from the stall to Mu happily,
"Let's go!"

"Do you like it?" Mu suddenly asked.

"Looks good on me, no?"



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"Looks good on me, no?"

"Not worth the price." Mu commented. Although it's fairly cheap, but anyone could easily tell the bracelet was decent at best, definitely not worth spending on.

"Well, it depends on how you see it. If you like it, then it's worth every penny; otherwise, it's worthless!" Yaxin laughed merrily and lifted the bracelet, "Fifteen bucks isn't that much for me, but for her it could mean bread and butter. I am happy too, giving is receiving!"

Yaxin always looked at the brighter side and that put a hearty smile on Mu's face.

As they continued to explore, they came across a group of romping children. They were so full of spirit and energetic and it brought joy to Yaxin.

As Yaxin looked further to the side, she noticed an old man sitting all alone. He had a short hair with salt and pepper tint and Yaxin reckoned he must be in his seventies because his face was time chiselled. He looked a bit spiritless, as if life had robbed him of something precious.

Yaxin noticed that his hands were clenched and he was holding onto something dear.

"What are you looking at?" Mu nudged her.

Yaxin gestured her face towards the reclusive old man, and Mu followed her gaze and noticed him too. Once Mu saw him, his eyebrows furrowed and

he stepped forward.

"Mr. Lee!" He called out louder than usual.

Yaxin was clueless, you knew him?

The man raised his head, and once he saw Mu, his face wrinkled a big wide smile, "Tian? Tian, You are back!" The man had a surprising voice, a gravel-and-gravy mix of whiskey roughness and educated brogue.

"Yeah, how have you been?!"

"I'm well, very well!" The man he called Mr. Lee seemed overjoyed talking to Mu.

Yaxin signalled Mu and lip-spoke to him, "You know him?"

Mr. Lee then took notice of her and shifted his attentiveness on her. In the same time, Mu put his arm around Yaxin's shoulder and spoke gleefully, "This is my girlfriend!"

Girlfriend?

Yaxin looked at Mu in baffle, she knew he was just acting up but didn't understand why would he tell such a meaningless lie.

"WOW, she's so pretty, as expected of my boy! Only Tian could get himself such a fine girl!" Mr. Lee yammered excitedly.

"Actually..."

Before Yaxin could continue, Mu tightened his arm and cuddled her in. He whispered softly to her ear, "Give the man something to look forward to, please..."

Although she didn't know what Mu was referring to, but she can feel his heavy-heartedness. So she turned to a smiling face and played along.

For the rest of the evening, they were spending time together with Mr. Lee.

Yaxin noticed that their relationship was rather odd, Mu referred to him respectfully as Mr. Lee, but the old man spoke to him so intimately...as if he was talking to his son.

Yaxin was quizzed with millions of questions. Somewhere along the line she even thought that Mu was pretending for the sake of his private agenda. Thankfully, Mr. Lee was an interesting old man and he was very hospitable, the two of them had a relaxing evening.

The sky turned rich amber and then gradually mauve. As the beautiful sunset ended its glory, Mu and Yaxin decided to take their leave. Mr. Lee followed them all the way and sent them right into the car, then he walked back companionlessly.

Yaxin looked at him ambivalently through the window. His lonely figure amongst the crowded street painted a picture of melancholy in her heart.

Yaxin looked at him ambivalently through the window. His lonely figure amongst the crowded street painted a picture of melancholy in her heart.

Mu too, was staring at his back through the rear window, and his eyes were flickering with mixed emotions.

"Is he alone?"

Mu nodded.

"Seems like you visit frequently."

"Just once in a while," Mu paused momentarily and continued, "When I was little, Mr. Lee used to be our butler. After his son passed away, he seemed to have memory disorders. We wanted to take care of him but he insisted to come back here..."

Learning his past was like a heavy rock sunk into Yaxin's heart.

"So, he..."

"Dementia, and he thinks I'm his son." Mu clarified.

Yaxin nodded sombrely. She felt downcast thinking about his heart-rending past, and how happy he was when he was spending time with Mu, or in this case, his son.

Today she got to know a different side of Mu.

"Do you always come here?" Yaxin suddenly

turned to him and probed.

"Few times in a year."

His answer was a shocker. Throughout their marriage Yaxin had never knew he did that. Maybe, she just didn't know him well enough.

Yaxin was submerged in her own thoughts. Suddenly she recalled that Mr. Lee had been very careful with an object in his hand.

"What was that he was holding so dearly?" She asked.

"It was a pendant," Mu replied slowly, and he was overcome in nostalgia, "From a necklace and it was the last thing he had left from his son!"

Yaxin's gasped silently. They came to look for a spark, a story. And this had been burdening to her heart.

After that, Yaxin didn't speak again during the car ride. She was still immersing in Mr. Lee's life, his story and she didn't even realize that they had reached the city centre.

Mu kept his lips sealed too. He could tell that she needed some time to ponder and digest.

Not long after, his phone rang and broke the silence. Mu switched to hands free.

"Hello."

"Mr. Mu, we got the information you requested!"

"You got it!? Who is the organiser?"

"Yes. Alexis Hera from Shaxmilan Corporation!"

Mu nodded avidly, "Alright noted, good job!" And he dropped the call.

Yaxin overheard his phone call and got wary, "Is this the organiser for SRD Competition?"

"Yeah!"

"Why do you need to investigate that? Are you thinking of..." She stared at him distrustfully.

"The first rule of war and business is to know your enemy."

"Fallacy!"

"Do you think I'm the only one digging up on them? I guarantee that every single participant has been trying every means possible to find out more on the organizer. Furthermore, it's not like I did anything...yet!" Mu retorted.


He wasn't wrong, it was likely that others will try alternatives, or sidesteps to win the competition. But not her, Xia Yaxin!

She stared ardently at Mu and vowed, "Mr. Mu, have faith in me. I will definitely try my best! If you obstinately decide to use other underhanded method, then ask someone else to represent you!"

Yaxin was dogged with her own principalities.

What's the point of playing if winning with one's own strength isn't the goal?

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"If you obstinately decide to use other underhanded method, then ask someone else to represent you!" Yaxin was dogged with her own principalities.

What's the point of playing if winning with one's own strength isn't the goal?

"Haha alright, you seem confident!" Mu chuckled at her stubbornness.

"I wish to have a fair fight. If too many complications were involved, then it would diminish the merits of the competition!" Yaxin's eyes glistened in conviction.

"Alright, then I shall look forward to your good work!"

"Thanks Mr. Mu!"

"Ok, where shall we eat?" Mu changed to the next important subject.

.....

"No need, I wanna go back now." Yaxin intuitively put her palm on her cheek, recalling the previous experience that ended up with a slap.

You gotta learn from your mistakes!

"But you haven't eaten anything yet!"

"I ate some when we were at Mr. Lee's place, still not hungry, you go on. And now I have some

sparks and idea, I want to start working on it ASAP!"

Mu turned to look at her dubiously, squinting his eyes trying to tell if she was lying.

Finally, he gave in and drove her home.

Yaxin maintained her butt close to the door, once the car stopped, she immediately sprung out the car and giggled, "See you Mr. Mu, drive safe! Bye!" and shut his door without waiting for his response.

Mu was tickled by her comical act. Didn't she know that the more you run away from a dog, the more you're inviting it to chase? His keen on her just got stronger and stronger...

Mu however wasn't impatient as he found great delight in the process.

He nodded and revved his car off.

Yaxin breathed a sigh a relief and went in her apartment. She had mixed feelings that Mu actually left so easily...

Yaxin took a quick shower and changed to her comfort wear. Then she sat on the floor and began to work. Her mind was preoccupied by her eventful evening; Mu's words, Mr. Lee...

Suddenly, a name lit up in her mind – Alexis Hera.

She flipped on her laptop and typed in the name in

the search bar, many results came in.

Yaxin clicked and enlarged a photo of Alexis, she was blonde and intelligent in expression. Her make-up was of intense appreciation and her taste in dress was refined. She was sensational-looking and possessed a subtle steely core.

Yaxin continued to read more about her and she stumbled upon a detail during her younger days, a ground-breaking one!

She picked up her phone immediately and called Mu.

"Hello?"

"Mr. Mu!"

Mu could hear the excitement through the phone and teased her, "Miss me already?"

Yaxin rolled-eye and ignored him, "Did Alexis Hera lost hers son from an accident?"

Mu was stunned momentarily, his thoughts were processing like lightning, "Yes, that seems to be the case..."

"Ok!"

And the call was dropped.

Mu stared at his phone and sank into deep thoughts. After sometime, his knitted eyebrows released and a smile curved on his face.

Yaxin finished the design overnight. She looked over and over again at it and smiled contentedly. Even if this wasn't a prize-winning work, it sure was a meaningful and telling work!

She carefully inserted her drawing inside a file, and took a cold shower to refresh herself. She had been up the entire night and it was almost work time.

When Yaxin reached office, she bumped into Mu in the elevator.

When he saw her bloodshot eyes, his eyebrows furrowed slightly, "Why? Up all night?"

"Yeah!" Yaxin nodded, "How can you even know that?!"

"Just look at your own eyes." He pointed.

Yaxin kept quiet. She was on battery-saving mode.

"How was the design?" As soon as Mu raised his question, the elevator dinged and the door opened. Yaxin walked out right away, "Rest assured Mr. Mu. I will definitely submit it on time!" She left him a confident smile and turned her way towards DoD.

Mu stood in the compartment which has her pleasant lingering scent. As he saw how confident and lively she was, it made him smile too.

Back to Yaxin, she was having brain fog. She hardly stayed up late, and what more, cranking up

her brain all night for work. As her wooziness increased, she decided to take a stroll downstairs, maybe get herself an energising snack.

When she walked out the hallway, another person crossed path with her. That person's footsteps halted and wanted turn back to check on her. However as Mu needed his documents urgently, she could only hurried off to his office.

"Young master, your files!" Mrs. Lee the housekeeper said.

Mu raised his head and noticed the middle aged woman, he rose from his seat immediately and helped her with the files, "Aunty, you should've let the chauffeur run the errand, why deliver it yourself?"

"Haha that's alright, what if they were careless and left anything behind?"

Mu smiled warmly, "Let me get someone to send you home!"

Mrs. Lee nodded and readied to wait at the lounge. Right before she stepped out, she suddenly asked, "By the way young master, do you still have contact with the young lady?"

Mu knew who was she referring to.

"Not at all. Anything the matter?"

Mrs. Lee was confused. As she looked at Mu's unknowing expression, she thought that she

must've mistaken.

"It's nothing, I'll make a move first!" Mrs Lee shook her head and smiled puzzledly.

"Ok!"

Mu wanted to walk her out, but his private line rang.

Mrs. Lee gestured him to continue with work and left herself. When she was at the hallway, she saw a familiar person coming in from distance. She quickened her steps and hastily approached her.

"Young lady?" She called out hesitantly.

Young lady...?

Yaxin moved her head towards the familiar voice. The moment she realized who was standing before her, she was stunned.

"Mrs. Lee?!"

She was surprised to see her there.

"It's really you, young lady!" Mrs. Lee was overjoyed and her wrinkled eyes were twinkling with excitement.

The last time they met was two years ago. She could still vividly remember the vibrant, pretty girl that left their house. Two years later, she seemed to have blossomed even finely. Therefore Mrs. Lee was uncertain when she first saw her.

Yaxin was pleasantly surprised as well. She never forgot this kind-hearted woman and how she meticulously took great care of her.

"Mrs. Lee, I am no longer a part of the the Mu's. Just call me Yaxin will do!"

Mrs. Lee nodded in comprehension, the next moment she was perplexed, "Ok! But I thought you left? Why are you here?"

"Umm..." Yaxin couldn't find words to explain, "It's a long, long story. Let me explain to you some other time. And now, can I ask for a favour please..."

Mrs. Lee laughed jovially, "Of course! What is it?"

Yaxin moved nearer and whispered, "Mu Haoyu didn't recognize me, can you help to keep this secret?"

Mrs. Lee's eyes widened slowly in bewilderment, and for a moment she didn't know what to say.

However as she looked at Yaxin attentively, the young lady did undergo a tremendous change. It wasn't impossible for him to overlook it.

"But..."

"Please aunty... If he finds out then I would definitely have a hard time!" Yaxin held her arm and purred coyly.

Mrs. Lee opened her mouth but no words came out. She knew how it had been for the young lady

for the past years. After careful consideration, she gave her words, "Alright I promise. But you must know that there are no secrets that time does not reveal!"

"I know I know, I will think about it. Thanks aunty!"

And the two looked at each other and laughed heartily.

"What are you guys talking about?" All of a sudden, a voice flat and hard as a spade came from behind...



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"What are you two talking about?" All of a sudden, a voice flat and hard as a spade came from behind...

That overfamiliar voice sent a shiver down Yaxin's spine.

They turned back to look and saw Mu approaching.

