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You Owe Me, My Love Chapter 291 - 300

Chapter 291 Sparks Flew

Bai Rong's heart wrenched at the sight of the gaping wound, but before she could react, the person beside him exclaimed frantically, "Chief, you're bleeding!"

Gu Mingchen's brows furrowed. "It's just a small cut; no need for all this fuss," he said stoically.

Bai Rong promptly stood up and took his hand. "Don't overlook even the smallest wounds. If you don't deal with them well, they can deteriorate and severely affect your health. As the leader of our country's military, you of all people should take care of yourself better," Bai Rong chastened as she carefully removed the shard.

A waiter brought over the hotel's first aid kit.

Bai Rong focused on cleaning Gu Mingchen's wound with her back bent.

Gu Mingchen's eyes riveted on her.

The lights shone above Bai Rong, casting a golden sheen over her. With her head bowed, the strands of hair framing her face created shadows on her profile. She was a portrait of quiet beauty.

Memories of her dressing his wounds resurfaced in his mind.

The flashbacks showed Bai Rong in a white lab coat, wrapping a bandage around his arm.

If the accident never occurred and he did not lose his memories, they might have gotten together ages ago.

He curled his fingers around Bai Rong's hand as she tended to his wound.

The heat of his touch scalded Bai Rong's skin. Her fingers trembled uncontrollably when she felt the warmth radiating off his palm.

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She lifted her eyes to meet Gu Mingchen's gaze, her expression one of puzzlement.

"My subordinate can take over. There's no need to trouble you with this," he murmured, his voice so low that it seemed to rumble in his chest. His grip on Bai Rong loosened.

Bai Rong's heart sank. He's right. I'm doing a bit too much. It's not my place to do this, considering our current relationship.

Straightening her back, she announced, "I'll head to the restroom."

"There's one in this private room," Lu Xingzhou told her as he beckoned to a waiter.

The waiter escorted Bai Rong to the restroom.

Bai Rong walked in and shoved her hands under the gushing tap. The blood dyed the water red before it flowed into the drain.

This is Gu Mingchen's blood. Bai Rong's heart throbbed painfully. She raised her head to stare at her reflection in the mirror. This is what you want, right?

Her reflection stared back wordlessly.

She inhaled deeply and recollected herself. Once she had reined in her emotions, she walked out of the restroom.

Lu Xingzhou put his phone down and said to Gu Mingchen, "Chief, since your hand is injured, it's best if you don't drink any alcohol for now. Would you like any other beverages? I recommend the herbal tea here."

"He'll have the herbal tea," Gu Mingchen's subordinate answered on his superior's behalf.

"Please bring us some freshly brewed herbal tea," Lu Xingzhou relayed the message to the waiter.

It did not take long for the herbal tea to be served.

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“Ms. Bai, you’ve had quite a few drinks since you’ve arrived. It’s not safe for a lady to be out alone. You should have some tea too. You too, Biao. You’re still a child, after all,” Lu Xingzhou rambled as he poured Gu Mingchen a cup of tea.

Lu Xingzhou gestured at the waiter to fill their cups with herbal tea, and he did as instructed.

Bai Rong had lost her appetite. She played with her food and drank some tea. Her body seemed to be heating up, so she glanced at the air conditioner. “Please lower the temperature,” she whispered her request to a waiter.

“Sure.”

Lu Xingzhou checked his watch. “Would you look at that; it’s almost half-past one! I have to attend a meeting in the afternoon. How about we cut this lunch short, and we’ll have a proper gathering over dinner when I’m free.”

“Sounds good to me. I have to head back to the station too.” Chen Bin looked at Bai Rong. “Would you like to follow me to the police station or go back to the hotel? I can send you there first.”

Bai Rong felt like her whole body was on fire. Her head was so heavy that she struggled to keep it from drooping forward. “I’ll go back to the hotel to rest and head to the police station later.”

“Alright. Your face is flushed red. You must have had too much to drink. The after-effects of red wine are not to be messed with,” Chen Bin commented as he propped Bai Rong up.

Bai Rong felt her head spin, so she leaned against Chen Bin for support.

Her body was weak and listless, which was unnatural for her. Moreover, the burning sensation that engulfed her insinuated that she had been drugged.

That can’t be! I ate the same food as everyone. It doesn’t make sense that only I was drugged. It must have something to do with my metabolism or the interaction between the toxins in my body and the alcohol. Bai Rong tried to rationalize her current situation.

She had the urge to leave the place as soon as possible and hide in her room, where she would have her privacy.

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Gu Mingchen frowned when he noticed their intimate interaction. "I'm staying in the same hotel as Ms. Bai. Since I'm going back as well, I can take her back."

Bai Rong's instinctively wanted to hide her current condition from Gu Mingchen. She gave him a slight bow and rejected his offer, "I'm sure that you have more important things to do, and I don't want to take your time, Chief. I have some things I need to discuss with Director Chen. I appreciate your kindness, but no thanks."

"I'm free in the afternoon. And didn't you say that you'll go to the police station later? Why the hesitation? Are you scared of me?" Gu Mingchen retorted.

Bai Rong could not comprehend Gu Mingchen's words.

He pretended that I was a stranger when we met this morning. Why is he insisting on bringing me back now?

"I... It's just that we're not that close," Bai Rong scrambled to come up with an excuse.

"Not close?" These words were familiar to Gu Mingchen. "I know your boyfriend well – he's the cousin of my childhood friend. I'll bring you back."

Gu Mingchen grasped Bai Rong's arm before she could protest and strode out of the room nonchalantly.

Gu Mingchen's subordinate trailed after them.

Chen Bin was stunned. So Bai Rong's boyfriend is the cousin of Chief Gu's childhood friend. He must be wealthy and influential.

With that, he left the hotel as well.

Only the Lu family were left in the private room.

"Daddy, I don't feel well," Lu Biao whined and slumped on the table. A scarlet blush crept up his face.

"What's wrong? Did you eat something bad?" His mother asked anxiously.

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"I'll take him to the hospital. Pay the bill," Lu Xingzhou instructed as he picked up his son. He then went downstairs, left through the back door, and tossed Lu Biao into an RV.

Inside the RV was a young lady. She had flawless features and was incredibly attractive.

"Treat him well," Lu Xingzhou ordered as he slid into the passenger seat.

"Our men are already in position. The ambush is ready. Should we start the operation now?" His subordinate inquired from the driver's seat.

"Gu Mingchen offered to bring Bai Rong back, which makes our work so much easier. It seems like Lady Luck is on my side. Follow them closely; don't lose them." Lu Xingzhou smirked, his eyes glinting with malice.

Having lost all strength in her limbs, Bai Rong was dragged helplessly to the car by Gu Mingchen.

She leaned against the car door. Her muscles were tense, and she was shivering uncontrollably. She clenched her fists as she muttered. Get a grip on yourself. Get a grip on yourself.

Despite her best efforts, she was tempted to succumb to the overwhelming lust within her.

"Chief." Gu Mingchen's subordinate said as he took the driver's seat.

Gu Mingchen's fingers dug into the leather seats. Perspiration formed on his forehead and ran in rivulets down his face. "Bring us to the hotel," he ordered. "And make sure that we're not being followed."

"Alright." The subordinate could sense that something was off just by looking at their abnormally flushed faces. Time was of the essence, so he floored the gas pedal.

Bai Rong could not withstand the excruciating sensation any longer. I would rather die than experience this for a second longer. Waves of desire surged to her abdomen.

She gritted her teeth, turned, and pressed her lips to Gu Mingchen's.

At that moment, sparks flew.

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Gu Mingchen had been clinging on to his last shred of sanity by sheer determination, but now, the woman he had always loved was kissing him.

The impact of this realization obliterated his willpower. He threw caution to the wind and closed his eyes, reciprocating the kiss. The kiss quickly elevated as Gu Mingchen poured his heart and soul into it, desperately trying to convey his feelings for Bai Rong.

You Owe Me, My Love Chapter 292

Chapter 292 Staying With You

The kiss was like an irreversible bullet fired from a shotgun.

Their breaths grew heavy as they came together like sea and sand, like fire and ice, like the sun and the moon.

They forgot who they were and the situation they were in, immersing themselves in each other.

Mingchen pressed Bai Rong against the seat as she wrapped her legs around his waist, pulling him closer.

Mingchen's subordinate Zhong, sensing that something was off, glanced in the car mirror to check on the backseat passengers.

Noticing his gaze, Mingchen reprimanded, "Do you want to get your eyes gouged out? Keep your eyes on the road."

