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## You Owe Me, My Love Chapter 403 - 405

### Chapter 403 Love

Wu Nian peered through the peephole and saw two men in suits standing in the doorway.

She flinched a little. Having a bad hunch, her hand froze an inch away from the door handle.

“We know you’re inside there, Ms. Wu. Fret not, Mr. Shen sent us,” a voice rang from the other side.

Her brows knitted into a deep furrow.

Mr. Shen?

They must be Shen Yiyang’s men then.

There was no reason for her to hide. She straightened herself and swung the door open. “Is there anything Shen Yiyang wants my help with?”

“It’s better if you ask him in person later,” one of them replied with a brisk nod. “He’d only sent us to pick you up.”

“I understand,” Wu Nian answered, locking the door behind her as she stepped out. As soon as she was escorted into the car, the men blindfolded her in one swift yet nonviolent motion. Her belongings were also confiscated.

Wu Nian sat quietly, completely unalarmed by what they did.

Shen Yiyang was never a pushover, to begin with. Beyond that, countless corpses had become his stepping stones in his quest to obtain his current throne. Of course, it’d be no surprise for that man to resort to such ruthless means.

She leaned back in her seat, feeling nothing but tranquil.

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For someone who had a close brush with death and had forgone all attachments in this world, nothing could ever intimidate her anymore.

An hour later, the car began to make a handful of continuous swerves almost every minute. Wu Nian could tell that they were no longer on the city's main roads. They had most likely entered a hidden base beneath ground level.

After another ten minutes, the car eventually came to a halt.

Her blindfold was then finally removed.

A man in a black military uniform opened the passenger door next to her seat. "My apologies for the inhospitable journey, Ms. Wu," he greeted coldly. "Please follow me."

"It's alright," Wu Nian answered plainly as she got off the car. She trailed behind the uniformed man closely as they walked past multiple doors in the basement, then stopped in front of one that stood in the deepest end of the hallway.

Eight armed guards stood before them.

This is probably where he is.

After one of the guards knocked on the door, a familiar voice echoed from inside, "Come in."

The guards then opened the door and gestured towards Wu Nian.

Shen Yiyao sat behind his desk, his eyes fixated on a document laid out before him as two uniformed figures stood quietly across him. Looking up at the sight of Wu Nian at the door, he placed the files aside and crossed his fingers. "Leave us."

At his command, the man and the woman bowed respectfully and retreated out of the room, shutting the door behind them.

It was just the two of them left in the vast, luxurious office.

Shen Yiyao stood up. With a faint smile, he motioned towards his wine cabinet on the other side of the room. "Fancy a glass? Pick whatever you like."

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Wu Nian returned the greeting with an equally placid smile. "Any red will do."

Shen Yiyao walked over to the cabinet and opened a bottle of Lafite. "It seems I've underestimated Liu Yan's friend," he spoke as he poured the wine into two glasses in a flawless, elegant movement.

Wu Nian sat herself down on the couch across his desk. "I didn't expect Yan to be able to provoke you either."

"Strictly speaking, you owe me your life," he replied while handing her a glass.

Wu Nian took it in her hand with a smirk. "I've never planned to stay alive from the beginning."

Shen Yiyao raised a brow. "I have to thank you still. Liu Yan wouldn't have stayed by my side and bore my child if it weren't to save you."

"Surely you knew this, General. I'm trying my best to atone for my mistakes." Wu Nian glanced at her deep scarlet drink as she swirled it briefly before she downed the entire glass of wine in one gulp.

A cold glint flickered in Shen Yiyao's eyes. "Aren't you afraid that I might go against Gu Mingchen?"

"You've always wanted to, anyway," Wu Nian muttered indifferently. She rested the glass on the table and continued, "That intention of yours won't change because of me."

Shen Yiyao curled up a corner of his lips. "I've always thought Gu Mingchen was invincible, save for his one weakness, which is you. Now it seems like you're actually the truly invincible one. Why don't we make a deal?"

Wu Nian stared straight into his eyes. "I don't think there's any business worth discussing between us."

Shen Yiyao placed his glass down on the desk. "I love Liu Yan," he declared coldly.