Every step he took was echoing in Yaxin's ears, blocking all other sound. She could feel her fine hair rising on her neck, like a frightened cat.

They didn't know how long had he been there, or how much he heard! Anxiousness crept from the bottom of her stomach and she could feel her legs turning jelly. If he had heard their conversation then hell would break loose!

Mu stared intently at them and repeated his question, "What are you two talking about?"

Yaxin gulped and steadied her panic. She put on her best attempted smile and replied, "Oh it's nothing. I just got back from outside and we bumped into each other. This aunty was inquiring the restroom's whereabouts!" She fabricated a lie and surrendered everything to fate.

"Are you sure?"

Mu's eyebrows gathered faintly and gave her a penetrating stare.

Yaxin nodded mechanically. Now her adrenaline

was pumping in like crazy and her sleepiness completely disappeared.

Mu turned to Mrs. Lee and asked, "Aunty, aren't you familiar with the office?"

He knew too well that his housemaid had been there several times, it wasn't possible for her to not know where the washroom was.

Mrs. Lee was like a cat on hot bricks and a little tongue tied to lie to Mu. However, since she promised Yaxin, she could only try, "Aah, it has been a long time, I forgot about it!"

Mu threw an inexpressive nod, it was impossible to tell what he was thinking.

But Yaxin would guess optimistically, if he heard any of their conversation, would he had acted so chilled?

"Do you know each other that well?" His fixed his gaze at the arm Yaxin was holding.

Darn it, so observant!

Yaxin acted natural and withdrew her hand, "Oh I was trying to assist her. Since you're here then I should excuse myself. See you!" Yaxin bowed her head slightly to Mrs. Lee and walked back to her office.

As Yaxin left, Mrs. Lee too, turned to Mu and said, "Young master, if there's nothing else then I shall go home first." She seemed to be in a better mood

than when she came in.

"Ok, the chauffeur is waiting in at the front door."

"Thanks!"

Mu waited until the elevator's door closed, and then turned to look at the direction Yaxin went and his eyebrows slowly came together...

Working in Yun Rui was like walking on a tightrope, any mistake and Yaxin felt like she could fall into a bottomless pit. It was a close call this time. And Mu could still find out about them anytime.

Good news was, Yaxin believed that he didn't overhear their conversation, otherwise he wouldn't have let her off so easily!

She breathed a heavy sigh of relief. Thanks to the thrilling episode, her drowsiness was completely gone and she was energized to work again!

Well, shit hits the fan so fertilizer can rain!

Yaxin went to the pantry and brewed herself a double espresso. She lifted her cup to savor the steaming aroma, but as the mist faded, Mu appeared before her eyes!

Yaxin's heart was lifted to the throat again.

"Mr. Mu!" She greeted indifferently.

Mu noticed her cup of coffee and arched an eyebrow, "Tired?"

"I'm fine!"

"If you're tired then just go home and get some rest."

Yaxin was a little surprised at his gentleness, "It's fine, I can still manage!"

"Alright then," Mu nodded clinically and left for his office.

As soon as he left, Yaxin relaxed her nerves and went back to her department.

Thanks to the shock, Yaxin was productive all the way until noon. She added some finishing touch to her design and moved on to the Yuan Shi case with Coco. She found that Coco was a competent partner and they could work very efficiently and effectively together.

When it was lunch time, Han Yiqiu appeared by the doorsteps. And that triggered a tide of gossiping. Of course, everyone knew the sole reason for her visit must be Mu, the two probably were going to lunch together.

As Han Yiqiu sauntered past DoD, her gaze immediately picked up her adversary. She glared

fiercely at Yaxin, playing their encounter that night in her mind.

Yaxin noticed her too and was speechless at her ridiculousness. She avoided eye-contact and completely ignored her in hope that she will pass by like a velociraptor in Jurassic Park.

Mu looked at the time and he was about to find Yaxin for lunch. Before he could put his documents aside, his door was knocked and Han Yiqiu entered.

Mu instinctively lowered his eyebrows and asked, "How come you're here?"

Han Yiqiu pouted her lips and quickly nipped to his side, "Haoyu, have you forgotten about me? It's been a few days and you didn't even look for me!"

And Mu realised it had been a while since he last called her.

"I was completely preoccupied, busy with the competition lately." He explained monotonously.

"Is it?" Han Yiqiu rubbed coquettishly against him, "And I thought you had a change of heart!"

Mu furrowed his eyebrows and stare at her, "Are you grumbling at me now?"

Han Yiqiu was afraid to stir his anger. She hurriedly purred, "I was just too afraid to lose you. Can we have lunch together?" She wrapped her arms around his neck dallyingly.

Though unwilling, Mu didn't have much choice.

"Ok!"

"Alright, I have booked a place!" Han Yiqiu hoorayed.

Mu got up and strode straight to the door, while Han Yiqiu hopped around to get his coat and followed closely.

When they walked past DoD, Han Yiqiu flung herself on Mu and grabbed on his arm. Yaxin was standing nearby waiting for Coco to get lunch and she saw them.

She knew Han Yiqiu was trying to mark her turf but they just looked comical like a shark with remora. Yaxin couldn't be less bothered at her.

In the meantime, Han Yiqiu purposely closed in to her and called out, "Miss Xia!"

And Yaxin's attempt to ignore her was in vain. She exaggerated a pretentious smile and responded, "Miss Han!"

"Hey, do you want to join us for lunch?" Han Yiqiu asked flauntingly.

"Sorry I have plans. Furthermore, that will just ruin my appetite." And without giving her any further attention, she turned to Coco and smiled, "Let's go!"

And the Yaxin left without giving a cat's arse.

Colours faded from Han Yiqiu's face...



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Yaxin's comeback was gagging, and Mu's face turned unnatural trying not to laugh.

"Hmph!" Han Yiqiu harrumphed and fastened her arms, "Let's go!"

And Mu went along silently.

On the other hand, Coco was a little unsettled.

She saw how blatant Yaxin was when she talked back to Han Yiqiu and that got Coco pretty worked up. She didn't think there's anyone else in DoD that dared to talk to Han Yiqiu like that.

"Yaxin, are you close with Han Yiqiu?"

"Not at all!"

"Then? Aren't you afraid to have offended her just now?" Coco asked worriedly.

Everyone knew that she was the beloved princess of Hans' Group and also Mu's lover. In the future, she might even be Mrs. Mu!

"Why should I be afraid? Can't I even reject a lunch offer?"

Furthermore, Han Yiqiu wasn't really inviting her, she was just being ostentatious. Why should she put up with her over and over again?

"But she is Mr. Mu's girlfriend... Aren't you worried that she might spur him against you?"

Yaxin scoffed, "Girlfriend? Don't you know Mr. Mu even divorced his wife? I don't think their relationship can last longer than my battery life!"

Coco was stunned with her comeback, and broke into an uncontrollable giggle.

It had been awhile since they knew each other and Coco found out that Yaxin was always very clever and witty with her responses.

"Yaxin, I gotta hand it to you!"

"I'm not insulting, just relating!" Yaxin humbly did a courtsy. She had to admit that it felt good saying that to Han Yiqiu, like popping bubble wraps.

Even more so when she did it in front of Mu!

At the very least, she didn't want to give an impression that she was docile like a herbivore, and let Han Yiqiu feel like she could bully her around just anytime. Yaxin merely did not want to bother herself with her.

Coco and Yaxin picked their dishes and sat side by side in the cafeteria.

"Actually, it felt pretty good to see someone stood up to her!"

"Huh?"

"Quite a lot of us from DoD are unhappy with her, but nobody dared to say a thing!"

Yaxin scooped herself a mouthful and gestured she was all ears.

"Previously, there was a female colleague that offended her and she literally chewed her out. I remember she hid in the toilet and cried for the entire afternoon, how brutal!" Coco sizzled a breath and continued, "Therefore, if you strip her off her halo effect; being the young lady of Hans' Group and Mu's girlfriend, she's a good for nothing that no one likes!"

Yaxin grinned and added on, "Probably she should eat her make up so she can be pretty on the inside too!"

"Hahaha! Agree!"

And the two burst into uncontrollable laughter.

As they were enjoying their lunch, Coco suddenly had a hunch and asked, "Yaxin, why do I feel that Han Yiqiu was always deliberately messing with you?"

Ever since Yaxin joined the company, Coco noticed that Han Yiqiu hardly paid attention to other people anymore. And every time she saw Yaxin it was like bull seeing red.

Most people from DoD noticed that, but they practiced Robert Mankoff – If you have any problems, don't hesitate to shut up!

After experiencing it first hand, Coco just couldn't suppress the urge and blurted the question.

Yaxin chewed her food thoroughly and also combed her thoughts thoroughly. As she swallowed, she concluded in a straight face, "I think it's definitely because I am prettier!"

HAHAHA!

Coco burst into a giggle. Not only was she idolizing Yaxin's witty comebacks, now she was entertained by her jovial character.

Although that was undisputable, but the way Yaxin presented it was just comical.

Yaxin still maintained a comic and pestered, "Isn't it Isn't it?"

Coco nodded enthusiastically while shaking in laughter.

"Yaxin, I like you more and more now... HAHA!"

"Me too, because I am prettier than her~"

"Yeah!" Coco enjoyed her self-deprecating humour. It showed that she was confident and humble.

This interaction had drawn the two closer.

They spent the entire lunch time gossiping and went back to office together.

On the other side, Mu was having an opulent Western with Han Yiqiu.

Mu was quiet as mouse the entire time. Han Yiqiu sat opposite him and she felt that his mind was wandering off. They were so close yet so far.

"Haoyu, what are you thinking?"

"Nothing," He answered mechanically, and for the first time today he looked up at her and initiated a conversation, "How come you suddenly thought about having lunch together?"

"It's because I've missed you soooo much! We always have lunch together few times a week no?"

Mu's eyebrow twitched. For the first time he felt spending time with Han Yiqiu was stodgy, even a little unbearably boring when she got all cheesy and lovey-dovey. Another person's face, smile was constantly blinking in his mind...

What is she eating?

What is she doing?

They had western together last time too. Although they hardly spoke, but it was stimulating and delightful! He felt like he just couldn't get enough of it...

Looking as how Mu's mind drifted away again

during a conversation, Han Yiqiu felt even worrisome.

"Haoyu!" She put down her cutleries and held both his hands.

"Do you not love me anymore?" She howled softly like a sad puppy and her eyes were misty.

Mu redirected his attentiveness to her and comforted gently, "How can that be? Don't overthink."

"But why do I feel that your heart and your mind are not with me?!" She spoke breathily, she had been experiencing this insecurity ever since Yaxin appeared and now it just got worse.

"Sorry to have neglected you, I was just too swamped with work. Don't think too much!"

Han Yiqiu fluttered her eyes piteously, "Really?"

Mu nodded.

As long as Mu affirmed her, then she will trust in him. In her opinion, a lie does not bother her, it just proved that the man still have feelings for her; If the man didn't even bother to lie, then it just meant the relationship had come to an end.

"Alright, let's eat. Don't overthink!" Mu withdrew his hands and patted on hers.

"Ok!" Han Yiqiu smiled back, and they continued with lunch.

After some time.

"By the way Haoyu, had my dad briefed you about the collaboration between Hans group and Yunrui?"

"Yeah." He replied unenthusiastically.

"So what's your thought on that?"

Mu raised his head and his eyes flickered with alertness.

So this is the main dish today!



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"So what's your thought on that?"

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So this is the main dish today!

Mu carefreely analysed, "Unless the government sign off, I don't see any opportunity for further development. I think it's best we wait for now!"

"Isn't it a piece of cake for you to get them to sign?"

"Nobody can be hundred percent sure of how fiscal policies turn out. If there's any divergence, we would suffer a huge blow. So we should wait patiently for now!" Mu's tone reflected his uncompromising decision.

And since he had already made up his mind, Han Yiqiu knew she had to drop the topic. "Alright, you and daddy decide, I'm not interfering. I believe the two of you can make the best judgement!"

"Ok!" Mu concurred, lukewarm the entire time.

Han Yiqiu looked at him with mixed feelings. All of a sudden, she recalled something important, "Oh right, daddy said it's been a while since you come

over for dinner. He asks when are you free to come over?"

Mu's eyebrows furrowed closely. After a long pause, he changed into a serious demeanour, "Alright got it, I will find some time after the competition!"

Although he didn't reject her, but it's up to him on how he carries it out.

His words reassured Han Yiqiu.

"Ok, I'll let him know!" A genuine smile blossomed on her face. She had heard what she wanted this lunch.

And the lunch continued in silence.

When Mu sent Han Yiqiu back to her place, she clung herself on Mu and hugged him.

"Haoyu, are you free tonight...?" She whispered invitingly.

Mu understood what she had in mind, but he was completely not in the mood.

"No, I still have two appointments tonight!"

Han Yiqiu pouted her lips like a dissatisfied kitten and pressed her curvaceous body on him, "It's been a while since we spend time together!"