Zhong nearly jumped out of his skin and whipped back around, knuckles white as he gripped the steering wheel.

Mingchen closed the curtains of the car window on the right side, adjusting his sitting position and maneuvering Bai Rong into his lap with one hand before drawing back the curtains of the car window on the left side.

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Never in Zhong's wildest dreams did he imagine that the ascetic, stoic chief was capable of being in such a frenzied state.

Although he kept his eyes trained on the road, his ears still picked up on the offending noises coming from behind him.

The insistent, mellow sounds that came out of their mouths created an erotic melody that made even his heart race.

Zhong took a deep breath and swallowed the lump in his throat. Although he had trained himself to have a will of steel, he desperately wished for nothing more than to be with his wife at this very moment.

Bai Rong circled her arms around Mingchen's neck lazily, tugging him nearer to her and resting her chin on his shoulder.

She knew that what they were doing was wrong, but the drugs in her system had completely overwhelmed her rationality, like a parched man in the desert dying for a drop of water.

She had no intention of letting go even after he came once, still unsatisfied and needy. There was a growing feeling of hate towards herself for acting so shamelessly, even as she leaned forward to kiss his ear.

Why am I like this?

What went wrong?

She turned her face away from him, clenching her fists.

But Mingchen grabbed ahold of her chin and made her look right at him.

Her eyes were watery and glazed over with lust, eyelids lowered in embarrassment that contrasted starkly to how tightly she was holding onto him.

"Do you want more?" Mingchen asked knowingly.

He had a suspicion that this was all happening because of the herbal tea they had drunk.

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He had stopped drinking it after a few sips when he started feeling a strange sense of intense desire burn within him, but Bai Rong had finished an entire glass of the tea.

Leaning on his shoulder, Bai Rong mumbled, "It hurts."

Her voice sounded soft and pleading, even to her own ears.

"Zhong, head back to the hotel," Mingchen instructed.

"Yes, sir." Zhong cleared his throat.

Bai Rong felt so humiliated that she wished a hole could randomly open up and swallow her whole. Even though no one else could see them like this from the outside, Zhong was still in the car with them. If this was any other day, she would rather die than do something like this.

Mingchen made her lie down on the car seat.

The fever still consuming her from the inside out and she unconsciously pushed his hand away, but to no avail. After about ten minutes, she was completely drained of energy and the effects of the drug slowly ebbed away.

But Mingchen still chose to take her.

After arriving at the hotel, he carried her bridal style all the way up to his room and onto the bed, where she lay motionless...

"Boss, the pigeon has brought its prey back to the nest," reported Lu Xingzhou's subordinate.

A sinister smile tugged at Lu Xingzhou's lips. "Move out."

The reporter, using a stolen room key, surreptitiously opened the door to Mingchen's presidential suite.

The sight of Mingchen sitting in front of a laptop working while Zhong stood beside him made him do a double-take.

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What? This isn't the adult film scene I'd imagined.

Zhong's sharp gaze darted to the intruder.

"Who are you? How did you get in here?" he demanded.

"Oh, I'm from The Jadeborough Daily," the reporter grinned, reciting his memorized lines. "I'm here for an interview with Ms. Bai. Is she in?"

"She was never supposed to be at this presidential suite, so how did you know that she's here?" Zhong's eyes narrowed.

"I was waiting at the entrance and saw you guys carry her in," explained the reporter, whose face paled slightly.

"If you knew that she was carried in, then you should have known that she's in no condition to be interviewed."

"Okay, then I'll come back at a later time." The reporter turned on his heel and made to flee.

"Wait," Mingchen called out.

Chills ran up the reporter's spine as he froze in his tracks, slowly turning around. Mingchen was towering over him and cornering him against the door as he told Zhong, "Call the police. The Jadeborough Daily, was it?"

"Yes, sir." Zhong picked up the phone.

His plans now foiled, the reporter tried to make a break for it.

Mingchen simply reached out and threw the reporter onto the ground, who instantly pulled out a gun and aimed it at him.

The reporter fired, and Mingchen ducked to avoid the bullet.

Bang!

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Bai Rong was jolted awake from her sleep, falling down from the bed while still tangled in the covers. Running for the door, she threw it open and saw the reporter laying on the ground.

The reporter spotted Bai Rong and swiftly aimed his gun at her, pulling the trigger.

Fortunately, Mingchen had predicted his movements and bolted forward to slam the hotel door shut.

The fired bullet lodged itself in the door.

“Get back in!” Mingchen yelled at Bai Rong.

Worried for Mingchen’s safety, she instead opted to rush to his side, gripping his arm tightly as she told him firmly, “I’m staying with you.”

His gaze softened as he looked down at her.

The simple phrase of “I’m staying with you” was far superior to any sweet, sugary words of affection that anyone else could ever offer.

He pulled her to crouch behind a sofa, one hand pressing on the back of her neck. “Get down.”

Bai Rong had a sudden sense of déjà vu.

Memories flashed through her mind of how Mingchen had protected her just like this when they first met, the display of masculinity warming her cold heart back then.

If she was going to die protecting him today, that was fine by her.

Mingchen had intended on catching the reporter, but he felt apprehensive facing the threat head-on due to Bai Rong’s presence in the room.

Subtly signaling to Zhong, his subordinate opened the hotel door to check if the reporter was gone, giving Mingchen a thumbs up to show that the coast was clear.

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But Mingchen refused to let his guard down, getting up and walking over to check for himself. After confirming that no one was outside, he returned to Bai Rong and helped her to her feet.

“Who was that? Why did he want to kill you?” Bai Rong asked, worried.

Instantly realizing that she might have accidentally touched upon confidential military secrets, she quickly added, “You’re an important national leader. It’s ridiculous to be walking around with only one officer to protect you. You should head back as soon as possible.”

“That person’s target was likely not just me, but us,” Mingchen grimaced.

Bai Rong knitted her eyebrows together. “What do you mean?”

A strange tinge of redness to his cheeks, he cleared his throat before asking, “Do you still remember what happened on the car ride here?”

She didn’t know what to say to that. She had ended up fainting near the end, but everything else was nearly imprinted in her mind.

You Owe Me, My Love Chapter 293

Chapter 293 | Only Care About Whether I Can Be With You

Bai Rong awkwardly turned around, facing away from Mingchen. “I... I think I must have eaten something weird,” she stammered.

He wrapped an arm around her waist, pulling her into his embrace. “Lu Xingzhou drugged the herbal tea we drank.”

Shocked, she turned to look at him.

His face was a hair’s breadth away from hers, and her lips accidentally brushed against his when she turned her head, sending what felt like an electric shock throughout her body.

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Forcing her noisy heartbeat to calm down in order to think straight, she argued, “But we weren’t the only ones who drank the tea; Lu Biao drank it as well. Lu Biao is Lu Xingzhou’s son, there’s no way he would harm him.”

Mingchen just stared silently at Bai Rong.

Detecting the determination in his gaze, Bai Rong guessed out loud, “Was that guy just now also acting upon Lu Xingzhou’s orders?”

He nodded. “Should be. He used a room key to enter the suite and probably intended on taking pictures of us together. When he couldn’t find you, he lied about writing for a newspaper, and then ran away when I said I wanted to call the cops on him.”

“But why did he do that? What benefit would pictures of us...” Bai Rong trailed off, scared to verbalize the idea in case it triggered flashbacks from the car again. “...What good would it do him?”

“Even though I never publicized my past incident, people can find out as long as they try hard enough.

“Lu Xingzhou believes that the land I put in a requisition for has some sort of treasure hidden on it. Besides that, he suspects that I came here to investigate Xiaojiu’s case, so he wants to chase me away.

“As for you, he just wants to get rid of you because he thinks you’re too smart. He had purposefully asked us if we were seeing anyone during lunch just now to check if his plans were still viable.

“If he got pictures of us, then he would be able to blackmail and threaten us to ensure his own safety,” Mingchen finished.

“So Xingzhou wants to get rid of me because he’s worried that I know about him murdering Chunxia’s family, as well as killing the hitman he’d hired for the job,” concluded Bai Rong solemnly.

“Xingzhou killed Chunxia’s family? What evidence do you have?”

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"I don't, it's all just an assumption. Xingzhou made the hitman take a video on purpose so the police would focus their attention on the hitman instead of Lu Biao. But, he didn't expect that Lu Biao would return to the scene of the crime to take his phone.

"The police arrested Lu Biao, but he didn't tell them anything, and no traces of the video were found at the scene. So, Xingzhou guessed that the phone was already in Lu Biao's possession.