Wu Nian's heart skipped a beat at these words. Frowning, she gazed at him suspiciously.

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“Why else do you think that I’d do anything to keep her by my side, even if it means putting my name at stake once her identity is exposed to the public?” he continued with a firm tone. “And who else would be spared like she was despite having insulted me thousand times over?”

“Then do you think Su Xuyan loves me?” Wu Nian refuted.

Shen Yiyang pursed his lips. He spoke again after a momentary silence, “You think he doesn’t?”

“I don’t. All I see in him are possessiveness and destruction. Likewise, these are the only things I see in you but love.”

With a sigh, Wu Nian continued berating, “Look around you. Everything here’s made of metals and bulletproof materials. Clearly, you’re aware of the dangers lurking around you. Without a doubt, if Yan’s identity is exposed, she would be the first to die instead of you. It’s obvious who’s that brilliant mastermind behind Stephen’s murder case. Don’t tell me it was one of your subordinates instead?”

At this, Shen Yiyang narrowed his gaze. “I can guarantee you this. She will never be harmed, as long as I’m alive.”

“You should know her just as much as I do.” Wu Nian sneered before she said, “Yan is innocent but righteous, reckless at times but one of the kindest people I know. With that soft heart of hers, she’d never been cunning enough to set anyone up as you do.”

She then continued, “Besides, she’s a free-spirited person who would never succumb herself to anybody’s expectations. Look what you’ve done to her! You stripped away all the dignity she had and gave her a miserable life in return. Being restrained from day to day is already torture for her, let alone having to separate from her own child! The Yan I see now is no different from a helpless canary trapped in a cage, if not worse.”

Wu Nian glared daggers at the man as she ranted on, “On top of that, she has to carry the image of a mistress! It wouldn’t have been so bad if you were a commoner, but you’re the president of all people. If her name gets written in history alongside yours, she’d be painted as nothing more than a scandalous woman!”

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“That’s why Yan would rather lose everything else in exchange for her own freedom,” she stated firmly.

Shen Yiyan clenched his teeth as he listened, and a piercing glare burned in his eyes. “In that case, I shall break her wings! At least a canary’s life is preserved so long as her master remains standing.”

Trembling in anger, Wu Nian leaped from her seat. “She’ll hate you for the rest of her life!”

Clank! Shen Yiyan smashed his wine glass onto the ground. As it shattered into pieces in a pool of dark red, he stormed towards Wu Nian and grabbed onto her shoulders. With a fierce glare, he said firmly, “I love her!”

Wu Nian wasn’t in the least bit daunted. She glared back at him with just as much fury in her eyes. “You have no right to talk about loving her when you’re another woman’s husband! You’re only destroying her!”

“I’ve never touched my own wife, not even once!” he growled. Loosening his grip on her shoulders slightly, he continued with a somewhat lowered voice, “Liu Yan is the only woman I ever gave my heart to. One day, I’ll take her as my rightful wife. Now isn’t the right time. Admittedly, I haven’t stabilized my position completely at this point. With my responsibilities and family legacy, a careless mistake won’t just ruin me. It could mean hundreds and thousands of lives going down together with me.”

Wu Nian’s heart wrenched at the cruel destiny awaiting Liu Yan. “That’s all the more reason for you to not drag Yan into your troubles! It’s unfair to her.”

“That’s why I’m trying to work out an agreement with you! I’ll let Liu Yan go in the meantime, but you’ll have to tell me where she is. I will go to her once these problems are settled. I believe there’s no other man who’d love her more than I do...” Shen Yiyan glanced away. A layer of mist clouded his eyes for a moment. “And of course, how could I ever forget Bao? He’s my son. Which other man would care for him if not his own father?”

Wu Nian observed him in silence. A conflicting mix of thoughts and emotions rushed through her mind at once, as memories from five years ago resurfaced...

## You Owe Me, My Love Chapter 404

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## Chapter 404 Battle Of Wits

She had seen countless reunions and separations.

She had seen some of the most loving couples putting a bitter end to their marriage after a decade or two.

Love sustains a marriage, so they said. But what Wu Nian had learned was that a child could be the most reliable bridge between a husband and wife.

A child weighed so much more than a piece of legal paper.