Mu slid his fingers up under her short dress and groped her backside, then breathed on her ears,

"Needing it badly?"

Han Yiqiu's face turn red like an inviting cherry, she wiggled in his arms and conceded, "Do you want to come in?"

Most incomprehensively, at that moment Yaxin's face flashed on his mind!

Would that woman ever behave like this?! Ha, I don't think so...

.....?!

Son of a monkey! She had been running in my mind all day!

Han Yiqiu's hand caressed him wildly, slowly moving down south.

"Yiqiu, it is still day time!"

"Since when do you care about that?" And she touched him more and more intimately, more and more boldly! When her fingers found their way in his pants and almost touched his most private part, he grabbed hold of them.

Han Yiqiu frowned in indecision. And Mu tilted her chin up and looked into her eyes gently, "Be a good girl, I have important things to take care of in Yun Rui. I'll find you again!"

Han Yiqiu frowned in indecision. And Mu tilted her chin up and looked into her eyes gently, "Be a good girl, I have important things to take care of in Yun Rui. I'll find you again!"

"But..."

"No buts!" Though he was coaxing her, Han Yiqiu could feel his resolute tone. Therefore in order to not be distasteful, she could only nod obediently, "Okay...Remember to call me!"

"Sure!"

Han Yiqiu gave him a light peck on the lips, "Ok, then I'll go in now!"

"Ok!"

And she lumbered off in low spirit.

Mu did not stop for long. Got in his car and drove off.

Hearing the impatient screeching of tyres moving further, Han Yiqiu turned her head and stared at the direction Mu left. Her face slowly gloomed darker. Mu rejected her! She was certain that she felt an unhesitating rejection from her man!

Previously, as long as it was not in his office, whenever she initiated, he would be stirred and affectionate. But now... it was like a kick in the teeth.

He was cold, uninterested the whole time. Even

when she spoke to him, his mind was wandering off...

The sudden realization haunted her like a ghost, she couldn't rid of the thought that she was slowly, surely losing him...

And the root of all these was that wretched witch!

Xia Yaxin!

Han Yiqiu's face twisted and pinched, a black mood shrouded on it. Her fists were tightly gripped, shaking and her eyes were wet, filled with hatred.

Xia Yaxin, I won't sit back and let you ruin my life!

When Mu got back, he leisurely walked nearer to Yaxin's department and his eyes were searching around.

How come she is not in her seat?

Where'd she go?

He went back to his office. As he sat on his chair, he swivelled on and on and couldn't get rid of his restlessness. Therefore he picked up his office line.

"Miss Yah, call Miss Xia Yaxin in."

"Noted!"

His secretary put down the call and went in search

for Yaxin.

Sometime later, Mu's door was knocked. Mu straightened his back in anticipation thinking it was Yaxin.

But when it was his secretary that entered, the sparkle in his eyes dimmed.

"Mr. Mu, Miss Xia took a time off."

"Time off?"

Why didn't he know?

"She mentioned that she wasn't feeling well, and took time off to get some rest!"

Mu frowned in perplexity. He offered her to get some rest this morning, she rejected and seemed quite lively. And now she was feeling unwell after lunch?

"Alright, you may leave!" He waved her off, feeling a little irritable.

Miss Yah nodded and quietly left.

Mu reclined on his chair and was unable to concentrate on work. Finally, he picked up his phone and dialled her number.

"Sorry, the person you called cannot be reached. Please try....."

Her phone was off?

A deep frown knitted on his forehead. What in the world is she doing!?

All of a sudden, a supposition struck him.

Is she jealous...?

Yaxin saw how he went to lunch with another woman. And he took quite a long time too...

Maybe she got edgy and took leave because of that?!

On the other hand, Yaxin was at the doorstep of a place she was all too familiar...

It had been a while since she came back, but she never dropped by to visit Mrs. Lee, not even a call.

She felt blameworthy and this kind woman definitely deserved a proper closure. Ergo, she was here, carrying a full bag of fruits.

It was the same villa, nothing much has changed, not even the grounds keeping and decorative gardening outside.

Yaxin put her phone back in her bag. It was Mu's call just now and she decided to ignore it.

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Yaxin put her phone back in her bag. It was Mu's call just now and she decided to ignore it.

As she stood on the nostalgic doorstep, she could still see a ghost of her past self, always standing on the exact same spot and gaze into the distance, helpless and hopelessly searching for solace. Now, Yaxin was high spirited, happy and brimming in striking vibrant.

Two years ago, Yaxin left in bitterness. She had countless thoughts and fantasies about getting square with them. However now, she realized that she had long dropped this burden and found peace.

Time was the greater healer, it healed all wounds and taught her how to live with the scars.

Yaxin exhaled in relief, casting away the shadow of her unpleasant past.

She pressed on the doorbell and soon after, the door was opened.

"Aunty!" She greeted cheerfully.

Mrs. Lee was surprised at her visit.

"Young... Yaxin!" She beamed in excitement, "What brings you here!?"

"Of course it's to visit you!"

"Quick, come on in!"

Mrs. Lee had been here over a decade. The Mu family treated her with respect and entrusted her to take care of the rebellious Mu.

And even a spoiled brat like Mu adored this kind woman dearly.

"Mrs. Lee, these are for you!"

"Why bother? Come on in!"

Mrs. Lee had kept the house spotless, as usual. Yaxin felt a welcoming familiarity, even after two years, everything remained the same. The people, the furniture, the pots of fresh flowers.

"Aunty, you've always managed to make this house feel like home!" Yaxin smiled earnestly.

"Haha, go sit down. I'll get you some water."

"It's fine aunty, thanks," Yaxin went to hold her arms and gently brought her to the couch, "I'm here to visit you, and while I'm at it might as well fill you in for the past two years!"

Mrs. Lee nodded and sat down. She was always a sweet-tempered and good listener.

And Yaxin began to tell her tale.

Mrs. Lee was surprised, but she was at the same

time, happy at how things turned out for Yaxin. Two years ago it was a tragedy for the young girl. But life always had a bigger plan. The two youngsters met and got tangled again.

"So that's why... I was shocked to see you in Yun Rui!"

"Aunty, thanks for keeping the secret for me. I am grateful!"

If it wasn't for her, Mu could've found out two years ago.

Mrs. Lee relaxed her shoulder and smiled, "Life is what happens to us while we are making plans, and what's meant to be will always find a way..."

Two years ago, even if she had given the young master a heads-up, he wouldn't be able to track her down. Now, even if she had kept her lips sealed, the two ended up tangled together anyway! Isn't that fate's hand at play?

Yaxin knew her longing. She just laughed it off, "That's why, aunty you need to continue to keep this secret!"

Mrs. Lee nodded, "Alright I will. But you should always be prepared!"

"Yeah... I will!"

Yaxin made up her mind, she will leave before Mu had the chance to find out.

Little did she know, life is a play and she was unrehearsed...

After that, Yaxin stayed back for a short while and left. She wanted to spend more time with Mrs. Lee but she was afraid to bump into Mu.



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"Aunty, take care!"

"You too!"

As she watched Yaxin leave, she shook her head and sighed over the happening.

What a wonderful girl, why couldn't the young master cherish such a treasure he had...

A few moments after Yaxin left, her phone rang again.

It was Mu. She hesitated for a while but decided to answer it.

"Hello..."

On the other side, Mu almost hung up the call because had it beeped another time, the same robotic voice would tell him off again and that was annoying.

"Finally, not easy to find you huh?!"

"Mr. Mu, what's the matter?"

"Where are you?"

"Home."

"Not feeling well?"

"Mm..."

"....."

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"Is there anything you need?"

"No, just checking with your work progress."

"Don't worry. I will definitely submit it on time!"

"Ok, great!"

"Alright, bye!"

And Yaxin dropped his call right after. A cheeky grin rose on her face. She called a cab and almost fell asleep in the car ride. Therefore once she reached home, she just took a quick shower and snoozed.

On the other side, Mu was vexed. He opened his mouth to respond but Yaxin had dropped his call, and now words were stuck uncomfortably in his throat...

For the first time a woman hung up on him!

He decided to cancel his appointment for the rest of the evening and went home earlier.

Mrs. Lee was a little surprised, "Young master, you're early today! Shall I prepare dinner?"

"Yes please."

"Ok!" Mrs. Lee threw a quick glance and noticed Mu seemed to be a little moody.

Mu lazed on the couch and put his legs on the table. He then noticed a bag of fruits on it.

"Anyone came today?" He felt odd and turned his head to ask.

Mrs. Lee hurriedly lurched over and took up the fruits and brought them to the kitchen, "Yeah, a relative of mine dropped by. Let me cut some fruits for you!"

Mu arched an eyebrow and rested in silence...

The next day.

Yaxin woke up with a grumbling stomach. Her back was sore from the long sleep and she stretched lazily. She rested well and was fully energized.

She prepared a simple cheese and ham omelette for breakfast and readied herself for work.

After finally having ample rest, she was humming in good spirits.

Nothing beats a good night's sleep!

She carefully checked her drawings and put it back in the file. After that, she headed for work.

It had been hectic for her for the past two days, and Yaxin and Mu hardly met. They were both swamped with the SRD competition.

Today was the due date. And the candidates were required to submit their work together with the president. It would be a closed-door meeting.

"How was it? All good?" Mu asked.

"Yeah!"

"Let's go!"

And they drove to Nicco's designated location.

Yaxin held the drawing mindfully as if she was handling a baby, and she was high-spirited.

At that point of time, she felt that the outcome was of lesser importance. She had tried her best and she thoroughly loved her work. Even if it couldn't win the first prize, she believed that it will be recognized as a masterpiece!

Mu was glad to see her poise and liveliness.

"You look confident!"



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Yaxin turned to look at Mu and her eyes, her lips and her spirit all at once smiled at him, "Well, I don't know how will it turn out. But.. I hope it can give you a surprise!"

"Give me...a surprise? Mu repeated densely after her.

Am I hallucinating?

Yaxin would normally evade him as much as possible, and now... the world just seemed to be a better place.

"What do you mean?" He smiled back. It was early in the morning and the high sunlit clouds were drifting on the clear blue sky.

"Secret!"

Mu gave her an eye-roll and didn't ask anymore. Though he may appear casual, but he was all joyous inside and eagerly looking forward to it.

They reached soon after and Nicco came personally to welcome them.

"Mr. Mu! Miss Xia!" Nicco shook their hands passionately. Maybe it's the culture, he was always energetic and vehement.

"Tell me about it Miss Xia, are you confident?" He had high expectation for Yaxin. Acti
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"Just like you said, I did what I can, enchanting the design with emotion and story. Well, the rest is up

to the juries!" Yaxin replied upliftingly.

Nicco nodded in approval. He admired that Yaxin was always self-possessed.

As they moved to the second floor, Yaxin handed her drawing to Nicco, "This is it, thanks!"

Nicco took over the carefully sealed drawing and gave her a smile, "Finally, I've been looking forward to it!"

Mu stepped up with a smile and inquired, "Nicco, when can we know the result?"

"In two days!"

They spent a short time chattering before Mu and Yaxin took their leave.

When they got to the entrance, they met someone they least expected...

She was wearing a tight wine-red cocktail dress and matching heels, classy and formal. As she removed her shades her gaze was fixed at Mu and Yaxin.

Han Yiqiu!

Yaxin almost put her palm on her forehead...

Though Han Yiqiu had learnt that the two will be here together, but the moment she saw them walking side by side, the flames of envy licked through her.

Why do they stand so comfortably together, so natural and complementing!

WHY!?

She made no response and pretended to be disinterested.

It was Mu that called out to her first.

"Yiqiu? Why are you here?"

Han Yiqiu just smiled and averted her eyes over his shoulder. At the same time, Nicco came and introduced, "This is the young lady from Hans Group, she is also one of our jury!"

Jury?

Yaxin and Mu looked at each other, astonished.

Deep inside, Yaxin had a gut feeling that this was no mere coincidence...

Mu's eyebrows furrowed closely together, "Yiqiu, you were one of the jury? Why didn't you tell me?"

"This is confidential information and I am required to keep it undisclosed. Haoyu, you can surely understand right? She explained cleverly.

Mu stared intently at Han Yiqiu like a hungry beast. All of a sudden, he smiled at her smugly.

"Of course!"

Mu turned to Nicco, "Of course I know her. Don't you know my relationship with Yiqiu?"

"Umm... you guys?"

"Everyone in A City knows that we are dating!" He announced intentionally.

Han Yiqiu couldn't understand his motive, but she was very well pleased that he finally acknowledged their relationship, what more, in public!

The woman had been waiting for this moment for too long, whenever anyone asked, Mu would avoid and avert the topic. She was in cloud-nine.

Nicco, however, was left dumbfounded.

Yaxin turned her head to one side. Her face turned red like a tomato and she was secretly pinching the back of her thigh, trying her best to suppress a guffaw.