"He understands Lu Biao's personality and habits, so he found the phone that Lu Biao had hidden and saw the video.

"Then, he ordered someone else to kill the hitman and then wrote down the entire process of the crime, thus clearing Lu Biao of any suspicion," Bai Rong explained.

"But he can't be charged without solid evidence, can he?"

Bai Rong thought back to Xing Bachuan and Su Xuyan.

They had committed so many evil acts, but had not received their deserved punishment.

She had done nothing wrong, and yet she had to constantly fear for her life.

She pushed away Mingchen's arm around her waist. "I need to go back."

"You still refuse to be with me, Rong?" He stared down at her.

Recalling the incident in the car, her cheeks flushed as she lowered her head, replying quietly, "I hadn't intended for the incident on the car ride here to happen. So forget about it. You're getting married soon, anyway."

His eyebrows furrowed together. "You still believe that lie?"

Confused, she glanced up at him. "What are you talking about?"

He stroked her hair gently, telling her, "Xuyan is making you suffer because of me. If I get married and distance myself from you, you'll have some breathing space."

Realization dawned upon Bai Rong.

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Everything Mingchen was doing was for her sake. Her heart clenched within her chest as her sight grew blurry with tears, everything she wanted to say to him getting stuck in her throat.

He had no future with her.

"I'm already dating Xuyan," she forced out.

"But I know you have feelings for me. If you didn't, you wouldn't rush to my side the moment I got injured, and you wouldn't stay by me even when facing off an assassin," insisted Mingchen.

"I rushed to your side when you got injured because I'm a doctor. I stayed beside you when facing off an assassin because I think that being your side is the safest place to be," she defended, feeling so guilty that she could barely look him in the eye.

"If you think that by my side is the safest place to be, then why can't you stay there?"

"Do you know how unsafe and insecure I feel without you? I think of you and what you might be doing with Xuyan every hour of the day! And every time I do, I get so angry that it gets hard to breathe.

"Rong, let's stay together, just like what you said to me. We can brave whatever storm comes our way. I don't care for reputation or profit. I only care about being with you."

Bai Rong was trembling as she listened to Mingchen's confession.

His last sentence had been near-fatal for her heart.

His eyes clearly shone with pain and sincerity when she looked up at him.

She could give up her body and her heart to him, but she could never stay with him.

Her fate was in someone else's hands.

Every day that she was with him was another day of pain and suffering for the both of them.

"Mingchen, I'm sorry. Thank you for loving me up until now, but I don't want to be with you.

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"I don't need more trouble or worries in my life. Anytime I stumble upon something frustrating or painful, I become mentally unstable. When I'm with you, I need to take medicine and sleeping pills every day. I can't take this anymore.

"After leaving you, my condition stabilized, and I didn't need medicine nor sleeping pills anymore. I know this is selfish of me, but I prioritize my own health over being with you," asserted Bai Rong, standing her ground.

"What if I could create a safe haven for you?" Mingchen suggested.

She went on to say coldly, "I might consider it if you actually manage to accomplish that, but I advise you to not waste your energy. And to be honest, we don't know each other all that well. Ten years of feelings are easy to forget, let alone the fleeting emotions we shared."

The phrase "fleeting emotions" stabbed through Mingchen's heart like a knife.

He knew that his feelings for her were definitely not "fleeting". He had fallen deeply in love with her to the point that he wanted to give everything up just to be with her. He was willing to quit his job as a military general and move to another country with her. He was willing to get a normal corporate job and work hard to earn money for their children.

Leaning forward, he held the back of her neck with one hand as he pressed her forehead to his, their noses brushing together. "... Till death do us part."

You Owe Me, My Love Chapter 294

Chapter 294 So It Was You

Bai Rong returned to her own hotel room in a daze, her mind replaying Mingchen's words like a broken record. Till death do us part.

Plopping onto the sofa, she stared off into space for a while.

God seemed to be having some mercy on her if he had given her someone who loved her so deeply.

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She had always only ever thought of herself, pitying herself and cursing God for her terrible life.

Now that she thought about it, Mingchen was more pitiful than herself. But all she did was wallow in self-pity.

If she died right now, nothing in the world would matter to her anymore. But what about Mingchen?

She had lived a lonely life with no one to love or accompany her for six years straight.

Whenever she thought of the person she loved, she would become so miserable that it hurt to even breathe.

An icy coldness had sprouted within her heart, causing her to forget how to even smile.

Is that what would happen to Mingchen if I died?

Her chest hurt so, so much. Bai Rong laid down on the sofa, curling into herself.

She used to hate herself for not erasing all memories of Mingchen when she went for hypnosis.

If she had done so, her heart would have never burned for Mingchen, and she wouldn't be in so much pain because of him.

But if she didn't remember him, that would only make him even more pitiful.

Maybe that was why she chose not to erase all her memories of him.

The past Bai Rong was madly in love with Mingchen.

And the current Bai Rong was still madly in love with Mingchen.

The hypnosis hadn't changed anything other than solving her psychological issues.

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She laid there in silence for nearly two hours when the doorbell rang. Even then, she refused to budge, focused on soothing the wound in her heart.

The person outside seemed to have other ideas, pressing the doorbell over and over.

Bai Rong stayed where she was.

There was silence outside the door for a moment, followed by the sound of beeping and the door opening.

Confused, she sat up.

Su Xuyan was standing in the doorway, his luggage in tow. His eyes were dark and indiscernible as he stared at her, as if he was examining her or waiting for something.

Standing beside him was the room's division manager.

The rooms division manager smiled politely when he spotted Bai Rong, explaining, "He claims to be your boyfriend, miss. We rang the doorbell for a long time, but no one answered."

"I was sleeping." She got up from the sofa. "Why are you here?"

"What, am I not welcome here?" Xuyan shot back, a smug smirk on his face as he walked towards her.

"You're not, actually." Bai Rong rolled her eyes.

He was now standing right in front of her. "Six years together, and you still never fail to make me feel worse whenever I'm in a bad mood."

"And yet, you still insist on staying with such an ill-mannered woman like me?" she retorted.

Xuyan sounded and looked completely serious as he said, "Our time together barely adds up to seven years. Maybe by the tenth year, you'll have helped me become less of an asshole than I am now."

The sudden self-deprecating statement made Bai Rong shut up.

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"I'm going to the police station later," she proclaimed in an attempt to change the topic.

Xuyan's tone softened as he looked over her. "You look pale. Do you feel unwell?"

"You already know about my condition," Bai Rong sighed, shaking her head. "That's it. Just do whatever you want."

She picked up her bag and left the hotel, shivering from the cold wind outside as she tried to hail a taxi.

A car slowed to a stop in front of her, and the driver called out her name. "Bai Rong?"

Her eyes widened at the sight of the driver, who turned out to be Chen Bin. "What a coincidence! Why are you here?"

"I came specifically for you," Chen Bin told her, his expression dark and solemn. "Get in."

Assuming that Chen Bin had already thought things through, Bai Rong got into the passenger's seat and fastened her seatbelt.

"I considered what you told me, and I think it makes sense. Do you think there's a possibility that Chunxia's family threatened the Lu family in order to buy the mansion, so the Lu family resorted to hiring a hitman to kill them? And later, when the hitman was arrested, they ordered someone else to kill the hitman?" he inquired.

Nodding, she replied, "If that version of events is true, then everything else would make sense."

"Do we have proof?" Chen Bin furrowed his eyebrows as he kept looking straight ahead, a strange glint in his eyes.

"No. If I did, the police would already be making an arrest," Bai Rong sighed, downhearted. "This case is going to shake up all of A City."

"Then what should we do? We can't just let the culprit get away with this," Chen Bin fussed.

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She gave him a sidelong glance. "Justice always prevails. You and I both know the truth now, don't we? If we continue collecting information about the killers, we'll reach the turning point soon."

He clenched his fists. There was a strange mix of reluctance and pity in his eyes as he looked at her, alongside some other complicated emotions.

"What's wrong?" Bai Rong asked, confused.

"I feel sorry for Lu Biao for being born into that kind of family." Chen Bin's eyebrows knitted together.

"Maybe it's what he deserves. He did rape Chunxia after all," she sighed. "What goes around comes around."

"Do you really think karma exists?"

"Probably. Isn't that why people have self-restraint and stop themselves from doing the wrong thing?"

He hummed in agreement. "Do you want some water?"

Shaking her head, Bai Rong turned to look out the window. "No, thank you. By the way, this isn't the way to the police station."