Regardless of how much Shen Yiyang claimed to love Yan, it's undeniable that Bao was their flesh and blood.

Whatever the type of relationship was between two people, whether they're family, friends, or a couple, feelings were feeble.

Although the man in front of Wu Nian appeared to be a tyrant, his willingness to risk everything to keep Liu Yan by his side was a compelling portrayal of his commitment towards the woman. Plus, the fact that Yan didn't need to hide her stubborn attitude from him showed just how much affection the usually cold-blooded demon harbored for her.

Perhaps... Yan will never encounter such sheer love again in the future.

Wu Nian simmered down with a sigh. "I can help you, but there're a few conditions I need you to comply with."

In that instant, Shen Yiyang let go of her shoulders. "Name them."

"First, you're not allowed to see Yan until you're officially divorced."

"Sure," he agreed without the slightest hesitation.

"Second, if Yan finds new love before you're done with your business, you shall not intervene in her life anymore."

At that, an icy glow flashed across his eyes, albeit it vanished in a blink. "Alright."

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“Third, if you’re still the general when you marry her, you must believe in her at all times and protect her at all costs. With her character, Yan isn’t the best at protecting herself from scheming folks.”

“That’s for sure. I’ll never let her get hurt, even if it means destroying everything. Besides me, no one is allowed to bully her.”

“No, you’re not allowed to either.”

Shen Yiyang was speechless for a second before he continued, “Fine, I won’t bully her. She’ll be the one bullying me instead, will that do?”

“I need you to swear this on your life,” Wu Nian added, staring firmly in his eyes. “That if you can’t fulfill any of the above, your parents shall die a painful death, and you shall be reduced to ruins.”

Shen Yiyang raised an eyebrow in amusement. “That’s harsh.”

“So are you going to do it?”

Raising an arm, he swore, “If I don’t love Liu Yan enough, I shall be reduced to ruins. If I fail to comply with any of the conditions, my parents shall suffer a painful death. Are you happy with that now?”

Wu Nian nodded. “I’ll get Aaron to inform you of her location once she’s settled down.”

A hopeful spark glimmered in the man’s eyes as his lips curved up into a faint smile. “I’ll leave that to you then. My men shall escort you home. By the way, you do know what the things you’re supposed to speak about and what you shouldn’t are, right?”

Folding her arms, Wu Nian replied coldly, “What do you think?”

Shen Yiyang smirked, though seemingly deep in thought. “How did Liu Yan even come across such a terrifying friend like you?”

“That’s her fortune,” she responded and walked towards the door. “I’ll update you when the time comes. Don’t you forget what you promised!”

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Shen Yiyan closed his eyes for a moment. He then walked ahead of Wu Nian and opened the door. "Send Ms. Wu home," he ordered.

"Yes, Sir!" the guards saluted immediately and led Wu Nian towards the exit.

As Shen Yiyan watched the woman's back diminish into the distance, he beckoned to the adjutant standing next to him. "Go locate Liu Yan's destination and deploy twenty-four-hour surveillance around the location. I'll never let her escape from my clutches."

Meanwhile, back at the Jasmine Spa Parlour, Wu Nian glanced at her watch to see that it was already 3 a.m. It should be 8 p.m. in Lightspring now...

She pulled out her phone and dialed Aaron's number.

"You're still awake?" a warm, familiar voice echoed from the other end of the call.

"Aaron, I need you to tell you something. I met with Shen Yiyan just now. He has agreed to let you whisk Yan away on purpose."

Aaron was confused. "On purpose? What do you mean?"

"You'll take her away as planned, but let her stay in Ustrana first. Don't let anyone kidnap her in the meantime. Wait for another ten days before you bring her to Dartan, and keep me informed of her movements from time to time."

"That plan sounds even more exciting than the one before. Why the sudden change, though?" he asked gently.

"Shen Yiyan has agreed to set her free until he's gotten rid of his troubles at hand, but I can't trust him completely. I'll give him a fake address first and see what he'll do. If he really holds onto his promises earlier, only then will I reveal Yan's true location to him."

Aaron chuckled. "It seems like you're driving the demon out of wits this time. How clever!"