Mu patted affably on Nicco's shoulder, "See you, we will make a move first!"

Nicco forced a smile back and nodded.

As they walked out the door, Mu approached Han Yiqiu and whispered intimately right by her ears, "I believe you can still pull some strings!" and he smirked coyly and left.

He spoke so softly that no one else could hear. Nicco saw it and kept to himself.

After they left, Han Yiqiu came to her senses and sashayed towards Nicco.

"Hi Nicco!"

"Miss Han!"

"Is everyone here?"

"Not yet, it's still early. Good to see that Miss Han you are so enthusiastic!"

Han Yiqiu did not pick up his unnatural tone and happily accepted his compliment, "That's for sure!"

And Nicco gentlemanly led her to the lounge.

In that moment, an assistant came to Nicco and whispered to his ears. Nicco directed her to the VIP lounge and they hurried off, seemed like quite the case of urgency.

Han Yiqiu walked slowly and by the time Nicco entered the elevator and the door closed, she immediately turned and entered another room. She was sure that Yaxin and Mu exited from here! And most importantly, she did not see Nicco holding any documents. It must mean there was a big chance their drawings are all inside!

Han Yiqiu looked cautiously around. After making sure the hall was completely empty, she nipped stealthily into the room.

Aha! Bazinga!

All of the design drafts were there, laying vulnerably on the table like a sleeping beauty!

A distorted smile appeared on her face, Yaxin's name was on one of them.

With trembling fingers Han Yiqiu carefully unsealed and took out the drawing. As she looked at her work, she didn't really appreciate it. After all, she has no artistic nor designing exposure and she just thought it looked above average.

And now Han Yiqiu was agonizing. What should she do!?

If she had simply stolen or destroyed it, the organiser would just ask Yaxin to submit another one, and there was the possibility that Nicco might find out!

She bit on her nails anxiously and her whole body was shaking.

Think... THINK!

As she tried to put the drawing back, she noticed a small piece of hand-written note inside.

She took it out and when she found out what it was about, she hissed in uncontrollable laughter.

She quickly stuffed the note inside her handbag and put everything back to how it was.

Then she silently opened the door and stepped out, her heart was racing and she could feel her

back dampened in cold sweat.

Out of the blue, someone tapped on her shoulder and she completely froze!

"Miss Han, what are you doing here?"



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Out of the blue, someone tapped on her shoulder and she completely froze!

"Miss Han, what are you doing here?"

Han Yiqiu fearfully turned around...

It was just a random staff from SRD and she quickly composed herself.

"Oh dear, I was looking for the washroom. May I know where is it?"

"Please follow all the way to the end of this hallway, it is on your left." The staff directed her politely.

Han Yiqiu nodded and went for the ladies' room. She was feeling tight in the bladder after the fright.

When she was alone in the cubicle, she took out Yaxin's note, crumbled it, and flung it on the floor.

And she went to the mirror and re-powdered her face.

"Hoho... Xia Yaxin, serves you right! Without this explanatory note your design is merely a drawing! I can't wait to see how you handle Haoyu's wrath and Yun Rui!" She adjusted her hair to satisfaction and click-clacked out.

A short moment after she left, another door from the cubicle was slid open. A prepossessing woman walked out with a stern face. She spotted

the crumbled paper on the floor and bent over to pick it up...

On the other side, Mu and Yaxin got in the car and drove off.

It was beyond their wildest dream that Han Yiqiu was part of the jury.

Yaxin glimpsed at Mu. Seeing as how he had no intention to speak, she also zipped her mouth.

There was momentary silence.

After some time, Mu turned to her and asked, "Don't you have anything to say?"

Yaxin paused and thought about it, then nodded, "Mm... having Mr. Mu's girlfriend as one of the jury, I think it's as good as game!"

"Are you trying to make a fool out of me?"

"I am trying to make a fool out of myself..." Yaxin corrected him apathetically.

.....

Actually, Yaxin was well aware that Mu was on her side, or more accurately, they were on the same side. He intentionally advertised his relationship with Han Yiqiu in front of Nicco was an attempt of insurance. As a result, the organiser will take special consideration of her comments and decision.

Furthermore, if Yaxin's design failed badly, Yun Rui would take the fall together too...

She could tell that his plan succeeded when Nicco's face got serious all of a sudden. And judging from Han Yiqiu's expression, most probably she was clueless and overjoyed!

Yaxin looked at Mu and she was sincerely awed at his acumen. He was as shrewd as snake and sometimes Yaxin would even feel pitiful at Han Yiqiu, though just marginally.

"Actually you don't need to worry too much. The jury's verdict only contributes to 30% of the final call."

Yaxin harrumphed, "Pfft, I'm not worried at all!"

When she walked out of the meeting room, more or less she was a little nervous. However after the Han Yiqiu episode, she had completely let go.

Regardless of the result, she had tried her best and she was plenty happy with her work, that's what mattered.

Even if Han Yiqiu wanted to diss her work, she must take into account that she might have a conflict of interest with Yun Rui too!

Mu turned to look at Yaxin. She seemed to be in good spirit. And strangely enough, watching her smile put a smile on his face too.

Mu turned to look at Yaxin. She seemed to be in good spirit. And strangely enough, watching her smile put a smile on his face too.

"Ok, then let us just wait."

Yaxin nodded in agreement. What is meant to happen will happen...

Soon the two arrived at Yun Rui and they went on to their own respective work.

The following day.

Early in the morning when Yaxin just reached office, she was summoned into Mu's office.

"Yaxin, are you sure that you had submitted your drawings properly?"

Mu's face was grim and Yaxin immediately knew something was wrong.

"100%!"

"I received a call from Nicco, he said that your explanatory note was missing!"

Yaxin eyebrows knitted in vex, "I definitely put the note together with my drawing, there was no mistake!"

Yaxin had an unshakable confidence, and Mu sank quietly in his own thoughts.

"Only the explanatory note was missing?" Press Esc to exit

Mu nodded slowly.

"If I write a new one now and resubmit it, can it be arranged?" Yaxin reacted with calmness. It was inexplicable but ever since she saw the abrupt appearance of Han Yiqiu, she was prepared for accidents to happen.

"It's too late..."

Yaxin sighed regretfully, "I'm sorry that it turned out like this, Mr. Mu. But I unmistakably made sure the explanatory note was inside. I am willing to take up the responsibility for Yun Rui's losses."

Mu looked at Yaxin and their eyes met. Her stare was reposeful and serene as usual.

It was like it didn't bother her one bit.

"I will handle it. You may carry on with work." He said.

"Ok."

It was like the two had an invisible connection. Even without a word of explanation, Yaxin knew that Mu was definitely thinking the same as her. Therefore she just left things to his hands.

Missing explanatory note? Yaxin shook her head and tucked her lips coldly. Seriously, she was willing to go that far!

For the rest of the day, Yaxin dived full-heartedly into work and she completely ceased to think about the competition.

It wasn't that she didn't care enough. It had been a dream, an aspiration she worked so hard for, but since no amount of worrying can make a difference, she might as well do what she can and leave the rest to Mu.

Yun Rui's reputation and good name rested heavily on the outcome of this competition, Mu will definitely spare no effort.

Yaxin saw that he left the company quite early and had yet to come back.

Not a single person except the two know what happened. Otherwise, they would've dropped-jaw at how restful Yaxin was.

Yaxin had braced herself for the worst.

On the fateful day...

Early in the morning, all participating designers were required to gather in the SRD building. The results will be announced.

After careful selection, only twenty plus designers were chosen and Yaxin was one of them.

She didn't place much hope because her submission was incomplete, which automatically cause her to disqualify.

Yaxin was looking around like a new school kid and all of a sudden, she noticed that striking woman...



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Alexis Hera.

She was elegantly dressed, hooded eyes featuring a heavy brow bone that gleamed in confidence. She walked up the chairperson's seat without turning.

Such a strong aura! It was like she carried her own atmosphere wherever she went. No wonder she had been a symbol for powerful woman entrepreneurs.

She wasted no time and announced the result, starting from the third and then to the second prize.

The winners were two reputable artists that Yaxin had seen multiple times appearing in jewellery magazines.

There was a pause before she announced the champion. Alexis browsed through the crowd and her fingers were tapping rhythmically on a file.

"May I know who is Miss Xia Yaxin?"

Yaxin tensed up in her seat upon hearing her name.

"Here, I am."

She raised her hand.

"Miss Xia, can you explain your design concept?" Got

Yaxin drew a breath and stood up, this work of

hers had a special meaning behind that she hoped to divulge. To get acceptance and appreciation would be undoubtedly the best form of respect for the work.

"This design is a gift to an elderly man," As Yaxin slowly explained, the room went pin drop silence, "He was an ordinary man, worked as a butler for an ordinary family. The man had an extraordinary son, diligent in studies and successful in work and he loved him dearly. One fateful day, an accident took the son and the two were forever separated. The only remembrance he had was a pendant he gave him before the accident..."

"The old man was devastated and later diagnosed with dementia. But until this day, he never let the pendant out of his sight. Day by day, hours and hours he gazed at it, longing for his son to come home... I believe the son must be watching over his father, and he too, longed for the day to reunite with him again! To offer my gratitude and admiration, I designed and named this pendant after their heartbreaking and heartwarming story – Reunion..."

Yaxin's voice filled the hall like that of a chirruping nightingale, and there was a prolonged silence. If one could observe Alexis closely, they would see fine hairs standing on her skin and her eyes were misty.

Yaxin once again broke the silence, "With this enchanted pendant, I believe anyone who shares their emotion will be spellbound once they see it!"

Everyone's attentiveness now rested on Alexis. She alone held the decisive vote to the finale.

And now, the most nervous person in the room was not Yaxin, but Han Yiqiu!

Darn it!!! Why is she so lucky!

She bit her nails and quivered her legs uncontrollably...

"Miss Xia, regrettably, we noticed that your submission was incomplete. There was only this drawing and no explanatory note in your file. I'm afraid we must disqualify you!"

"However! Are you willing to sell your design for one million!?"

The crowd gasped as Alexis's question resounded in the hall. Yaxin was stunned and Han Yiqiu's eye widened.

Seeing as how Yaxin was stupefied and at loss of words, Alexis stood up and slowly walked towards her.

"I wish to buy your design!"



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"But this design..."

"No problem!"

Before Yaxin could finish her sentence, Mu interrupted from behind.

She was stunned and turned her head back. Martin stood up and walked towards them. He looked at Alexis and repeated, "Of course, that wouldn't be a problem!"

Yaxin frowned and looked at Mu in perplex. Mu signalled her with the corner of his eyes and he continued, "If it pleases you, Madam Alexis, we are more than happy to give it to you and let you name it!"

Alexis's eyes lit up as she heard Mu's words and he just responded with a mannered smile.

"Alright!" Alexis clapped and walked up the stage.

"I hereby announce that first prize this year goes to Miss Xia Yaxin from Yun Rui!!"

Her announcement was like water into hot oil and it raised a furore in the crowd.

But Han Yiqiu wouldn't have it that way. She stood up and said, "Madam Alexis, Xia Yaxin did not submit her explanatory note. She should be disqualified, how can she be the champion instead?"

Upon hearing her remark, Alexis's eyes were

shrouded with a layer of ice.

"Oh~ now you sound like the organiser!"

Han Yiqiu blushed. "I am merely expressing my opinion for the sake of fairness towards other contestants."

"Are you motivated by justice... or some personal agenda?"

"Madam, what do you mean?!"

Alexis no longer bothered to reply and her assistant stepped forward.

"Miss Xia's explanatory note was here all along." And she lifted the small card and showed it to the crowd.

When Yaxin saw that, she was confused and turned to look at Mu.

Alexis stared irritably at Han Yiqiu, "Miss Han, next time you should be more careful."

Her words made Han Yiqiu turned pale.

Yaxin was surprised. She had kept quiet all these while about it and who knew, it was Alexis that publicly insinuated it.

Nicco's eyes widened in comprehension. He finally caught light of what happened.

Of course! How could Yaxin be so careless?

"Madam Alexis, what do you mean by that?" Han Yiqiu got agitated as well.

However, Alexis paid no heed and her assistant stepped up again.

"Miss Han, during the competition, every nook and cranny of the building was under surveillance. What more the hallway and the office where the artworks was left. This time Madam had decided to let it slide, so it's best if you cease your questions."

Colours left Han Yiqiu's face.

She had forgotten about the CCTV!!

She looked to the crowd and felt unsettled with the examining gazes. Her eyes met with Mu's and she felt her breathe stuck in her throat.

Yaxin was the crowned winner.

After a simple ceremony, Alexis left without leaving a word and her assistant approached Mu and Yaxin, "Madam will visit your company and discuss about the design soon."

Mu nodded respectfully.

"Miss Xia, congratulations!"

Yaxin just responded with a faint smile.

The assistant came closer and whispered softly, "Miss Xia, you've been wise!"