"I'm taking you somewhere," he answered in a low tone.

Alarm bells instantly rang out in her head. "Where?"

Chen Bin stopped the car by the roadside under the shade of a large tree. "Did you know why I was assigned to Jadeborough to be a director even when my previous job has nothing to do with my current one?"

Bai Rong had a bad feeling about this. "Why?"

"I'm one of Xingzhou's people."

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She hadn't expected that. Immediately whipping around to open the car doors, she was horrified to discover that they were already locked.

Chen Bin took out a handkerchief and sprayed it with diethyl ether, leaning over her to cover her nose and mouth with it.

Reflexively holding her breath, her eyes were wide with terror as she stared at him.

In a remorseful voice, he whispered, "I'm sorry. I just found out that the culprit is Xingzhou, too. He called me and told me to kidnap you. "He said that if I didn't follow his orders, I would lose not just my job, but all of my friends and family as well.

"I never once thought that you were the one assigned to help us crack the case. I just thought that it was fate that led us to meet each other. But you shouldn't have offended Governor Lu... You simply can't imagine the power and influence he holds."

Bai Rong's lungs were burning, screaming for oxygen. She had no choice but to take in a breath and inhale the chemicals, her vision grew dark and her body went limp...

You Owe Me, My Love Chapter 295

Chapter 295 Thankful For You

After some time, Bai Rong opened her eyes. It was already nighttime and her surroundings were dark.

A rope was tied around her wrists and ankles and she could feel herself floating on a surface. She guessed that she must be in the middle of the ocean.

"Rong, Rong."

Suddenly, she heard Gu Mingchen's voice and wondered if she could be hallucinating. Did she really miss that man so much?

"Rong, Rong." Gu Mingchen's voice sounded again.

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This time around, she was sure that it was him and replied, "I'm here! Gu Mingchen, Gu Mingchen!"

A beam of light from a torch shone in the darkness as Gu Mingchen lifted the lid of the wooden box.

Bai Rong was surprised to see the man and asked, "Why are you here?"

Gu Mingchen immediately started untying the ropes constraining Bai Rong while he explained, "It's a long story. Let's leave this place first. Chen Bin is waiting for us."

"Chen Bin is here too?" Bai Rong panicked at once. Grabbing Gu Mingchen's arm, she said in a fluster, "Chen Bin is Lu Xingzhou's man! It was him who kidnapped me."

"What?" Gu Mingchen sensed danger. At the same time, he heard a sound from outside. When he opened the windows, he saw a bright blaze of light traveling at top speed towards them.

Having no time to think, the man grabbed Bai Rong's hand and jumped out of the window. Boom! In the next instant, a bomb landed on the ship and exploded. Deafening sounds from the explosion continued for the next few seconds. In no time, the ship was shattered into pieces and sank.

A glint of shock flickered over Gu Mingchen's face. His head was throbbing badly as different images and scenarios flashed across his mind.

He shook his head, trying his best to clear his mind and his headache subsided a little. The man looked towards Bai Rong, who was equally shocked, and said, "Wait for me here."

Bai Rong clutched Gu Mingchen's hand as tightly as she could.

It was just the both of them left drifting in the middle of the vast ocean.

She was aware that she was getting weaker and soon, she would be drained of energy and drown.

She did not want Gu Mingchen to leave her side at that moment as she wanted to be with him till the end, if that was indeed their fate.

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"We're running out of time. I'll explain it to you after I come back," the man said urgently and dived down.

That left Bai Rong all by herself. Her surroundings were pitch-black and the ocean was so vast that there was no end in sight.

She felt as if she had experienced the same situation in one of her dreams, her being all alone, faced with endless darkness and desolation.

Just then, she recalled a television program she came across previously. It was about a survivor of a shipwreck accident and how he managed to save himself.

Bai Rong removed her trousers and trapped some air before tying a knot at the hem of the trousers. Then, she looped the trousers around her neck, using it as swim ring. The television program mentioned that she could last for around two hours in the ocean using that method.

But what would happen two hours later?

She was quite certain that she was in the middle of the ocean. Even if she got lucky and did not get eaten by sharks, she would also die of either hunger or thirst.

After a long while, Gu Mingchen was still nowhere to be seen.

Bai Rong did not see a point in surviving if she was all alone.

Seven minutes later, large wooden planks started appearing next to the woman, giving her a fright.

The next moment, Gu Mingchen resurfaced, gasping for breath.

"Gu Mingchen!" When Bai Rong saw the man, she beamed in delight.

As long as she was next to him, she would feel safe and warm even if they were in the depths of hell.

Gu Mingchen smiled at Bai Rong and said, "We are lucky that there's no wind today. Hold on to this plank of wood first. I'll connect the wooden planks together."

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“OK,” Bai Rong replied.

Gu Mingchen swam away and Bai Rong lost sight of him once again. However, she could still hear the splashing of water and felt comforted knowing that he was just nearby.

She put on her trousers and propped herself onto a wooden plank. The woman felt strangely at peace.

Half an hour later, Gu Mingchen tied the remaining three wooden planks together and swam towards Bai Rong.

“I’ll just tie yours at the end,” Gu Mingchen said with a smile.

The man rarely smiled, making his smile at that moment even more precious and comforting to Bai Rong.

“I’ll help you,” Bai Rong offered.

Gu Mingchen nodded and said, “Come over and push on these wooden planks. Use as much strength as you can and try to lift the other side.”

“OK.” Bai Rong and Gu Mingchen exchanged positions.

The woman used all her might to exert force on the wooden plank but as she did not have enough strength, she had to use her entire body weight to push on the plank.

Gu Mingchen also pushed onto the wooden plank on his side and passed the rope to Bai Rong from underneath.

They managed to succeed on their first try and Gu Mingchen steadied the planks with the rope, creating a makeshift raft.

“How did you find so many ropes?” Bai Rong asked curiously.

“I found them when I was looking for you. Also, apart from the wooden box which they used to keep you in, the bed and wine barrel were also made of wood. It was a pity that the wine barrel was shattered in the explosion and we can’t make use of it. Climb up first,” Gu Mingchen explained.

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“OK.” Bai Rong climbed onto the wooden planks and steadied herself by lying on her belly. She did not dare to move in case she fell into the ocean and caused trouble for Gu Mingchen again.

As Gu Mingchen propped himself up onto the raft as well, he pulled up a few plastic bags from the water.

“What are these?” Bai Rong asked, perplexed.

“There was a water dispenser on the ship which was half full. But too bad it was also gone from the explosion. I managed to find three bottles of water. If we drink them slowly, they should be able to last us a couple of days. I’ve also gathered some empty plastic bottles so that we can make some distilled water. I’ve also taken a few other random items. Who knows, maybe they would be of some use to us,” Gu Mingchen said.

“How did you manage to accomplish so much within such a short period of time?” Bai Rong was impressed, thinking that soldiers were indeed extraordinary and admirable.

“I’m not very good at holding my breath. Usually, I can only do it for seven to eight minutes. The Guinness world record holder is an Italian named David Merlini. He held his breath for 20 minutes and 55 seconds.”

“Is it even possible to not breathe for 20 minutes and 55 seconds?” Bai Rong was bewildered.

“There’s specialized training required in order to achieve that. There’s a group of women who lived by the sea. They can hold their breaths for an average of three to four minutes to search under the sea. The better ones can go up to seven or eight minutes without breathing. However, it’s still a risk to our bodies to do that. Usually, it’s not advisable.”

“Have you also undergone special training to learn to hold your breath?” Bai Rong asked while cocking her head to the side.

Even though she had known Gu Mingchen for quite some time, she had never asked him much about his military affairs.

“Yup. We need it for battle.” As Gu Mingchen replied, some images flashed across his mind and he lowered his head.

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During one of his missions, he was immediately recognized by the enemy after he boarded the ship and a fight ensued.

As the other party was outnumbered, he set off all the explosives on the ship.

As Gu Mingchen jumped off the ship, his head was struck by shattered parts of the ship and he lost consciousness. When he woke up after being rescued, he had already lost part of his memories.

“Gu Mingchen, Gu Mingchen,” Bai Rong shouted his name.

Gu Mingchen snapped back to his senses and looked at the woman.

That day, in order to test him, the enemies captured Bai Rong and told him that she was Gu Mingchen’s girlfriend. When Gu Mingchen left, he secretly instructed his men to save her.

During that time, she was at Jin Yang City investigating Lu Liangcheng, while he was at Jadeborough, carrying out a mission related to the heavy bombings.

