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

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

"In that case, I'll have to trouble you then," Cheng Jinrong apologized.

"It's no trouble at all."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Where is Wei?" Cheng Jinrong asked solemnly.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Sir, please, stop it." She held Chen Wei's father back.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All his efforts would be for naught in the end.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Have you eaten?" Bai Rong expressed her concern.

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

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

"Yeah," Gu Mingchen hummed a response. "There's one minute left. Open the door."

"What?" Bai Rong's heart galloped in her chest. Could he be here?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bai Rong’s heart warmed at that.

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

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

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

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

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

This man can be really attentive when he wants to.

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

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

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

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

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

"Gu Mingchen did that, not me," Bai Rong explained.

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

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

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

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

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

"Yes." Bai Rong immediately sat up on the bed.

"Switch it to video call," Su Xuyan ordered.

Immediately, a little boy was displayed on her screen.

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

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

"Mommy, look what I've painted today." Tian placed his painting in front of the camera.

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

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

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

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

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

I can see that Su Xuyan treats Tian quite well.

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

After all, Tian is our son.

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

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

"Where are you now, Tian?" Bai Rong asked.

"I'm-" The video call went dead before Tian could speak.

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

Su Xuyan invited her to another video call.

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

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

"What?" Panic surged in Bai Rong.

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

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

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

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

Bai Rong’s heart dropped with a thump.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bai Rong dialed Gu Mingchen’s number.

He was quick to pick up the call. “I thought you’d call sooner,” commented Gu Mingchen.

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

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

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

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

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

"Not yet. I haven't received any report about it."

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

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

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

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

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

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

The war starts now.

"Where is Su Xuyan now?" demanded Gu Mingchen.

"He's at home," replied the man on the other side of the line.

"Did he leave today? Are you sure he's home?" asked Gu Mingchen suspiciously.

"I'm sure. What's wrong?" asked the man.

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

"Understood."

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

Bai Rong murmured, "Okay."

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

The night dragged on.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Yes, but don’t let Su Xuyan discover you,” instructed Gu Mingchen.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“You’ve worked hard. Go home and rest,” said Gu Mingchen as he scanned Tian.

“Understood,” replied the man before he left Gu Mingchen’s apartment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Okay," replied Bai Rong.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Let them enter," replied Gu Mingchen grimly.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"My father is the Deputy Commander, while I am the Chief of the Special Forces Military Base. I have a good shot to be the commander-in-chief, so

what makes you think I'd go and work as a spy?" refuted Gu Mingchen again.

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

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

The others went to inspect his room.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

However, Su Xuyan hung up on her.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Bulls**t! Gu Mingchen is not a spy," insisted Bai Rong. She didn't believe in a word Su Xuyan said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

With that thought in mind, Bai Rong steeled herself up and said, “I’ll call you later.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"I'm at the entrance of the Jadeborough Hotel."

"Alright. I'll be there in ten minutes."

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

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

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

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

"Umm... How is Mingchen now?"

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

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

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

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

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

Bai Rong's mind went blank instantly.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bai Rong suddenly felt a chill run down her spine.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

How does he do that?

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

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

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

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

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

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

"You don't have a choice, Bai Rong. You don't trust me, and similarly, I don't trust you either. What would I do if you stay with him after all this?"

That is why I will inject you with the virus before I save him. I am the only one with the antidote, and if you agree to my terms, you can come to my place. If you don't, then you can do whatever you want. I'm hanging up now," said Su Xuyan before he hung up.

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

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