Only the three of them understood her underlying meaning.

"It was just a coincidence."

Yaxin replied modestly.



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The assistant gave a hearty chuckle and left.

The crowd slowly dispersed, the runner-ups did not stay back too.

Nicco approached them.

"Miss Xia, congratulations!!"

Yaxin smiled and thanked him.

"I admire you design very much and respect your courage even more!"

"Haha, thanks. That was just a coincidence!"

"I mentioned, only a design with story can arouse resonance, you did well!" Nicco was generous in giving his sincerest praise.

"Thank you so much, Nicco!"

If it weren't for Nicco, she would've submitted an entirely different type of design, based on her own inspiration.

"No no no!! There's no need to thank me, this is all from the result of your hard work!" Nicco exclaimed.

"Ok, I think I got to go. Let's catch up some time soon!"

"Ok!"

"See you Mr. Mu!"

Mu simply nodded with a smile.

When the hall was almost empty, Han Yiqiu walked meekly towards them. She glanced at Yaxin with the corner of her eyes and approached Mu.

"Haoyu..."

Mu didn't even bother to avert his eyes to her. It was like she was completely transparent to the two of them.

"Haoyu, did you misunderstand me too?"

Mu's eyebrows rose in droll.

"Oh? What kind of misunderstanding?"

Looking at his redolent attitude, Han Yiqiu knew for sure that he had misconstrued her.

She immediately muttered piteously, "Haoyu, I don't know why Alexis said that, there must be some sort of misunderstanding!"

"Oh really~" Mu replied unsmilingly.

Yaxin was awkward to stand between the two, once she found a chance, she quickly spoke, "Umm... Mr. Mu, I will take my leave first!" And she hurriedly launched her steps.

"Wait!"

Yaxin had no choice but to turn around.

Mu caught up with her, "Let's go back together."

"Haoyu!"

Han Yiqiu dashed forward and grabbed his arm. The poor woman had turned pale to the idea of losing him.

Mu stared uncaringly at her, "I need to go back to the company now, talk next time!" And he brushed off her hands and walked away.

"Haoyu... Haoyu!!"

Han Yiqiu called out piteously. But Mu was completely unfazed.

Yaxin sighed to herself. Most probably Han Yiqiu will add this to her account now...

But then again, Han Yiqiu had crossed the line this time! How could she have done something so foolish... Her act of vengeance of targeting Yaxin had obviously harmed Yun Rui too!

A prideful and ambitious man like Mu would not swallow this betrayal. Han Yiqiu had undoubtedly overstepped his boundaries.

Women's intelligence could drop proportionately to their love sometimes... When blinded by selfishness and jealousy, they could easily end up the wrong path, doing the wrong things.

"What are you standing there like a tree?"

Mu's voice startled Yaxin and she quickly followed behind. She walked rigidly as she could feel a piercing stare behind her.

Sigh... he must've done it on purpose!!

Why are you dragging me into your mess again!?



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Yaxin and Mu entered his car together.

She turned to look at him; his face was tensed and he had no intention to speak.

"Mr. Mu, umm... is this okay?"

"Is what okay?"

"Ditching Miss Han and leave with just the two of us. Isn't that inappropriate?" She asked.

To be fair, Mu was too cold-blooded and unfeeling as a boyfriend. As a fellow woman, Yaxin couldn't help but think Han Yiqiu was too pitiful.

Mu's eyebrows loured in perplex, "Us going back to office together, why is it inappropriate?!"

Alright then, if you say so.

"She took your explanatory note, aren't you angry?" Mu stared curiously at Yaxin.

"Of course I am!" She noted.

You are?

But Mu couldn't pick up even the slightest hint of anger from her face.

"But what can I do?" Yaxin sighed, "What is meant to happen will happen right~ think of life as a gang rape, since you can't stop it might as well learn to enjoy it!"

Mu gave her a huge eye-roll.

"If you didn't win today, would you have said the same?"

He didn't believe it, that this woman will just accept such malice.

Yaxin looked up and thought about for a second, and looked back at Mu, "Honestly, if it wasn't for you, I doubt Han Yiqiu would've done that!"

"Are you blaming me now?" Mu raised an eyebrow.

"I am merely elucidating this matter for you~"

Yes. Technically speaking, this all spiralled from one source, Mu Haoyu! If it wasn't for him, why in the world would Han Yiqiu begrudged her in the first place?

Mu smirked at her response, "But Miss Xia, it takes two to tango!"

"....."

She was speechless.

Strange enough, the air between them was a little ambiguous... a little couply...

All of a sudden, Yaxin remembered something.

"Was the explanatory note your handiwork?"

"Nope~" He shook his head.

"Huh?"

Isn't it lost?

Why would it end up with Alexis?

"According to Nicco, Alexis' assistant found it in the toilet!" He chuckled.

Yaxin was surprised.

"Hahaha, it seems like this assistant is my benefactress!"

What unexpected turn of event!

Yaxin attended the ceremony as an act of respect. It was beyond her wildest dream that she ended up winning the first prize!

She was overjoyed. This achievement will definitely aid her in her pursuit of being a great designer.

She rested on the seat and breathed a sigh of relief.

Her restfulness brought delight to Mu.

Out of the blue, Yaxin's phone rang.

The moment she saw the caller ID, she immediately tilted her phone screen away from Mu.

But her small gesture did not escape Mu's eyes.

He pretended to be unbothered and continued driving.

Yaxin did not want to answer her phone but it was ringing non-stop.

Ergo, she had no choice but to pick up the call.

"Hello..."

"Congratulations!!! You won first prize!!" ChengXuan's loud, cheery voice emitted from the phone.

"Huh, how'd you find out so soon!?" Yaxin was surprised.



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"Come on~ As long as it's related to you, I always have the first hand news!" ChengXuan laughed heartily.

Yaxin giggled too. The corner of her eyes was glancing at Mu and she was careful not to call out 'bro', "Hey, I am on the way back to office with Mr. Mu, I will call you when I reach!"

ChengXuan immediately caught her hint, "You are together with Mu Haoyu?"

"Mm... Yeah." She nodded.

There was a momentary silence until he finally replied, "Got it, I'll wait for your call!"

"Ok!"

And Yaxin hurriedly ended the call.

She cautiously peeked at Mu. When she saw that he was indifferent, she let out a breath of relief.

"Xia ChengXuan?" Mu casually asked.

"...Yeah."

Well, that was a simple, short conversation. Mu wouldn't possibly find out anything...

"Wow, he was very well informed!"

Mu had heard their conversation completely, and of course he caught on ChengXuan's darling attitude towards Yaxin.

His lips arched up cheekily.

"How long have you two dated?" He asked.

Yaxin was a little surprised at his question, "Mr. Mu, this is my privacy, I refuse to answer."

Privacy?

Hoho...

Mu harrumphed and suddenly he exuded an intense pressure. Yaxin felt a chill as if the temperature in the car dropped a few degrees.

So Mu accepted her answer and asked no more. However, not only the temperature inside dropped, his car began to pick up speed!

The car revved and charged forward like a beast.

Yaxin held on to the safety handles and turned pale. She saw Mu's face turning dark and hesitantly spoke to him, "Umm, Mr. Mu, this isn't the highway, you shouldn't drive so fast..."

"That's none of your concern." He replied coldly.

"....."

As Yaxin saw a thunder brewing on his face, she kept her lips zipped.

They reached the office in no time.

As soon as the car parked, Yaxin got down the car

and left.

"Thanks Mr. Mu. I will get to work now."

Mu remained seated in the car. His eyebrows knitted closely as he watched Yaxin slowly walked away...

Yaxin's triumph was made known to the entire office earlier on. Her colleagues were preparing a simple surprize celebration for her. Some even bought decorations to liven up the atmosphere.

The moment Yaxin stepped in, they gathered around her.

"CONGRATULATION!!!!!"

Coco quickly hugged her arms, "Yaxin, you won!!!"

Yaxin stared eyes wide open, "You all knew?"

"Of course! First-hand news!" Coco laughed.

Yaxin had joined the company only for a short time, but she honestly had good chemistry and friendship with her fellow colleagues.

She was always humble and respectful, therefore they treated her the same too.

"Miss Xia, unbelievable! You entered our office for such a short time and here you are, already scoring a big one for us!"

"Haha, that was just luck!" Yaxin replied modestly.

Genuine modesty was always a good way to get closer to people.

"Come on, don't put down your hard work! You winning first prize had brought eminence to our company! Mr. Mu will definitely throw a celebration party and you will be the star of the night!"

Coco was elated.



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"Huh? Celebrate again?" Yaxin was baffled.

"Yup. That has been our norm for two years!" Coco explained.

Yaxin nodded with a smile and kept quiet. The crowd continued to gossip.

Sometime later, Mu entered the room, and he noticed Yaxin was in the centre of the crowd.

"Hi Mr. Mu!"

They greeted him like school kids greeting their teachers.

"Mm." He nodded unaffectionately.

Out of the blue, Coco's voice emitted from the crowd, "Mr. Mu, Yaxin won first prize, is there any special prize?!"

Mu was taken aback, he then announced, "Dinner party tomorrow night, everyone dress up formally!" After that, he left to his office without care.

The crowd was confused.

They asked about Yaxin's reward, but the president...

"To Victory!!!!" Yaxin yelled comically and everyone burst into laughter.

After having fun for a short while, the crowd dispersed.

Yaxin went back to her own seat. Thinking back on what happened today, she was still in disbelief. Nonetheless, she couldn't hide her joy after winning first prize of the SRD!

It had always been an ambitious dream, but she did it!

Before diving back to work, she suddenly remembered that she needed to call her brother, thus she swiped through her phone and gave him a ring.

"Hey bro!" Yaxin called cheerfully.

"Back to office already?" ChengXuan asked.

"Yeah!"

"Congratulations again! First place in SRD!" Her brother was genuinely proud of her.

"Haha thanks, actually I was quite surprised myself!"

"I've always believed in your capability. Let's celebrate tonight!"

"Of course!"

"Alright, then let's decide it at the usual place, I'll go pick you up?"

"No need~ I can get there myself."

"Alright!"

"By the way, remember to call Tuan Tuan, Last time I ditched the two of you, so tonight is my treat!" Yaxin Cheered.

There was a short pause over the phone until ChengXuan responded, "Alright!"

"Ok, see you. Bye!"

"Bye!"

Yaxin put her phone down and was in a cheery mood.

When it was time to leave office, she clocked out and left.

By the time she reached, Tuan Tuan and ChengXuan were already waiting for her.

"Yaxin, over here!"

Yaxin could see a petite woman waving enthusiastically at her.

"Hey bro, Tuan Tuan, sorry I was a little late, quite the jam all the way here!"

"Hahaha, don't worry, but you still gotta pay though!" Tuan Tuan giggled.

"Haha no problem!", Yaxin sat herself down comfortably, "I'm in a good mood today, consider yourselves lucky!"

"Whoa~ look at that! That's our champion today!"

"Of course!" Yaxin's nose pointed up high. She could be at ease and be herself whenever she was with the two of them.

"Cocky~" Tuan Tuan wrapped her arms around her and laughed, "And congratulations! Our Yaxin is the best!"

Yaxin hugged her back and the two young ladies clucked like hens.

ChengXuan was entertained by the two big babies.

"By the way bro, have your ordered?"

"Yes yes~ you dear brother had already ordered a list of your favorite dishes. How sweet!" Tuan Tuan crowed.



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Yaxin could almost taste her best friend's sourness, "Hahaha! Of course, he's my bro!"

"Yeah yeah~ your bro!"

Yaxin then turned to ChengXuan, "Hey bro, is there anything you want to tell me?"

"Congratulations!"

"That's it?!" Yaxin asked. Knowing him for such a long time, she could definitely sense he had something in his mind.

Before ChengXuan could say anything, the waiter came to serve.

"Good evening, here are your foods. Please enjoy!"

They reclined slightly to let him serve the food, after that, Yaxin looked gluttonously at the dishes and exclaimed, "I am starving~"

"Hurry and eat then!" Her brother said lovingly.

The dinner session was great. They chattered happily and completely satisfied their stomach.

After that, Yaxin looked at ChengXuan and asked, "Hey bro, what were you saying just now?"

He contemplated for a while and finally spoke his mind, "Yaxin, you have already won the prize. Do you want to quit your job and come help out your brother?"

Yaxin paused momentarily and answered, "But I don't have any experience in business management. That's not my forte."

"That doesn't matter, as long as you are willing to come over to help." He explained.

"Bro, can you give me a little bit more time?" Yaxin pleaded, she was reluctant to go back to her family's company.

"But if you continue to stay in Yun Rui, Mu will definitely find out!"

"I know. If you're really worried about Mu Haoyu, then I will change to another company... I really don't feel like going back!" Yaxin stubbornly said.

ChengXuan's eyebrows furrowed deeply.