That was related to the Gray Wolf exercise, during which someone set off explosives, causing eight soldiers to suffer varying degrees of injuries.

The terrorist behind the bombing was Miller. He did not die in the explosion as he had driven off in a yacht after recognizing Gu Mingchen.

“Rong, I remember everything now,” Gu Mingchen said in his deep voice.

You Owe Me, My Love Chapter 296

Chapter 296 Out From The Sea

“Huh?” Bai Rong was momentarily stunned by his words and was unable to react readily.

“I said, I have regained all the memories I’ve lost,” Gu Mingchen repeated more clearly as he observed the woman’s expression. “I know that you didn’t reveal my identity to those people. What happened was that I met an old enemy during my mission and he recognized me.”

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Bai Rong stared blankly at Gu Mingchen as a myriad of thoughts ran through her mind.

She was both touched and hopeful, feeling that all her grievances had finally come to an end. However, at the same time, she also felt a sense of emptiness and gloominess.

That was what Bai Rong had been wishing for all along. She desperately wanted him to get his memories back and remember everything they had gone through together in the past, be it their sweet or sad moments, as well as those times when they worked hard together towards a common goal.

But what's going to happen from now on?

Bai Rong turned around and faced her back towards the man while looking into the distance.

Just then, a gust of wind blew past her, making the woman shiver from the cold.

Gu Mingchen hugged her from behind and Bai Rong felt the warmth from his body instantly.

Her back stiffened at his touch, as if she was still on her guard.

"Rong, do you know how long this ship has traveled?" Gu Mingchen asked gently.

"What do you mean?" Bai Rong stared at the man in confusion and her heart fluttered when she met her gaze.

"I only found you after steering the ship for six hours. We are now in the middle of the ocean," Gu Mingchen explained.

Bai Rong had already guessed that. If they were close to shore, Lu Xingzhou wouldn't risk bombing them as the explosion would be too loud. It was only possible for him to attempt that in the middle of the ocean as no one would discover what he had done.

"Lu Xingzhou is indeed ruthless. But it seems like he has underestimated your will to live and ability to survive," Bai Rong said with a bitter smile.

Gu Mingchen held her chin and lowered his head.

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When he did that, Bai Rong instinctively took a step back.

Pain flashed across Gu Mingchen's eyes as he said, "If we are unable to go back and are destined to die here, are you still not willing to open your heart to me?"

"I'm sure we will be able to return with your abilities. Your superior would certainly send a search and rescue team after noticing your disappearance for a few days right?" Bai Rong said uncertainly.

"When I knew that you were in trouble, I came out in a rush and Chen Bin sent my subordinates elsewhere. So even if they tried to find us, they wouldn't know that we are in the middle of the ocean. Do you think it's possible for them to come here?" Gu Mingchen threw the question back to the woman.

Bai Rong's heart skipped a beat as she tried to observe his expression to see if he was joking. But she could tell that he was serious.

"Are we really going to die here?" Bai Rong asked.

Gu Mingchen overlooked her and replied, "Maybe, maybe not. But I know that I don't want to die with regrets. Rong, you still love me, don't you?"

The woman did not want to continue resisting and denying her love for him anymore. It was too exhausting to push him away time and time again.

No one knew what would happen the next day. They could either die or be rescued. But at least, Bai Rong knew that she wanted to retain the inner peace which she was feeling at that moment.

"Is there any reason for me to not like you? You chopped off your pinkie finger to protest against marrying Su Wanning. And in order not to marry Zhou Hailan, you even lost the money for the house," Bai Rong said as tears welled up in her eyes. Even though it sounded as if she was chastising Gu Mingchen, she was, in fact, very moved.

Seeing that the woman did not give him a negative reply, Gu Mingchen smiled and lowered his head. Then, he kissed her, deepening the kiss with each breath they took. Their bodies molded together and they did not separate for a long time.

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When the sun started to rise, Bai Rong leaned into his arms and gazed at the sky.

The sun cast a rosy hue across the morning sky as it gradually rose above the horizon.

“What a beautiful sunrise,” Bai Rong exclaimed and Gu Mingchen chuckled.

“Why did you laugh?” Bai Rong looked up at him.

The man planted a kiss on her forehead and said, “The sun looks beautiful now because it’s still a distance away from us. However, it’s actually quite dangerous to be exposed to the sun while we’re out at sea as it’s easier to get sunburned,” Gu Mingchen explained.

“I see,” Bai Rong replied. It was her first time drifting at sea. She had previously watched reality television programs showing how participants try to survive while adrift at sea, but she had forgotten the details.

Just then, Gu Mingchen pulled out an umbrella from underneath their makeshift raft and opened it.

“You even have this?” Bai Rong was impressed.

“I guess the owner of the ship placed it at the bow of the ship to provide some shade while he rested. I took it as I figured it might be useful to us. Let’s travel in the direction of the wind,” Gu Mingchen proceeded to fix the umbrella on the raft with Bai Rong’s help.

After they did that, the man cast the net into the ocean and pulled it up again. As he did that, they saw that around a dozen of fishes were trapped in the net. Those were small fishes that were just around the size of a thumb.

“I can’t believe there are even fishes here!” Bai Rong was pleasantly surprised.

Gu Mingchen smiled and said, “I’ll make some distilled water using the empty plastic bottles later. Even if we have to stay here for more than ten days, we’ll probably still manage to survive.”

“More than ten days?” Bai Rong appeared to be deep in thought.

“What are you thinking about?” Gu Mingchen touched her nose lightly and asked.

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Even the next day seemed like a lifetime away to the woman.

She did not want to think about anything else. Even if she had only ten more days to live, she wanted to spend the remaining days happily with the man she loved.

“How should we eat these fishes? Are we supposed to eat them raw?” Bai Rong asked.

Gu Mingchen pulled out a huge net from underneath and took out two pots, a knife, as well as a chopping board.

“These even?” That came as another surprise for the woman.

“These are the only two pots in working condition. It would be ideal if we had more,” Gu Mingchen explained.

Bai Rong smiled. “Why do I feel as if we’re going to spend the rest of our lives here?”

“Well, it’s actually workable. You’re a gynecologist anyway, so you can deliver our babies yourself. However, if we want to have more than two children, this raft might be too small for our family,” the man joked.

Bai Rong let out a slight smile in response as she knew that Gu Mingchen was just joking.

The current weather was lovely with a slight sea breeze. However, if a storm happened, they would be lucky enough to even survive.

When Gu Mingchen started cleaning the fish, Bai Rong took over the knife and said, “Let me do it. I’m pretty good at this. You should catch more fish and we can put them together in the pot. It’s good to store more supplies in times of need.”

The woman finished cleaning all the fishes in no time while the man tried his best to catch as many fishes as he could. After three hours, they already had an entire pot full of fish.

Even though Bai Rong had cleaned the fishes, there was still a pungent fishy stench which made it unappetizing.

Gu Mingchen took a glance at her and joked, “My bad. I should have taken some ginger, seasoning, cooking wine, soy sauce and mustard as well.”

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Bai Rong was tickled by that and laughed. "Maybe it's because our conditions are still pretty good. Or perhaps, I'm not hungry enough. When I'm famished, not to mention raw fish, I'll even devour the pot."

"I've got an idea." Gu Mingchen emptied the pot of fish onto a plastic bag and placed the pot directly under the sun. He looked at the sky and analyzed, "Judging by the weather now, the metal pot should be able to reach about 60 degrees Celsius in an hour's time. By then, we'll be able to start grilling these fishes."

While waiting, Bai Rong lay under the umbrella, enjoying the sea breeze while the raft swayed along with the rhythm of the waves. At that instant, it seemed like she could stay that way forever with Gu Mingchen by her side.

You Owe Me, My Love Chapter 297

Chapter 297 Good To Have Him

"Oh right, you haven't had any sleep since last night. You should rest for a while. I'll stay up," Bai Rong sat up and said to Gu Mingchen.

"You didn't sleep as well. I can go on without sleep for a few days. You should rest first," Gu Mingchen replied gently.

"I've been drifting in and out of consciousness all this while so you probably need it more than I do. I want to enjoy the sea breeze and the clear sky for a while more," Bai Rong patted her thighs.

Gu Mingchen stopped insisting as he smiled and looked at the woman lovingly. Putting one hand behind his head, he lay next to her and not on her thighs as he was afraid that he would be too heavy for her.

As Bai Rong admired his manly features, she noticed that Gu Mingchen slept with his lips tightly pursed and looked just like an elegant prince.