Wu Nian smiled. "I'll take that as a compliment."

"It's up to your interpretation. By the way..." Aaron hesitated shortly before continuing, "I might need a little help from you as well."

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“What is it?” she probed confidently. If it’s something she could help with, she would absolutely do it.

Wu Nian never liked owing anyone a favor. A pang of guilt shot through her heart as images of various people who had sacrificed themselves for her reemerged in her head. Among many of them, there was Liu Yan, and there was Mu Xiaosheng...

“Grandma’s visiting next month,” Aaron explained. “And since I did mention to her that you’re my friend, I’ll probably need you to spare some time to meet up.”

“Don’t worry, that’s something I should do after all! Just fill me in when you’ve confirmed the time of her arrival.”

“Great, thanks!” Aaron’s voice rang cheerfully. “You should go sleep soon. Staying awake at such ungodly hours isn’t good for your skin, you know.”

Wu Nian couldn’t help but let out a chuckle. For some reason, this man could always make her feel comfortable somehow. “Alright then, I’ll see you next month. Goodnight!”

“See you soon. Goodnight.”

At that, Wu Nian hung up the phone and proceeded to take a quick bath. As she laid in bed, she was plagued with thoughts about Gu Mingchen the whole night. Tossing and turning restlessly, her heart ached every second whenever he appeared in her mind.

She flipped on her back towards the other side of the bed and forced her eyes shut. It’s okay. It’ll be over soon. You’ll forget about all these feelings before you know it... As she slowly drifted into sleep, she could feel something warm and wet trickle down her cheeks.

Life is but a brief candle, huh? I’ll get used to it...

When Wu Nian opened her eyes again in a daze, it was already 12 in the afternoon. Dragging her heavy self out of bed, she freshened herself for the day and proceeded to call her friend.

Liu Yan’s flustered voice rang from the phone. “So how was it? I’ve been waiting for your call!”

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Following a sluggish yawn, Wu Nian slowly steadied herself before she replied, "Aaron has access to God's Eye. He said he'll be able to rescue you once you land in Ustrana."

"God's Eye? What on earth is that? That sounds like a load of crap from him!"

She probably snapped a nerve while fretting over this, didn't she? "I'm talking about that surveillance system that allows him to access the cameras throughout the city," Wu Nian explained deliberately. "So the moment you arrive, Aaron can track you down quickly via the facial recognition features."

"Right, now I remember! Gosh, I've been losing my appetite and sleep these days. I can feel more and more of my brain cells dying as the day goes by..." As Liu Yan blabbered, she exclaimed all of a sudden, "Oh dear, Shen Yiyan is here again! I have to go. Talk to you later!" With that, she hung up abruptly.

Wu Nian sighed helplessly.

Though Shen Yiyan might truly love her, it's only reasonable that Yan found it difficult to accept it within such a short time. Apart from the difference in their status, their relationship hadn't started well either.

As soon as Wu Nian sat down on her bed, another buzz resounded from her phone. Hesitating slightly at the unknown number flashed on the screen, she answered cautiously, "Hello? Who's on the line?"

"Good afternoon, Ms. Wu! This is the Galactic Voyage Yachts," a jovial voice spoke. "We would like to inform you that today will be the last day of our promotional campaign for the best-selling model which you were interested in earlier. Also, we're giving out an additional discount of fifty thousand and a complimentary jet ski. Would you like to place an order today before the campaign ends?"

"I see. I'll get one unit then. Please make sure that it's brand new without any defects."

"Rest assured, Ms. Wu!" the bright voice chirped. "Our brand has been consistently reliable for over thirty years. When will it be convenient for you to come to the showroom and make your deposit?"

"I'll come this afternoon."

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In the meantime, Zhang Xingyu hung up on a call he had received a minute ago and looked towards Gu Mingchen. "Ms. Wu really did purchase a yacht in her own name. Are you still planning to buy one?"

Gu Mingchen stared into the distance quietly for a while. "I need you to go to Jinyang City and help me do something there," he instructed the assistant.

## You Owe Me, My Love Chapter 405

### Chapter 405 Freedom

It was the day of Liu Yan's departure to Ustrana. Wu Nian had come to the airport to see her off.