Tuan Tuan was watching them go as she happily indulged in her food. Seeing as they were disagreeing, she spoke her mind, "Actually Yaxin wanted to resign. But it was all because of me that she had to go back to Yun Rui."

ChengXuan was confused. Ergo, Tuan Tuan patiently explained the whole incident to him.

"Why didn't you just find me then?" He protested.

"We didn't thought of that~" She replied meekly.

"But bro, I wouldn't tell you even if you can help!" Yaxin said dispassionately.

Two years ago, she had paid too high a price to resolve the clash between the Xia group and Mu Haoyu's company. How could she risk arousing a conflict between her brother and Mu again?!

"Yaxin!"

"Bro, I have my own plans. I will definitely go back after some time. Having you in the company is more than enough!" Yaxin spoke in a serious demeanor.

ChengXuan pulled his brake once he realized Yaxin has made up her mind.

He knew her sister had a dogged stubbornness all her life. Nobody can change her.

And since she made herself so clear, ChengXuan wouldn't want to continue to pester her and risk ruining their relationship.

"Alright, if you say so, your brother will give you his support!"



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And since she made herself so clear, ChengXuan wouldn't want to continue to pester her and risk ruining their relationship.

"Alright, if you say so, your brother will give you his full support!"

Yaxin relieved and cheered, "Thanks bro! Don't you worry, I'll be just fine!"

"Ok!"

"Alright alright~ Let's eat!" Tuan Tuan interjected.

The dinner continued in a cheerful atmosphere.

When they were done, ChengXuan offered to send both of them home. Yaxin then insisted to be sent home first, according to her, she had urgent matters to attend to.

When they reached her housing area, Yaxin got out the car and looked at them cheekily, "Hey bro, you must make sure to send Tuan Tuan back safely yea~"

"Ok!" He nodded.

The three drank a little during the dinner. Tuan Tuan was not so well versed with alcoholic drinks and she was a little tipsy.

"Alright, drive safe!"

"Yaxin!" ChengXuan walked out his car and called

out to her.

"Huh? Yes bro?"

Looking at her innocent face, ChengXuan frowned, "Umm, you..."

"Yes~?"

He stared at Yaxin for a while and words couldn't come out from his mouth... Finally, he muttered, "Beware of Han Yiqiu!"

Yaxin's eyebrow loured into a frown, "What happened?"

"Just be careful. And always be more vigilant!" He reminded.

Looking at her brother's serious demeanour, Yaxin nodded obediently, "Mm, alright!"

"Ok, get up then!"

"Ok, see you!"

"See you!"

"Make sure you take good care of Tuan Tuan!!"
And Yaxin got up the stairs.

ChengXuan stood at the doorway and watched as she left.

After Yaxin disappeared up the stairs for some time, he slowly withdrew his gaze and got back in the car.

Tuan Tuan was seated in the back and she was tipsy. He looked back through the rear mirror at her... Yaxin had been trying to play cupid the whole night, of course he was aware too.

However, his heart was already long belonged to someone else...

A bitter smile appeared on his face and he drove off.

Once Yaxin got into her house, she went to the balcony and peeked at them. She smirked as their car drove off.

She knew that Tuan Tuan had been secretly admiring her brother, and this was all she could do for her.

She turned back into the room and went for a shower.

After a long, comfortable shower, Yaxin readied herself to sleep.

Suddenly her phone rang.

Yaxin frowned when she noticed it was Mu that called.

Why is he calling at such an hour?

But she answered the call nonetheless.

"Hello..."

Mu was just about to end the call because it had been ringing for quite some time.

"Mr. Mu, anything up? Why are you calling at this hour?"

"Hmm... What are you doing?"

"Sleeping."

"At home?"

"If not?"



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"At home?"

"If not?"

There was a momentary silence over the phone before Mu answered, "Oh nothing, I just want to inform you, Alexis will be visiting our company tomorrow. Make sure you come earlier!"

"Noted."

"And for the dinner party tomorrow, remember to dress up properly!" Mu reminded.

"Ok!"

"Have a good rest." And he ended the call.

Yaxin looked at her phone in perplex. Why did she felt a little odd?

She was lazy to overthink. Put her phone to charge and got on bed to sleep.

It was a restful night.

She woke up refreshed early in the next day.

The sun was shining brightly and her mood was sunny as well.

She had a good vibe and decided to spend extra effort in dressing up.

Yaxin quickly rinsed and prepared herself. She wore her favourite yellow midi dress and picked a

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pair of matching high heels. After that, she spent some time to curl her hair and applied a gentle, vibrant make up.

She looked in the mirror and felt a sense of satisfaction.

She made herself a simple breakfast and departed to the office.

Whether it was due to her cheery mood, or the wonderful weather, she felt like the entire office was filled in a joyous mood.

When she went in, everyone was ardent to greet each other.

She suddenly realised that she enjoyed her current life very much. Busy but productive, enjoying life with no dramas.

Yaxin punched in and quickly dived herself in work.

"Yo Yaxin~ Looking a little different today!" Coco greeted her from the back.

Yaxin raised her eyebrow and chuckled, "Haha, what different?"

"Looking hot and sizzling today, I see the extra effort!" Coco complimented.

"What to do~ Born this way!" Yaxin joked cheekily.

Coco was humoured by her exaggerated reply.

At that moment, the elevator's door opened, followed by a rustling of footsteps.

The office workers immediately knew who came.

Mu strode to his office, and followed by his secretary, busy like a bee reporting to him.

The moment Mu walked past DoD, he immediately noticed Yaxin and her different look.

And he must say, it was a very vibrant and attractive style. Yaxin had always gone for formal dresses or female suits and she had never worn such a bright and eye catchy colours.

It suited her and brought a different kind of charm.

Yaxin felt his gaze and she lifted her eyes. The two of their gazes met. The next second, Mu averted his eyes and walked straight to his office.

Yaxin as well, refocused back to her work.

It was a productive day for this young woman.

When it was almost 10 in the morning, Alexis came with her crew.

Upon notification, Yaxin dropped the jobs on her plate and went to meet her.

In the VIP lounge.

Alexis stared fervently at Mu and asked, "Mr. Mu, regarding the matter you said last time, were you

serious?”

“Of course!” Mu asserted.

“I do not wish to change Miss Xia’s work, and prefer for it to be named after her. But I have one and only condition!” Alexis explained.

Yaxin stood behind Mu. She looked at him and sought approval. After that, Yaxin spoke to Alexis.

“Madam, please tell us more.”

Alexis nodded, “I do not want to change anything about this design. But I want to buy an exclusive right to it, and I don’t want it to be up for sale.”



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“But of course, the designer remains unchanged.”

“Sure, no problem!” Mu smiled.

Alexis turned to Yaxin and asked, “How about Miss Xia? What’s your thought on this?”

“Hmm... if Madam you really like it, I wish to give it to you as a gift and not in exchange of money!”

Yaxin’s reply made the room pin-drop silent. Even Alexis was rendered speechless. After all, she had offered a very generous amount of money for this purchase.

“Are you sure?”

“Of course!” Yaxin nodded cheerfully, “Although my inspiration was from the old mister, but the true drive of the design comes from you!”

Alexis furrowed her eyebrows.

“I knew that you happened to have a similar past with the old mister and your son was an exceptional jewellery designer. I also found out that he had been thinking to work a design for you. Regrettably an accident occurred. Although I could never know what kind of design your son had in mind for you, but I guess that he must’ve loved you dearly and longed for his mother to be happy. That’s why I designed this and named it Longing.”

The lounge returned to silence after Yaxin’s explanation.

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It was true Alexis had an outstanding son, exceptionally talented in designing. Yaxin was right.

However, nobody had dared to bring up this topic in front of her. Yaxin was the first.

Everyone kept silent. Even her assistant felt her heart dropped to her chest.

"How have you known all this?" Alexis asked.

"It was a huge news. I think it's not too difficult to find out about it." She explained.

Alexis paused for sometime and all of a sudden a smile bloomed on her face, "Thank you!"

And the crowd let of a breath they unknowingly held.

"Leo was a loving kid. And indeed, he was a brilliant designer!" Alexis muttered, and there was nostalgia all over her face.

"I believe Leo would definitely want you to rest and relax from time to time. He wouldn't want his mother to overexert herself!" Yaxin replied.

Alexis was pleased and smiled at Yaxin.

Actually the mature woman was very attractive too. But ever since her son's death she had always tensed and gloomed her face. She hardly smiles. Now it was like a ray of sunshine painted on her face. She simply looked beautiful.

"Thank you so much!" Alexis genuinely thanked her from the bottom of her heart.

Yaxin just nodded and smiled.

"Since Miss Xia gave her words, then this design now belongs to you!" Mu spoke.

"Mr. Mu, regarding our discussion last time, I wish to sign it with you. I will ask my assistant to get it ready!"

Mu seemed delighted and quickly replied, "Great! I shall be waiting."

"However, I wish for Miss Xia to be the designer in this collaboration!"

Mu glanced at Yaxin and agreed, "Sure, no problem!"

Yaxin didn't know what they were talking about. But if Alexis had offered this kind gesture, it would be ostentatious to reject her. However if she were to accept it, it would be difficult for her to leave Yun Rui again.

While she was contemplating, Mu already agreed it on her behalf.

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"Ok, I will let you know when the agreement is ready!"

"Ok!"

"Alright, I think we should make a move now."

Mu nodded, he drew out Yaxin's design and passed it to Alexis. She accepted it appreciatively and left with her crew.

When the lounge cleared up, Yaxin turned to look at Mu. She breathed a sigh of relief.

Actually she was nervous like a cat on hot bricks too. After all, nobody knew how Alexis would react when reminded of her painful past. She decided to give it a shot and she got it!

"Why? Nervous?" Mu saw her faint gesture and teased her.

"Well, bringing up her painful past, aren't you worried?"

Mu smiled and squinted his eyes, "Miss Xia, I thought you wanted a fair play? How come ended up researching Alexis past?"

Yaxin stepped back as the man approached her, "I simply searched her name on the internet. At least I came up with the design concept and the drawing. That is fair play!"

Furthermore, if others were to find out about her son's incident, they wouldn't have done it like her.

"Excuses~" Mu mocked.

"This is the truth!" Yaxin protested and pushed him off.

This man would always get intimately close to her for no good reasons!

"You turned down one million dollars! Dear Lord, Miss Xia you are just too generous!"

Yaxin chuckled, "I had no intention to sell it anyway, might as well be generous for a good cause! Furthermore, now that the piece had become the one and only, it will have much greater value!"

The two had similar thought in mind. Mu had been thinking about the same thing, as long as Yaxin remained as the designer, the good name would be a priceless wealth. Much more valuable compared to the one million dollars right now.

Furthermore, Alexis was a foreign noble. It would definitely maximally escalate the necklace's worth! Mu had certainly thought further in this matter.

"Not only that, I scored you another contract right~" Yaxin said with pride. Although she didn't know the details of their collaboration, but definitely she had contributed to the successful sign off.

"Woman, don't be too smart~" Mu swept his eyes on her and smirked, "Not adorable this way!"

"That's just nice. It's not like Mr. Mu likes me and I like you!" Yaxin laughed jovially, "Alright, if there's nothing else I will get back to work now."

When Yaxin walked towards the door, all of a sudden Mu called out to her.

"Hold on a second!"

"What now?"

"Are you going to wear this for the dinner party tonight?" He sized her up and asked. Although she looked adorable in that dress, it was definitely not suitable for the occasion.

Yaxin looked down at her own dress, "Is there any problem?"

"Wait till tonight then you will see if there's any problem~" Mu did not explain but just led her on.

Yaxin frowned in perplex. She didn't know what kind of function was going on and she definitely had no idea how she should choose her dress code...



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"Oh by the way, you would be invited to stage for a speech!" Mu continued to tease her, "Good luck!"

A speech?

Yaxin frowned.

"Why? Nervous?"

As Yaxin saw Mu's cheeky face, she felt challenged.

"Well, I am just annoyed at how many speeches I always need to give~" She harrumphed triumphantly and click-clacked off the room.

Mu was brought to a laughter too and he followed behind.

.....

People from the upper class were always extravagant.

Just from winning a competition, Mu had made a block booking for an entire hotel. Of course, the hotel was also one of his assets.

When it was almost evening, Yun Rui was in a merry and jolly atmosphere, as if they were celebrating a festive day!

Men changed into suits and women changed into their battle suits – evening dresses!

Yaxin had a jaw-drop, now she finally understood what Mu meant!

At that time, Coco walked towards her and asked, "Yaxin, you forgot your dress?"

Yaxin shook her head, "Nope!"

"Are you going to go like this?"

Yaxin scanned through herself, "Umm... Can't I?"

Actually she didn't mind at all.

"Well you can~ but... You are the star of the night, it's a little too... Umm... Modest!"

"Haha modest?" Yaxin giggled, "I think it's still acceptable?"

"Yaxin, waaaay to modest!" Coco enunciated.