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At that moment, the woman felt that God was quite kind to her. Even though her life might be shortened and she had experienced many hardships, she was gifted with such a wonderful man.

Gu Mingchen was extremely exhausted. In fact, he had not slept at all after he got separated from Bai Rong. As such, he fell asleep in no time.

Bai Rong gazed at the clear sky and enjoyed that moment of serendipity. After some time, she started feeling sleepy and closed her eyes.

After a while, the woman was awoken by the aroma of grilled fish.

When she opened her eyes, she saw that Gu Mingchen had already grilled dozens of fish.

“So sorry, I fell asleep too,” Bai Rong apologized.

“It’s OK. We didn’t fall off the raft.” Gu Mingchen smiled as he passed the pot to her. “Taste it.”

Bai Rong took a sniff of the fish. It was apparent that the pungent fishy stench was no longer there and replaced by the delicious smell of grilled fish.

She pinched a bit of fish meat and put it into her mouth. “Mmm, it’s so yummy! It tastes very fresh.”

“Seawater is naturally salty and helps to preserve the freshness of the fish. It also contributes to the high mineral content in fish. You should eat more,” Gu Mingchen said as he continued grilling fishes.

As he did not have a spatula, he used the knife to flip the fish.

Bai Rong remained quietly by his side and helped to remove the fish bones.

When Gu Mingchen finished grilling half of the fishes he caught, the woman had already prepared a lot of fish meat.

However, the man did not take any of that but instead, started munching on a whole fish.

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"I've already removed the bones for the fishes here and they're ready to be eaten," Bai Rong reminded him.

"You can have those. I'll just eat this."

"But I've picked out the bones so that we can eat them effortlessly."

Gu Mingchen looked towards Bai Rong as she said that.

He knew that the woman really wanted him to eat from that pile of fish meat which she had specially prepared for him. As such, he did exactly that.

A blissful smile appeared on Bai Rong's face as she watched him eat and Gu Mingchen couldn't help but smile as well. "Stop deboning the fishes for me. You should have some yourself too."

"OK," Bai Rong replied.

After they finished eating, Gu Mingchen threaded the remaining fishes together and placed them on top of the umbrella. That way, he could dry the fishes as well as use them to block off some sunlight.

Earlier on, he had made some distilled water using the plastic bottles which he had gathered. It was very simple to do so. Using two of the plastic bottles, he filled one bottle with seawater and connected the second bottle to it, before setting them in the sun. That way, as the water evaporated, clean distilled water vapor would be collected in the other bottle.

It was a pity that they did not have access to either ice or fire. Otherwise, the process of making distilled water would be much easier.

Gu Mingchen looked at his setup for making the distilled water, then took a glance at his watch. He realized that the distilled water that he had gathered after five hours was only enough to fill one bottle cap. That was just one mouthful and too little. The required liquid intake for a person per day was at least 1200 ML and what they had was definitely not enough.

"Rong," Gu Mingchen called out to the woman with an awkward expression.

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“What’s the matter?”

“Errr, if you need to release yourself... what we need most now is water,” Gu Mingchen tried to be as subtle as he could.

Bai Rong understood instantly what he meant. A blush of embarrassment spread across her cheeks as she downcast her eyes.

Errr...

She had watched an adventure program previously. Bear, the adventurer in the show, ate everything in a bid to survive, including deer feces, maggots crawling on the bodies of dead rats, as well as rotting placentas of animals.

Even though Bai Rong knew that they had not reached such dire states, she was already feeling sick and lay down on the wooden plank.

Gu Mingchen could tell that the woman was not very receptive to that idea and said, “Just drink this water first. We can discuss it again if we really need it.”

“What time is it now?” Bai Rong tried to change the topic.

The man looked at his watch and replied, “4.20 p.m..”

Then, she kept quiet and fell into a daze while staring at the sky.

With one hand pressed against the wooden plank next to Bai Rong’s head, Gu Mingchen asked, “A penny for your thoughts?”

“I used to have my whole life planned out. But changes are constantly taking place at a speed greater than our plans. Just look at us now. There’s nothing we can do. Thinking too much will just frustrate us more. Who knows? We might not even live past one week,” Bai Rong sighed.

“If we just have one more week to live, what do you want to do most?” Gu Mingchen asked in a serious tone.

The woman bit her lips and said, “Well, there’s nothing much we can do out at sea right?”

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"I think this is pretty nice," Gu Mingchen said in a deep voice and gazed at her affectionately. "At least, we have each other. Do you know how many times I wanted to kidnap you just so that we can be together? Oh yeah, what did you promise Su Xuyan in order for him to let me off?"

Bai Rong looked at the man in silence as a myriad of thoughts ran through her mind.

She did not want to tell him that she had contracted a virus. If she did, what would happen if they were rescued?

Gu Mingchen would still end up being in despair.

"He wanted you to divorce me and marry Zhou Hailan," Bai Rong omitted the rest of the details.

"What else?" Gu Mingchen did not believe that was all.

"Su Xuyan is a commander. He's in charge of investigating the personal lives of officials and reports directly to the commander-in-chief," Bai Rong explained.

"I know. I have already suspected that he has other statuses other than being directly under the commander-in-chief. However, he's very cautious in nature and I can't seem to find any clues. Also, you don't have to worry too much about Liu Yan. I've already instructed my men to save her right away once they find her. They will do that even if I'm not around."

"Thank you." Bai Rong heaved a sigh of relief upon hearing that.

"I don't think the words 'thank you' are even needed between us," Gu Mingchen replied.

"OK. Anyway, you should sleep some more. I won't doze off this time around. Let's take turns to stay up," the woman said as she sat up.

"OK." Gu Mingchen lay down and shut his eyes while Bai Rong stared blankly at the ocean.

When the man woke up, the sun had already set.

"Are you hungry?" He asked.

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Bai Rong merely shook her head. She did not feel like speaking as she was starting to feel thirsty.

The man took a look at the fishes above the umbrella and noticed that they had already dried up.

Gu Mingchen passed the distilled water to Bai Rong, who shook her head in response as she wanted to save as much water as possible.

“Just drink up. It’s gonna rain tonight, so we will have enough water. However, the wind is going to be strong as well and the waves might be rather turbulent. To keep you safe, I’ll tie one of your hands together with the raft and you just try to keep your body as close to the wooden planks as possible yeah?” Gu Mingchen said as he kept the umbrella.

“How do you know it’ll rain?” Bai Rong asked.

As the man pointed towards the sky, she could see that the sky at a distance was already pitch-black.

The woman kept quiet and fear started to set in.

Gu Mingchen attached the umbrella to the bottom of the raft. Then, he put the other items into either the net or the plastic bags and attached them underneath the raft as well. The only items he left on the raft were one pot containing the empty plastic bottles.

As the rope was rather thin, the man was afraid that it would hurt Bai Rong’s wrist. As such, he removed his shirt to use in place of the rope and tied the woman’s hand to the raft. Seeing how attentive Gu Mingchen was to her, Bai Rong was suddenly not scared anymore...

You Owe Me, My Love Chapter 298

Chapter 298 A Glimmer Of Hope

Bai Rong felt safe being by his side.

It just came to her to ask, “I’m secured. But, what about you?”

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“Don’t worry, I’ll be fine. Besides, what if the raft overturns? I must have my hands free to readjust it back in time.”

Even so, she was not convinced. “But what if the wind gets too strong? You might not swim fast enough.” She trusted his capabilities, but mother nature was unforgiving at times.

Seeing her this worried, he tried his best to calm her. “There will still be a long rope attaching me to the raft. This way, I won’t drown. Trust me.”

“Ok, did you tie the knot tight enough?”

Hearing her non-stop worrying, he broke into a smile. “It’s a bowline knot. It’ll only get tighter against pressure. Couldn’t be any safer.”

“Oh, and one more thing, is the rope strong enough?”

“Definitely. These are professional ropes used by fishermen. Everything will be fine. Don’t worry.”

After clearing all her doubts, she gave in. “Then, no matter what, don’t let go of my hands. We’ll get through this together.”

Her words had hit the spot; he liked what he just heard.

That night, the rain came later than Bai Rong had expected. Before its arrival, the relentless cold wind assaulted them.

She made sure to grab onto his hand firmly. Meanwhile, he used his free hand to grab onto the pot.

Seeing this had made her anxious. “Forget about the pot! Worry about yourself first.”

“We don’t have much water left. We need to collect some. You won’t want to drink that, do you?” Gu Mingchen gestured towards the sea.