Holding Wu Nian's hands in hers tightly, Liu Yan shot her a worried look. "Rong, I know you tend to keep things to yourself... I won't be by your side anymore, but whenever something's bothering you, you can write it out as if you're writing me a letter. That'll help make you feel a bit better."

Wu Nian nodded obediently. "Okay."

Tears began welling up in Liu Yan's eyes. She stifled them with a sniff and continued chokingly, "I'll miss you. Please don't forget me. You'll always be my bestie, even in the next life."

At the sight of her sobbing friend, Wu Nian couldn't hold back her tears any longer. She nodded and reached out a hand towards Liu Yan's face, wiping off her tears and caressing her cheek. "Remember to be careful with everything you do and say out there. When you're angry, try listening to some music and cool off for a few minutes before jumping to conclusions."

"I can take care of myself. Let me know when Shen Yiyao finally moves on to another woman, though I'm pretty sure that won't be long," Liu Yan added hopefully. "When he's no longer interested in me, I'll come back secretly and see you whenever I can."

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Wu Nian lowered her eyelids without a word. Just then, Shen Yiyang's silhouette came into the distance. "He's here. Take care now."

Liu Yan nodded and restrained her expression, fighting back her sorrow.

This might be farewell for real. Who knows when I will ever get to see Rong again?

Shen Yiyang approached them in casual strides, a hand in his pocket. Seeing Liu Yan's reddened eyes, he chided in a seemingly empathetic manner, "What are you crying for? It's not like you both aren't seeing each other anymore."

Quickly sweeping her tears away, she shot him a sidelong glance with an annoyed frown. "Why bother if I'm upset or not? The sky and the earth are already under your rule, and now you're trying to control someone else's emotions too?"

Shen Yiyang pulled her gently into an embrace. "You should be happy you're going on a holiday. I'm the one who should be upset."

As he spoke, he turned her around and walked her towards the departure hall.

Liu Yan stared at him, perplexed. "What are you even upset about? You come and go as you please."

"You really don't know what I'm feeling sad about?"

Wu Nian watched as the two of them walked off, their voices trailing off into the distance along with their disappearing backs. She waited until the plane took off, then turned to leave with a heavy heart.

Now all that's left would be to wait for Aaron's news. Guess I should focus on getting my boating license for now.

Wu Nian spent her days ahead traveling back and forth between the training ground and her hotel.

Handling a yacht was much easier than she'd thought. It took less effort than learning to drive a car. Within a week of training, she was granted her license.

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Wu Nian knew right away where she wanted to sail to. She'd always yearned to visit that deserted island back then once again. Having acquired everything she needed to fulfill her dreams, all that's left was to set the right coordinates on the yacht's auto-navigation, and then she'd be ready to go.

The day before the journey, she had bought over a week's worth of food and fuel.

Upon checking out of the hotel early that morning, she set out for her long-awaited adventure. It would take eight hours before she'd arrive at the deserted island.

Wrapping herself in a blanket, she stood on the yacht's deck and leaned against the bow, staring at the borderless horizon. The sky was clear, and the sea breeze felt somewhat cooler than usual.

This would be her way of life from now on. A life of solitude in the midst of the vast ocean, far away from bustling cities. She figured she could return to the mainland's shore on occasion to buy necessities and spend the rest of her days on this remote island without a care in the world until the time would come when she could no longer go on...

It was 4 p.m. when the island came into view. However, something didn't feel right. Through the binoculars that had come as a package with the yacht, she could see a building on the coast. It looked like a residence.

Somebody built a house here? That's strange.

Ten more minutes passed before the yacht sailed close enough to give her a clearer view of the building.

It was a three-story house, enclosed within concrete walls that loomed over two meters.

Outside the walls, a water reservoir and a single concrete driveway sat there, leading towards a metal gate. Seeing that the gate was locked, Wu Nian speculated that the owner of the house wasn't around.

Who would've thought that someone else had similar ideas of living on this island! Considering that there was already one house built, it's possible for a second one would appear. She could earn a humble living by teaching the residents here.

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She docked the yacht at a fifty-meter distance away from the other end of the shore. After a simple dinner that evening, she laid on a recliner atop the deck and gazed up at the stars above.