"Hmm, so I might end up being the most outstanding one tonight after all!" She jovially joked.

Coco was tickled but she insisted, "Look at every one of them, dressing up with their best. And then here you are, being 'modest' and all~"

"Simple is more!"

Coco laughed and shook her head helplessly. Yaxin was always so witty and she didn't think she could persuade her.

In the meantime, someone called out at the door,
"May I know who is Miss Xia Yaxin?"

"Here!"

Yaxin raised her hand like a school kid.

The man noticed her and walked towards her with
a huge briefcase.

"Miss, your delivery!"

It caused a scene in the office and all the
colleagues turned their attentiveness to this side
of the room.

"Umm... May I know what is this?"

"Sorry I don't know. But I do know that the delivery
was from a man." The man replied.

Yaxin's eyebrows drew closer in baffle, she quickly
signed on the receipt and thanked the man.

After some consideration, she unzipped the
briefcase.

Whoa....

And there were gasps from the surrounding
crowds.

A graceful dress sat inside. It was in elegant blue
and the entire impression was brimming with
grand elegance.

Even Yaxin's eyes widened in surprise.
"Yaxin! Who was so thoughtful to even prepare
such a beauty for you!" Coco gasped.

Now the female colleagues were bustling in to
have a closer look.

"I seriously have no idea..."

Yaxin carefully took out the dress.

It was a sapphire low back gown and it looked
absolutely stunning.

"You don't know? Can it be your boyfriend?" a
female colleague asked.

Boyfriend?

Yaxin was even more puzzled, "But I don't have a
boyfriend!"

Her reply was like water thrown into hot oil.

"Then it must be your secret admirer!" Another
colleague hooted.

"Forget it, hurry and get changed! We are dying to
see!" The crowd cheered her on.

Yaxin felt a little awkward to accept a dress she
didn't even know from who. However under the
crowd's coaxing and her own curiosity, she went
to the ladies' room and got changed.

"Forget it, hurry and get changed! We are dying to see!" The crowd cheered her on.

Yaxin felt a little awkward to accept a dress she didn't even know from who. However under the crowd's coaxing and her own curiosity, she went to the ladies' room and got changed.

.....

When Yaxin looked into her own reflection, she was astonished.

Who could've sent it? The dress fitted her perfectly, as if it was custom made. Moreover, there was something special about the classy sapphire blue that matched her skin tone wondrously.

As Yaxin looked into the mirror, even she herself was overwhelmed. She let her rosy curled hair cascade down her back and it matched even more perfectly.

The moment she walked out, the entire office wowed lengthily and dropped their jaws.

Yaxin laughed embarrassedly and said, "Hey, don't exaggerate, your faces look hilarious!"

"Yaxin, seriously, you look sensational!" Coco gasped and many of her colleagues nodded in agreement.

"Whoa... What a refined taste! Who was it, hurry and confess!" Coco interrogated.

Yaxin just raised both arms to surrender, "I swear I have no idea!"

"Well, it's kind of awkward wearing this and not knowing who it came from..."

The group of female colleagues' eyes were twinkling in stars and gathered around her.

Soon after, a van came to pick them up to the party.

The moment Yaxin stepped in, she was completely swept of her feet.

Such upscale and extravagant event!

The place was enormous and sumptuous. They could see a lot of luxury cars parking outside the building. Apparently this party wasn't exclusively for their office workers only!

Moreover, thinking back at how Mu had always been high profile when it comes to business dealings, she realized that there were still more that met the eyes.

Yaxin turned to Coco and asked, "Was the event always so large scaled for the past years?"

"Yep!" Coco chuckled, "I think this is just the half of it, when everyone arrives, you would see how grand it is!"

Yaxin nodded in agreement, "Yeah, this is definitely Mr. Mu's style."

It was necessary for those in their line of business to be showy from time to time. Not only does it display a company's strength, it can also serve as a blow to their competitors.

Yaxin and Coco took a glass of wine each and stood leisurely in a corner of the hall.

They were just bystanders in the rustling hall; most people were busy making acquaintances and some were walking around nipping on the gourmets.

"Yaxin, you are the star of tonight, are you just gonna stand here?"

"If not?"

"Shouldn't you go mix around?"

Yaxin quickly shook her head, "Forget it, and I don't think anyone knows me!"

Coco just chuckled at her friend, "Ok then. I need to go to the restroom, do you want to come?"

Yaxin shook her head again.

"Ok, then I'll go first~" And Coco lifted her dress slightly and walked off.

As Yaxin was standing there alone, a man entered the hall...

At that moment, a man stepped into the hall.

Mu had changed into a refined attire. The moment he walked in, he immediately stole the spotlight. He was wearing a stylish semi-formal with a blue suit and he looked absolutely handsome.

Blue suit...

Yaxin looked at her own blue dress, was it a coincidence?

Mu greeted his guests as he strolled around, but he was turning around searching for someone all the time.

Soon after, he caught glimpse of Yaxin and walked towards her, with a grin on his face.

As Yaxin saw him coming her way with a guileful smile, her heart raced and she quickly pretended to look elsewhere...

Mu stopped right in front of Yaxin and eyed her from top to bottom. After that he nodded in approval, "Miss Xia, the dress is beautiful!"

Yaxin raised her eyebrows, "Mr. Mu, aren't you supposed to say I'M beautiful instead?"

"Haha yes you are. And the dress is just perfect!"

Yaxin felt odd and frowned, "Mr. Mu, don't tell me you're the one who prepared it for me!"

The two stood there amongst the crowd and it

was as if they purposely wore a couple themed outfits.

Mu walked pass her and leisurely got himself a glass of wine, took a sip and spoke, "What do you think?"

"....."

How would I know...

But judging at his smug face she could be positive that it was from him. But why would he wear blue too?

Now they look just like a couple, what was he thinking!

Yaxin ignored him and just went back to amuse herself with her glass of red wine. Since he didn't admit, she wouldn't need to thank him then.

"How was it? Are you ready for your speech? Nervous?" Mu teased her.

"Mr. Mu invited half the population of A city... So even if I'm nervous I will still drag my ass up there!"

"Ok! I will support you from under the stage." Mu was almost immune to her comebacks.

"... I think I would be more comfortable if you don't..."

Once she replied, she could feel Mu's piercing

glare, and Yaxin immediately put on her botox smile.

Shortly after, someone came by to greet them.

"Mr. Mu, congratulations!"

"Mr. He, long time no see!"

"Yeah, glad to hear your achievement!"

The two men shook hands and Yaxin wanted to slide away. Mr. He however, noticed her and said, "Oh, and who might this be?"

"This is our designer, also the winner for the SRD this year!" Mu introduced.

Mr. He's eyes widened, "I am truly impressed! So young and my~ what a beauty!"

Yaxin bowed gently and smiled, "Mr. He you're too kind."

"Mr. Mu, now I truly envy your company!"

"Mr. He, your company is doing great too!" Yaxin politely returned the favor.

"Haha ok, Mr. Mu, I'll not bother you two for now, let's talk later!"

Mu nodded manneredly and Mr. He left.

There were quite a number of youngsters in this line of business. However, there was only Mu who

stood out as much. Basically those that purposely came by to greet him were mostly senior and successful businessmen.



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Hmm...

The moment Mr. He left, Mu turned to scan all over Yaxin. He was perplexed. Was it a mistake to buy her such an eye-catching dress?

He could tell that Yaxin had been attracting eyeballs all night. If it weren't for him being there, most probably she could be swamped by countless men trying to start a conversation!

Out of a blue, a coquettish voice emitted from behind Mu.

"Haoyu..."

Yaxin just wanted to slap her forehead, she was opposite Mu and immediately saw who came...

Han Yiqiu!

When Mu turned and saw the woman, his face gloomed.

Han Yiqiu knew the man was furious, so she purposely came to look for him. Little did she know, he seemed to have a good time with Yaxin here. Most importantly, the two of them were wearing such complimentary outfit!

They looked just like a couple!

Yaxin could see the burning flames in her eyes, and she glared at Yaxin ragingly as if she wanted to chew her alive.

Sigh, this Han Yiqiu definitely misunderstood again... How dramatic and cliché!

Every single time when they were together, Han Yiqiu would appear.

Misunderstanding?

Yaxin just thought the goddess of fate was joking with her...

"Mr. Mu, I shouldn't bother the two of you, see you!" Yaxin lowered her glass and walked away. She was frustrated to always end up being in the middle of the two.

"Wait!"

Surprisingly, Han Yiqiu called out.

Yaxin stopped on the spot and looked back at her, "Miss Han, is there anything you need?"

Now Han Yiqiu was boiling in jealousy and resentment. She had come to dislike Yaxin more and more.

"Miss Xia, do you mind to maintain some distance with Haoyu?" She gritted her teeth and enunciated every word in a threatening tone, as if Yaxin was the one sticking on Mu with purpose.

Yaxin's eyebrows knitted in temper, "Miss Han, what do you mean?"

"Well, you should know best!" Han Yiqiu dropped her act and changed into a hateful demeanour, "You have been plotting this for quite some time. Now that you see us like this, are you satisfied!?"

Luckily the hall was crowded and noisy, nobody else seemed to notice the commotion.

Yaxin sneered, "Miss Han, are you delusional?"

"You!"

"I told you, don't assume that whatever you think best is good in other's eyes too! Moreover, you said I made the two of you like this? Miss Han, you better clear things up, what have I done? And I didn't even take action against you when you stole my explanatory card. What else do you want?!"

When Yaxin mentioned the explanatory card, Han Yiqiu's face turned pale.

"Then you just stay away from Haoyu, leave Yun Rui!" She yelled.

It was all because of this woman! Otherwise, she and Mu would still be happily together. If she didn't exist, none of these will happen!

Yaxin's lips curled upwards, "Well, it's my choice whether I want to leave or stay. And I have been trying to leave Yun Rui for some time, but now I feel like changing my mind! You should be informed, it's not that I need Yun Rui, but Yun Rui needs me!" Yaxin enunciated every word clearly,

confident and unapologetic.

"Actually, if you really want me to leave, you should talk to the man next to you. If you can get him to fire me, I am more than happy to leave!"



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She had never retaliated before, but that doesn't mean Yaxin was a saint.

She had put up with this crazy woman over and over again. But that didn't mean she will continue to tolerate her without drawing a line.

"You! So you still insist on not leaving!?" Han Yiqiu barked.

Yaxin looked at her silently.

Actually, Yaxin had made up her mind to leave. But now that Han Yiqiu was ordering her so ill-manneredly, she wanted to give her a taste of her own medicine.

"Xia Yaxin, You!!" Han Yiqiu was exploding with wrath, she lifted her hand and wanted to strike Yaxin.

Out of the blue, her hand was caught from the back.

She turned back and realized it was Mu, her flames of rage burned even more and she yelled, "Let me go!"

"Enough!" Mu thundered.

"Am I the one at fault?! Haoyu, you still don't get it, this woman did it on purpose!" Han Yiqiu fumed.

Yaxin stood there silently, her lips curved faintly and unemotionally. Nobody know what was she thinking.

"Enough!" Mu grabbed her hand and dragged her out.

Yaxin unfeelingly saw them off and turned to the buffet table and got herself some food.

Now that her mood was lightened up her appetite was good too!

She had had enough from this spoiled woman. Again and again, she'd even sabotage her in such an important event. Now she even came to bully her once more, who could've tolerated that?

She had never thought to retaliate, but her tolerance shouldn't be an excuse for that woman to press on.

Nonetheless, she felt a therapeutic satisfaction!

Outside the hall, Mu hurled Han Yiqiu's hand off when they got out.

"Have you made enough trouble?"

"Was it me who started it?" Han Yiqiu still hadn't calmed down, "Haoyu, why are you siding with the woman!!"

Mu's eyebrows just furrowed in repulsion, how could they be so different? Yaxin was sophisticated and well-mannered all the time. And then there's this woman, behaving so spoiled and irrational.

"You stole her explanatory note and wanted to

sabotage her competition. Do you know that she had showed grace by not pressing charges? Now what else do you want!?"

Cat got her tongue. Han Yiqiu asked meekly, "Are you angry at me because of this?"

Mu frowned in annoyance, "Han Yiqiu, do you seriously think what you did was ok?"

When she calmed down a bit, Han Yiqiu noticed that Mu was enraged. Fear splashed on her like a bucket of ice water. She drew closer to Mu and fretted, "Haoyu, listen to me...I know I was wrong. But, that was because I cared too much for you and I'm afraid to lose you. Please understand me too, I am just worried that you might get together with Xia Yaxin!"

Mu just glared coldly at her.

"I actually wanted to help out. However, that time I was being emotional and all I wanted was to get rid of Xia Yaxin. I didn't think it through..."

The princess of Han Group had completely casted away her ego and pride.

"This does not justify your tyrannical action after you did wrongly!" Mu spoke to her in a cold tone.