“Who cares? That is nothing compared to your safety.”

“Trust me, I know what I’m doing. I won’t do anything to compromise our safety.”

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After drifting for a good thirty minutes, the rain finally came.

He reminded her once more, "Stick close to the raft and don't move."

Bai Rong did as told. With her other spare hand, she grabbed his hand tightly. Her eyes were shut tight.

As the night wore on, the rainfall became more intense. The drops beat down hard against their skin. Within seconds, they were soaked to the bone.

Without any notice, he released her grip.

This gave Bai Rong a mini heart attack. Gu Mingchen had positioned into a half squat. Amidst the storm, he was collecting rainwater.

For fear that he would fall off the raft, she gripped his arms firmly.

It did not take him long to fill the empty mineral bottles. Afterward, he made sure to keep it safely in their fishing net.

Just as he was done, a gust of strong wind blew past.

He instinctively poured away the water in the pot and shielded Bai Rong's head with it. Then he laid down beside her. The storm had arrived.

The churning waves slapped against their back repeatedly. It felt painful. Even so, the layer of clothes she had on had helped cushion some of its impact. Gu Mingchen had used his to cushion her rope earlier on. He was feeling the full force on his bare skin.

Bai Rong felt very guilty. Yet there was nothing she could change now. She swallowed her worries back. She believed the best way she could help was not to drag him down.

For a long while, they were stuck in a repeated motion. They went up with the tide and came crashing down with the waves. Bai Rong started worrying whether the raft would last.

The repeated motion made her feel drowsy. But the merciless waves would wake her up each time she was about to lose conscience.

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This lasted for about three hours. Gradually, the waves died down and Gu Mingchen diligently filled the pot with rainwater.

"What time is it?" She was exhausted.

He checked his watch. "One forty-five. The storm has passed. Get some rest, I'll keep watch."

She had many things to say to him. However, her energy had depleted and she fell into a deep slumber.

After some time, the sound of seagulls awoke her. She pried open her eyes.

Gu Mingchen sat on the raft, staring intently at the seagulls as if in deep thought.

She forced herself to sit up. "There are seagulls here. Does that mean we're near land?"

"Chances are, we're near an island or a reef." He continued after analyzing their surroundings.

Thank goodness. "An island would do too." She knew that she simply had no strength left to go through another storm.

Gu Mingchen observed where the seagulls were flying. "If we follow the direction of the wind, we'll definitely reach an island."

He took out their umbrella and set it at a forty-five-degree angle against the wind.

Bai Rong was clueless about the technicalities, so she could only help with holding the umbrella. Looking at him, she felt concerned. "Aren't you tired? Go get some rest."

He shook his head. "If everything goes as planned, we should reach within an hour. This is the most critical period. We have to watch out for waves and undercurrents. Besides, we may not arrive on flat land. It could be rocky cliffs as well. If we're not careful, it'll cost our lives."

It was her first time being stranded out at sea. She could only trust his words.

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After drifting for about thirty minutes, Bai Rong spotted an island out far. She exclaimed, "Mingchen, look! I see an island! It looks big."

"Have you heard the story of The Disappearing Nation?"

Bai Rong was puzzled by his sudden change in topic.

"Once, there lived a prosperous nation. It had plenty of wealth and resources. One day, heavy rain caused the sea level to rise a few hundred meters. As a result, the island sank. None of its inhabitants survived. A century later, the island became visible again, but there was no longer anyone living here. This cycle kept repeating itself."

"You mean to say, this island is the same one in your story?"

"I just want us to approach this with more caution. Whether it'll sink, we'll find out when we get there."

As they got nearer, he adjusted the angle of the umbrella and cautioned once more. "We'll arrive in approximately ten minutes. There's no one around so we have to be careful. The sand might sink under our weight. Don't get off the raft yet."

"What about you?"

"I won't get off too. We'll use this to test out." With that said, he gestured at the umbrella.

"How can I help?"

"Reel in our belongings under the raft. I need you to tie them securely together. Look after them."

"Got it!"

The waves got stronger as they approached the island and this helped to propel their raft forward.

At the final push, Gu Mingchen burrowed the umbrella right into the smooth, white sand which served as an anchor for their raft. They came to a halt.

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Bai Rong noticed, where they landed, crabs fled in all directions.

Out of curiosity, she asked, "Are they edible?"

"Yes. But more importantly, we need to find shelter on high ground. See those? They're wolf droppings. Though the island's safe for us to land, we need to keep a lookout for predators."

Hearing his words, she cut short her celebration. They now had other worries to face. A person as capable as him couldn't go against a pack of wolves on his own.

You Owe Me, My Love Chapter 299

Chapter 299 Surviving In The Wild

At that thought, she looked at him with concern.

I'm not afraid of dying, but what will I do if you die?

Gu Mingchen had a bright future ahead of him. He came from a prestigious family and had won numerous accolades while serving the military. In just a few years, he could even assume the rank of commander-in-chief. But now, he was stuck here, just to save her.

He noticed Bai Rong deep in thought, and caressed her cheeks. "Don't worry about it. The wolves are not always around. I'll keep us safe."

C'mon! Keep it together. Worrying would get us nowhere. "Do you recognize this island?" she asked.

"I don't. There are plenty of unaccounted islands like this out at sea. Also, we seem to have drifted too far. In the military, we typically choose the more accessible ones that have been properly surveyed and inspected for training. But look, there aren't any footprints on this island."

He reached for one of their nets and spilled the contents inside. Out came the pot, their kitchen knife, dagger, handgun, and a gun case.

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Pointing at the gun, she asked expectantly, "Does it still work?" She felt much safer with a weapon by their side.

"Yes. If you're worried, we can let it dry out under the sun. We only have twenty bullets for emergencies. The important thing is to find a place for shelter." He handed the dagger to her and kept the rest for himself. Before leaving, he took a glance at the fish they had attempted to cook. It looked ready.

"Rong, can you dig a small pit here? Not too deep. Around ten centimeters. I'll go collect some dried leaves."

Before he could leave, she reached for his hands. "I'll go with you."

"That works too. I'll feel safer this way."

Before setting off, Gu Mingchen wrapped the fish with leaves and placed it into the pit Bai Rong had dug. He finished off by covering it with sand.

"Let's go."

She followed closely behind him.

As it was an uninhabited island, the trees and plants grew haphazardly, in no particular order. Even the plants looked enormous compared to the ones back home.

Gu Mingchen had to cut down many leaves to clear their path while Bai Rong helped to remove a few stray ones that he missed.

He cleared off an area approximately one meter wide and ten meters long. Then he gazed up at the tree in front.

"What are you looking at?"

He speculated, "Even without our handgun, we won't have to worry about wild animals."

"Why's that?"

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“This is a Upas Tree. It’s commonly used to make toxins for arrows. I’ll make some tomorrow. With my shooting skills, there’s probably nothing to worry about anymore.”

Bai Rong joked. “I have a feeling we could even stay here forever if we want to.”

Gu Mingchen tapped her lightly on her nose. “Just in case, these grass here are the anti-toxin.”

She gave a long sigh. “Mother Nature sure has everything planned out.”

He inspected their surroundings before pointing at one of the larger trees. “Let’s camp up there.”

Seeing the numerous thick leaves, she wondered out loud. “Do you think there are snakes hiding up there?”

“Well... snakes climb trees to find food. As long as we clean the area thoroughly, they won’t come. They are not confrontational creatures by nature.”

With that said, he climbed up the tree swiftly and diligently got rid of the excess branches.

Back on the ground, Bai Rong couldn’t help him much. She wandered around and noticed a withered plant. An idea came to her. I can probably make a rope with this.

About an hour later, Gu Mingchen had finished getting rid of the excess branches. He jumped back to the ground.

She looked up at the tree and hesitated. “Isn’t it a bit too high? I don’t know how to climb trees...”

“Don’t worry. I’ll make you a ladder. Once that’s done, I’ll get rid of the tree bark at the bottom. With a smoother surface, it’ll deter animals from climbing up. You’ll be safe up there.”

His words gave her a peace of mind. “Are we going to bring the raft over now?”

“Yes, let’s go.” He held her hands as they walked back.

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With every movement, she could feel the calluses on his hands; evidence made in the years of toil. Furthermore, his warm body temperature made her feel at ease.

Please, I hope someone saves this man.

It didn't take them long to carry the raft back to shelter.

Shortly after, Gu Mingchen started searching for broken tree branches on the ground.

He had a very good reason for choosing this spot. The two large trees had five huge branches sticking out, intersecting one another at varying heights.