Despite being shielded beneath her thick, fuzzy blanket, the night breeze was cold enough to send chills down to her bones.

At last, she's back at the place she longed to be. Loneliness filled her nevertheless. The chilly atmosphere couldn't be more fitting.

That man was no longer here with her.

As she stared blankly at the deep, night sky, Wu Nian let her mind unravel in all kinds of imaginations – thoughts about her death, about the possibilities of starting over, about countless what-ifs. Before she could figure out any answers, however, she dozed off into a hazy sleep.

As she drifted in and out of incoherent dreams, Wu Nian felt as if she was being watched by a pair of eyes. At some point, a wave of coldness hit her, as though someone had pulled her blanket off her.

She struggled to snap herself awake. However, she found herself paralyzed, unable to move nor speak amidst the darkness that had enveloped her. After a short while, she gave up.

Whatever. Life or death makes no difference anyway.

Just as she convinced herself this way, her body began to feel light. She felt a swaying and spinning sensation as if rocked back and forth by the ocean waves. A while later, a sudden heavy force pulled her into the depths and completely engulfed her consciousness.

Her eyelids fluttered open in a daze when squawks of seagulls filled her ears. She felt a warm tingle of the sunlight upon her cheeks. It was morning. Her head felt heavy, and her nose was stuffed. Oh, I've caught a cold... She sat up groggily and wobbled back into the cabin to get ready for the day.

Through the cabin window, she could see two wolves wandering on the shore. More of them then emerged from the forest one by one and joined the pair, and they slowly grew into a pack of twelve.

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One of them turned and noticed her. Sensing a potential prey, it howled. The others then stopped in their tracks and began to fix their eyes on her figure.

What a scene. If we were ambushed by these wild fellows instead of the masked men back then, who knows if Gu Mingchen would even stand a chance against them...

She was oddly grateful that at the very least, they hadn't died in such a grim situation.

The wolves stood staring for almost an hour, baring their fangs in her direction once every while, though there was no way for them to reach prey that was too far out on the waters. They eventually abandoned their bloodlust, lowered their heads, and walked away.

Wu Nian brewed herself some herbal porridge for breakfast.

She tried to run on the treadmill, only to have her head throbbing in pain at the end of the workout. The agony soon spiraled beyond what she could endure. She thus popped a pill and went back to sleep. When she woke up the next moment, it was already nearing the afternoon.

To her dismay, the cold had worsened. Her nose was so stuffed that it almost suffocated her, and she felt shivers from time to time.

Wu Nian couldn't help berating herself. Who in their right minds would've spent a whole night out there in the cold as she did? You brought this upon yourself. What a fool! Without much energy to do anything, she spent the rest of the day watching movies on her laptop and making more porridge for dinner.

With herself ill, the week hence flew by without much excitement.

Save for the wolves who kept coming back to shore consecutively for five days straight. They stopped showing up on the sixth day, presumably having decided that their prey would never come ashore.

On the eighth day, Wu Nian packed up her things and sailed back to the city.

She knew she had to follow up on Liu Yan's situation and Aaron's upcoming visit. Her phone had been dead silent since there was no signal on the island.

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As soon as she arrived back on the mainland in midday, her phone buzzed violently with a continuous row of incoming messages and missed calls.

Most of them had come from Shen Yiyang and Aaron.

Wu Nian decided to contact the latter first.

Aaron's sober voice greeted her almost immediately. "Where have you gone to? You went silent for a whole week out of the blue."

"My bad," she apologized. "I got my yacht license last week, so I went on a solo trip. There wasn't any signal out there at sea."

"You're living so freely these days, huh?"

Wu Nian smiled mockingly at herself. "More like I just decided to dive headfirst into an adventure."

"Liu Yan arrived two days ago. She's safe so far. I'll send you the address soon. I'm supposed to transfer her in eight days, right?"

At that piece of news, she heaved a sigh of relief. "That's right. Keep your eyes on her, and don't let anyone take her away," she reminded.

"I know. And about my grandma's visit, we'll be heading over to A City on the 15th," Aaron added, then paused for a second before he continued in a solemn tone, "There's also something else I need to talk to you about."

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