"No! It's not like that, Haoyu, I love you! I just couldn't stand the thought of losing you..." She cried.

Mu just felt a strong detestation towards her.

He wouldn't label himself as a good man, however towards Han Yiqiu... he really don't feel an ounce of guilt. And he had never developed real feelings for her.

"Ok Yiqiu, tonight is a night of celebration. Just give it a rest for now!"

"Then are you still angry at me?" She looked at Mu with misty eyes.

"Yiqiu, it's best if we take some time off. We both need to cool down for a bit!"

Han Yiqiu was shocked and unable to respond. After some time, she hissed a breath, "Are you suggesting that we break up?"

"I mean we take a few days off to calm down." He replied indifferently.

"No, I don't want to! I beg you Haoyu, please don't be angry at me!"

Mu just got more and more irritated.

"I know... What I did was wrong. I made a mistake, can you not be angry at me?"

"So you went to be the judge just for this?" Mu suddenly interrogated.

"No!" Han Yiqiu shook her head immediately, "Daddy asked me to go..."

"Then why did you do that?"

"I don't know... I was just jealous about you always being together with Yaxin. Trust me, Haoyu, I really didn't mean that. I don't even know why... I just did it!" She panicked, "All I had in mind was to separate you and Yaxin, nothing else!"

"Yiqiu, I have always thought you are a sensible woman. I never sought or need your help, but it had never crossed my mind that you would do that. Do you know how much the competition meant to me?" He stared solemnly in her eyes.

Han Yiqiu was stunned. She knew Mu had been eyeing to collaborate with Alexis for that project...

"I really didn't thought about it then, sorry... Mu I am so sorry..."

Looking at how the woman pitifully apologised over and over again, Mu frowned.

"You really want me to stop being angry at you?"

"Yes!!" She nodded desperately.

"Alright, then promise me to never trouble Yaxin again!" He warned her in a serious demeanour.

Han Yiqiu's eyes widened, "You... You really fell in love with her?"

Just the thought made her feel like her heart was being ripped out.

"That has nothing to do with it."

"Then why?"

Ever since Yaxin appeared, she had caught so much of his attention. How could Han Yiqiu believe that Mu hadn't developed any feelings for her?

"After the competition, Alexis entered into an agreement with me. And she personally appointed Yaxin to be the chief design officer for that project. Now I must make sure she stays in Yun Rui!" He explained.

Han Yiqiu's eyes fluttered in doubt, "Just this?"

"If not?"

She quickly nodded, "Of course, I trust you!"

In this relationship, she was willing to yield and even put herself down for him.

However, little did she know, love was supposed to equal and uplifting; it doesn't need anyone to discard their pride and self-efface for the sake of the other person. And if that happened, most probably it isn't love.

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In a short moment, the party will begin. Thus the crowd gathered together.

A jovial host walked up the stage and lifted the atmosphere. After that it should be Mu's turn to give a speech. However since Mu was not there, he just skipped his turn and invited Yaxin up.

Yaxin had prepared herself downstage. The moment her name was called, she walked up gracefully.

As she stood on the stage, her elegance and stupendous appearance impressed the crowd. The men were secretly admiring her and women aspired to be her.

The hall settled in silence and waited for her.

"Good evening, I am Xia Yaxin, the representative designer from Yun Rui. First of all, let me thank you all for coming of behalf of our company!"

Yaxin talked and smiled pleasantly. She wanted to drag it a little until Mu appears. However, after the round of applause subsided, he was still nowhere to be seen. And thus she continued.

"I was actually surprised to have won this prize and there's nothing much to say. I just wanted to

give thanks to my mentors, my company and my boss. I am thankful that they gave me such an opportunity!"

For the crowd, it didn't even matter what she said. Her beauty alone had captured their heart...

ChengXuan was there too. He sipped on his wine and was fixated on Yaxin. A faint smile was on his face...

Meantime, two people who came late entered the hall...

The moment the woman saw who was giving a speech, she was baffled, "Isn't that Yaxin?"

A slow realization seeped in and she yanked the arm of her partner, "Xia Tian, are my eyes playing tricks? That is Yaxin right!?"

The couple was Yaxin's parents. Her father, Xia Tian and her mother, Xu Weiyin.

"Of course it is!" He replied in excitement.

"When did she come back?"

"How would I know!"

And they hurriedly moved closer.

At that time, ChengXuan noticed them and rushed forward, "Dad, mum, how come you're here?"

"Can't we come?" His father complained. The man

was the president of the Xia Group, moreover, the ex-father in law for Mu, it was only logical that he invited them over!

ChengXuan kept his silence.

But Xia Tian looked up the stage and frowned at him, "ChengXuan, so you've known that Yaxin had come back..."

ChengXuan could only nod helplessly, "Yes..."

Their father instantly knew his children had purposely kept it a secret from him.

"Why didn't you tell me she was back?"

"Dad, mum, listen to me... Actually Yaxin had her own reason and wanted to keep it a secret."

"What reason? We are her parents, why would she even need to hide from us?" Xu Weiyin whined.

The moment she spoke, Mu was standing right behind her. He had come in late as well.

And he heard everything!

Xia Yaxin was their daughter?!

Xia Yaxin was their daughter?!

If he remembered correctly, the Xia family only had one daughter, and she was married to him 3 years ago.

Xia Yaxin, Xia ChengXuan?

Damn it, he should've realised it much sooner!

Xia Yaxin...

He tried hard to comb through his memory and realised he actually forgot his ex-wife's name...

But now, he can be a hundred percent sure that Yaxin was his ex-wife!

He raised his eyes to the stage and fixed his gaze on Yaxin. A cold grin surfaced on his face as he squinted his eyes at her and secretly brewed a thought...

Xia ChengXuan lowered his voice and talked to his parents. They were frowning and nodding at the same time. Although it sounded ridiculous, but the ship has sailed and it was too late for them to say anything.

It was baffling to find out that Yaxin came back and ended up in Mu's company!

Out of the blue, a magnetic voice emitted from behind.

"Mr. and Mrs. Xia, thanks for coming!" Mu stepped

towards them with a guileful grin.

His casual demeanour and aura was enough to bring a pressuring atmosphere.

When Yaxin's parents turned back and saw the man, they were surprised.

Mu also turned to ChengXuan and greeted him, "Hi, Xia ChengXuan. Welcome!"

ChengXuan smiled back, "Thanks for inviting us to your party!"

His father scanned through Mu. Although he divorced his daughter, but two years ago the Mu family undoubtedly offered a great help to the Xia Group.

And aside from being a little racy, actually Mu had never caused any harm to Yaxin. He was also dragged into the sham marriage against his will.

"Haha, how can we not show up at your party?" Xia Tian bubbled.

"I am most thrilled by your presence!" Mu cheerfully replied.

Of course he was, otherwise how could he find out about the shocking secret!

It was just that Mu was acting overly friendly.

"Oh right, how is your father doing?" Xia Tian asked casually.

"He's great! Just misses his daughter in law from time to time."

His answer stupefied the three.

"By the way, where is my ex-wife? After all, we have been married for two years. I would really love to see her!" Mu asked indifferently.

Actually Mu had always been good in concealing his emotions. Even when he was infuriated, he had no problem to present himself manneredly, even appearing delightful.

"She..." Xu Weiyin thought a little and continued, "She was travelling and couldn't come over!"

She was obviously a bad liar. After that she even turned to look at her husband. And he just stood quietly.

Mu's lips curved upwards and nodded innocently, "Oh so that's how it is..."

Xu Weiyin smiled awkwardly and also kept her lips sealed.

"I shall excuse myself first. Please enjoy yourselves!" And enigmatic smile surfaced on Mu's face as he left.

Xia Tian nodded, "Ok, see you!"

Mu glanced at ChengXuan who stood beside his father but said nothing and left.

At that time, Yaxin was still giving her speech on stage.



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Yaxin couldn't see her parents from the stage and she was completely unaware that Mu was speaking to them.

Mu walked closer to the stage. When Yaxin finally saw him, her restless heart felt a sense of security. However, as she saw clearly, she felt something was off... Mu's eyes were shrouded with a layer of ice.

Yaxin was perplexed. Had she offended him somehow?

Or can it be because of Han Yiqiu again?

Anyway, now was not the time to be thinking about that. She intended to end her speech but before she could do that, Mu had already walked up the stage.

Yaxin was bewildered because that was not going according to plan. She quickly wittedly spoke through the microphone, "Let us continue to hear from Mr. Mu!"

Mu walked past Yaxin and his eyes were gleaming with a fierce menace.

"There's nothing that I would like to add on. Let us once again thank Miss Xia for winning this prize for our company!"

Yaxin stood beside him heedfully. She felt the way Mu looked at her was rather odd, or maybe she was just overthinking...

During that time, the host came along, "Next, let us invite Mr. Mu to award this prize to Miss Xia!"

Huh? There was an award ceremony?

Mu smiled and took over a giant dummy cheque from the host. On it was written 100 grand.

"Miss Xia, we thank you for your good work!" Mu handed the cheque over with one hand and gestured to shake her hand with another.

Yaxin just realised that the winner had a prize money of 100 grand!

She smiled joyously and shook Mu's hand.

After taking some pictures, Mu took over the mic and spoke, "Thank you all for coming and please enjoy the rest of the party! Your being here today means much more than I could ever express!"

They all walked down the stage and the party resumed.

Actually, business parties were quite procedural.

The crowd went on with their own things; chit-chatting, eat and drink and networking.

When Yaxin walked down the stage, an upbeat music was played.

Out of the blue someone yelled, "Mr. Mu! Dance with the champion!"

The host quickly cheered on, "May the first dance brings prosperity to Yun Rui!"

Yaxin lowered her food.

Is this a prank...?

On the other side, Mu thought it was a great idea.

He strode towards Yaxin and did a gentlemanly invitation, "Miss Xia, can I ask you for a dance?"

"I..."

Dance! Dance! Dance!

The crowd began to cheer and clapped rhythmically.

If she were to turn him down...

The idea itself sent chill down her spine.

Be it anyone else, it's was too difficult to reject the invitation. One had to be considerate towards the other's reputation.

What more, that person was Mu Haoyu.

If she were to reject him, she would most likely end up buried.

She threw him a bright smile and put her hand on his.

The two held hands and went to the center of the

hall.

The music changed into a rousing tango, when the two faced each other, Mu suddenly put his arms around her waist and hugged her in.

Yaxin was taken aback and she fell right on his chest.

She raised her eyes and met with his dark, enigmatic gaze...



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Yaxin was taken aback and she fell right on his chest.

She raised her eyes and met with his dark, enigmatic gaze...

At that moment, it was as if her heart forgot to beat...

But why...

Why does his gaze look so odd?

He looked as if he wanted to dissect her...

Yaxin averted her eyes and muttered, "Mr. Mu, don't you think we are being too close?"

Mu stared blatantly at her, "Is it?"

"Yes!"

There was an unsettling air about him tonight. But Yaxin was unable to identify the source.

"Isn't tango supposed to be like this?" Mu quipped.

It was like every word he said was full of thorns and thistles.

Or was it just an imagination?

The more he closed in, the more Yaxin backed off.

"Mr. Mu, do you always stick like a glue when you dance?" Yaxin frowned in irk.

Mu simply ignored her.

Yaxin felt dreaded and hoped the dance would end soon. She had no idea the man before her was grudgingly enraged at her...

The two were dancing closely. Yaxin made her an attempt to look elsewhere while Mu had his eyes fixed on her at all time.

Yaxin didn't know what to do.

As she turned her head, she noticed Han Yiqiu was standing nearby, her eyes fumed with wrath.

Looks like she misunderstood again!

Yaxin then whispered to Mu, "Mr. Mu, your girlfriend is watching!"

"Oh really~" He didn't seem to care.

His reply made Yaxin feel that he was indeed bothered or had some issues. To be exact, after he went out with Han Yiqiu, he came back another man.

"Yes! Aren't you afraid that she might be angry?"

"Why should I?"

His reply put a frown on her face. She just couldn't shake off that unsettling feeling.

Was this man simply heartless, or was he just confident?

The two were chatting lightly as they danced.

Through their conversation, Yaxin could tell that this man was uncaring towards Han Yiqiu.

"You are quite the heartless man!"

Mu's lips curled upward, "Heartless?"

"Isn't that so?"

He knew Han Yiqiu would be upset, but still uncaringly danced with another woman. And he didn't even seem to be bothered with what she felt at all.

All of a sudden, Mu stared fervently at her, "Xia Yaxin, have you ever lied to me?"

Yaxin was stunned for a moment and her heart skipped a beat, "What do you mean?"

"Hmm, let's say, if you lied to me, how should I punish you?" He muttered indifferently, but his tone was cold as ice.

Yaxin had a bad intuition and she kept her mouth shut.

"Even if I were to lie to you, I don't see a problem. After all, we are completely unrelated, why couldn't I?"

Completely unrelated?

A devious grin surfaced on Mu's face...

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