In order to level them, he tied the loose branches above to the lower ones to create a flat surface.

Bai Rong was astounded by his makeshift bed. "You should really just become an architect instead."

He chuckled. "Back then, we often conducted missions out in the wild. My comrades and I would make these makeshift beds using materials we could find. We're actually considered lucky. Since we have our raft, we can place it on top. This way, it'll be much more comfortable."

Hearing this reminded her they were about to share a bed. She felt a weird sensation not present when they were on the raft.

To distract her mind, she continued making her ropes.

After she was done, Gu Mingchen tied the ropes to the middle of the raft.

"What's that for?" Bai Rong asked.

"The raft's too heavy for you. I'll pull it from up there."

Make sense. She nodded in acknowledgement.

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The spot he chose was approximately three meters off the ground. Bai Rong was only a hundred and sixty-five centimeters tall. In order to hand the raft over, she had to lift it above her head. But, with how heavy it was, that was impossible for her.

Gu Mingchen climbed up first. While he pulled the raft up, she tried her best to lift it. After several attempts, they managed to get the raft up.

With their shelter done, Gu Mingchen took a look at his watch. It was twelve- twenty in the afternoon. "Hungry?"

Bai Rong nodded. She was famished. Truth to be told, her stomach had been growling for the past hour.

"The fish we prepared should be cooked by now. Let's go."

As she turned towards the beach, she noticed a black figure moving about. She asked worriedly, "What's that over there?"

Gu Mingchen followed her line of sight and broke into a smile. "It really is our lucky day! That's a wild boar. Also, our dinner for today."

He pranced happily towards his target.

"Be careful!"

The wild boar was in the middle of its meal. As it heard footsteps approaching, it turned to look.

Gu Mingchen made use of this opening and shot. The bullet went straight through its head.

The boar collapsed to the ground, dead.

Bai Rong was slightly startled by what she saw. She had eaten one before. But this was her first time seeing one being killed right before her eyes.

"Is this your first time killing one?"

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Her words had hit the spot. It was indeed his first time. However, he took it upon himself to prepare the boar. He didn't think she would want to handle that process.

You Owe Me, My Love Chapter 300

Chapter 300 What Do You Want Me To Do

Worried that the scent would attract predators nearby, he wasted no time. He strode fast to the shore and started skinning it.

Meanwhile, Bai Rong stacked up stones to create a wall. This was to ward off the wind so that they could start a fire.

Due to the heavy rain the night before, most of the twigs and branches were soaked. After collecting a bunch of them, she left them out to dry under the sun.

Gu Mingchen noticed she was getting a sunburn. He reflexively handed her the umbrella. After making sure she was fine, he started crafting the tools to start a fire.

He began by making two holes in a piece of wood. Next, he inserted a thin rope into the holes. All Bai Rong had to do was pull the ends of the rope in a rotating motion. The repeated friction would eventually start a fire.

This was far more efficient than starting a fire with their own hands.

Once again, they were lucky. She could start one within an hour.

Meanwhile, Gu Mingchen had drained the blood and butchered off the boar's head.

Since this was his first time, he was not sure what to do with its head. He decided to wrap it up and bury it later.

Bai Rong walked up to him.

He had cut open the boar's stomach, revealing its inside. Looking at the gross mess, he suggested, "Let's just eat its meat. I don't really eat intestines anyway."

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Bai Rong contemplated for a moment. She had experience cooking animal intestines. However, they lacked the proper ingredients and tools. Even if she tried, it was impossible to get rid of its strong odor.

“All right. Just the meat.”

Hearing her, he cleared the intestines into the same bag with the head.

She interjected, “Leave the suet. We can use it to substitute oil. We might find some vegetables to fry. Oh, and the pig’s heart as well.”

He was slightly taken aback by her instructions.

That was when she realized. She had gone against what she had agreed on earlier.

Time flew by fast. By the time he finished handling the boar meat, it was three in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, Bai Rong was boiling the suet to produce cooking oil.

Gu Mingchen prepared the meat into slices for her to cook it easier.

There was just one item lacking, a spatula for frying. So instead, Bai Rong decided to use a wooden stick as a replacement.

By the time they started eating, it was already four o’clock.

Gu Mingchen said, “After we’re done, let’s collect more branches. The sun will set in about an hour or two. We need to dry out as many as we can so that it’ll last us the entire night. This way, it’ll fend off predators and attract attention from passing boats. Let’s make do with this tonight. We’ll be more prepared tomorrow.”

She nodded in agreement.

It was fifteen minutes to five by the time they finished eating. They wrapped up the leftover meat before starting on their walk to collect branches. Gu Mingchen had brought along the bag containing the boar’s remains.

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Time seemed to move differently in the forest. The dense trees prevented most of the evening light from passing through. It was near pitch black.

Both of them decided to take the safer route and walked along the island's coastline. At around the two kilometers mark, they spotted a patch of bamboo trees.

Bai Rong remarked, "Look! We can use bamboos instead. It'll be easier to start a fire with it."

"Yeah. Let's go!" He grabbed onto her hand as they sprinted towards the bamboo trees.

After collecting a good number of them, she tied them up together.

Meanwhile, Gu Mingchen dug a hole, approximately thirty centimeters deep. He buried the bag of boar remains.

Before they left, he chopped off a particularly large bamboo pole while Bai Rong dug out six smaller ones. They each carried a pile back.

By the time they returned, it was sunset. The sun had cast a reddish-orange hue on the ocean. Its beauty was a temporary escape from reality. The gentle sea breeze was particularly comforting as well.

In this mood, Bai Rong reflexively turned to look at Gu Mingchen. His side profile was stoic yet handsome, and this unknowingly made her smile.

If not for this poison, I wish we could just live here forever.

He caught her sentimental eyes.

Feeling guilty, she looked down.

He chuckled. "Want to take a bath later?"

"Yeah. Ever heard of those expensive sea salt baths? We have a natural one right here! There are tons of minerals such as potassium and magnesium found in the sea. It's said to reduce skin inflammation, help with weight loss, and also serves as a type of facial treatment. I'm definitely giving it a go."

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"I'll get into the water first to make sure everything's safe. The chances of drowning are still pretty high."

"Got it."

They headed back to where they first arrived. Bai Rong spread out the bamboos they had collected. Although the sun had set, the sea breeze would still help to dry them.

Gu Mingchen got into the water first. He had removed everything except for his underwear. Under the moonlight, his chiseled body seemed even more sensuous.

Although they had done it multiple times, Bai Rong could not help but feel embarrassed. She faced away.

After some time, he called out to her, "Rong!" He was carrying a sack of fishnet.

In it were numerous sea creatures, including crabs, sea urchins, abalones, and sea cucumbers.

There was a boyish grin on his face. "This place is thriving with sea creatures! We'll have plenty for supper." He poured the contents into their pot.

Bai Rong, too, was astounded by the huge catch.

In the past, she had always dreamed of going on a beach vacation. She imagined herself enjoying the cool sea breeze while having a platter of delicious seafood. The experience came in the most bizarre manner.

"We're almost out of freshwater. Let's boil it with seawater instead. It should cook pretty fast." She grinned at the thought of their supper later.

"I'll cook. You go have your bath. It's dark and dangerous. Don't wander off too far; twenty meters maximum." Then he went to collect seawater for cooking.

Meanwhile, Bai Rong had stepped into the sea. After a long day of strenuous work, she had no energy left. A quick five-minute rinse was all she could manage before getting out of the water.

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When she returned, Gu Mingchen had cracked the sea urchins. It was her first time seeing the yellowish substances.

He offered her one. "Want to try? It can be eaten raw."

She took one sea urchin and sat on the rock next to him. Although there was a hint of sweetness, she was not used to the slimy texture. She returned it back to him.

He took it and swallowed it all in one bite. With no rest in between, he ate the other three.

Surprised by how fast he was, she asked, "Was it that good?"

"Yea. Kinda sweet."

"Eat up then."

After a while, he thought to ask, "Know the benefits of eating sea urchins?"

"Well... In general, marine sea creatures have high mineral content, calcium, and zinc."

"Sea urchins contain a high amount of proteins and lecithins found in sex glands. It helps with androgen production. Also, it'll improve one's sexual stamina, intelligence, and immune system. Not forgetting, it lowers one's cholesterol level..."

Bai Rong was no longer paying attention. She had only registered the part about improving one's sexual stamina.

Her face turned beet red, and she looked away in embarrassment.

Gu Mingchen teased, "Want me to eat more of this?"

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