

## **Boss Mommy 291**

Chapter 291 Jingjing Losing Another Sock Puppet Account

In the resting room.

The xuan paper and brush were prepared and placed there.

Before Bai Xiaojiu left, he said that Shen Ruoqing hadn't seen the calligraphy piece that belonged to Old Master Bai in the first place, so how would she be able to imitate it?

Chu Cichen stood at the side and saw Shen Ruoqing lifting the brush. However, Shen Ruoqing seemed conflicted as though she didn't know how she should start.

Although Chu Cichen grew up overseas, he had always been very interested in Chinese culture. He had learned the four classics namely, the zither, chess, calligraphy, and painting before.

He also admired 'Madman' and even sighed with regret that he didn't know who that person was.

When he thought of how lousy Little Meng's handwriting was, Chu Cichen felt like he suddenly understood something. He considered his words before asking gently, "What's wrong?"

Shen Ruoqing probably wouldn't be able to imitate it, right?

Cursive script looked easy to write, but it was actually very complicated.

Just when he was hesitating and wondering how he should protect Shen Ruoqing's ego while he took over the imitation, he suddenly heard Shen Ruoqing saying, "Yun Wei said that Old Master Bai gave her a calligraphy piece, but Madman has a total of nine pieces circulating outside. I know the whereabouts of the other seven pieces, but I have no idea which of the remaining two pieces is in Old Master Bai's possession."

Chu Cichen immediately took out his phone and showed Shen Ruoqing a photo. He said, "Not this one."

Shen Ruoqing. "Why?"

"Because this piece is in my possession."

Shen Ruoqing. "??"

(What?)

(In that case, when the Yun Family needed to give a Madman calligraphy piece, why didn't you take it out?!)

Her lips twitched and she nodded.

After that, Chu Cichen saw her inhaling deeply as she began to lower her head and started writing on the paper in a dance-like style.

Her appearance when she was writing looked very cool, yet her entire person gave off a wild and unbridled feeling. The tip of the brush zoomed across the paper, and the force of her strokes seemed as

though they wanted to penetrate the paper. It looked like the written words could soar into the nine heavens!

Chu Cichen stared and suddenly narrowed her eyes.

Her words bore no resemblance to Little Meng's at all! Little Meng didn't inherit her mother's talent!

He then chose to shut up, quietly admiring the person before him. However, the feelings in his heart were complicated.

Ever since he came in contact with her, he knew that this woman wasn't a simple character. Later on, he slowly discovered her many identities, in addition to her being 518. So, Chu Cichen was kinda used to the frequent surprises provided by Shen Ruojing.

Even then, he was still stunned.

An assassin that frequently accepted assassination missions from the organizations was actually an artist?

She was skilled in music and even calligraphy. Did she still have any other talent that could surprise him?

After Shen Ruojing finished writing, Chu Cichen's lips curled as he suddenly asked, "Are you..."

Before he could utter the words 'Madman', the woman's clear voice rang out.

"Nope, I'm not. Don't talk nonsense."

Shen Ruojing directly denied it three times.

Chu Cichen. "..."

His lips twitched and he saw Shen Ruojing suddenly looking at him. "Are you sure that the other calligraphy piece is in your possession?"

"Hmm, but it is in Sea City. When I was intending to get someone to deliver it, the people from the Yun Family told me that they had found a calligraphy piece written by Madman, hence, I decided not to do anything."

"Oh, there's no problem then."

Shen Ruojing's 'Longevity Comparable to Mountains' was not part of the nine calligraphy pieces. If she wrote that again, people might doubt its authenticity. Hence, since it was already destroyed, in addition to the fact that she wanted to repay Old Master Bai's favor, she directly took another piece of xuan paper and wrote the contents of the piece in Chu Cichen's possession.

Chu Cichen. "!!!!"

After Shen Ruojing gifted this to Old Master Bai and it was shown to everyone, in the future, Chu Cichen's legitimate piece would be treated as a counterfeit.

Chu Cichen's lips twitched, but he didn't say anything. When Shen Ruojing began writing the second piece, Chu Cichen lifted the first piece and started to age it.

Shen Ruojing's speed was very quick. She finished writing them in roughly ten minutes.

However, the aging process done by Chu Cichen was much slower.

He first had to wet the paper using chemicals or tea before drying it.

While using a dryer in the room, the tyrannical CEO looked extremely at ease and competent when handling this. Shen Ruojing then took the second piece up after seeing that he was finished with the first.

He followed the same procedure for the second piece. After Chu Cichen had dried the first piece, Shen Ruojing then passed the second piece to him. Their movements were as smooth as flowing water, showcasing the tacit understanding they had when they were doing missions for the organization. Despite having been separated for six years, everything hadn't changed.

Shen Ruojing's expression froze.

Back then, she precisely had such a tacit understanding with the puppy-like Chu Cichen, the one she fell in love with.

Sometimes, the puppy-like Chu Cichen would understand her thoughts as long as she shot him a glance. She didn't even need to say anything.

Shen Ruojing curled her lips and asked, "Is it okay now?"

"Not yet." Chu Cichen calmly replied, "We have to do this three times at least."

Three times.

They had to speed up then as they had no idea if their cousin could handle the situation.

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At the introductory banquet.

Yun Wei was soon caught in a dilemma.

Bai Zhongzhang and his fifth brother were extremely overbearing, causing her to bite her lips.

Third Madam Bai also tried stirring the pot. "Correct, take it out and show it to us! What's wrong? Are we not worthy enough to see Madman's calligraphy piece?"

The other cousins also spoke out.

"I also wish to take a look. Grandpa has always praised Madman's work and wanted to buy a calligraphy piece, but he wasn't able to succeed!"

"What sort of calligraphy piece is it exactly that can make grandpa like it so much?"

"Grandpa, can you show it to us? You shouldn't admire something beautiful alone!"

"Grandpa, you often say that my calligraphy sucks. In that case, show me what is an excellently written one!"

“...”

Everyone spoke out one after another. So, Old Master Bai smiled and was preparing to agree.

He was indeed very fond of this calligraphy piece.

That old fellow Shen Yuansong had shown off to Old Master Bai once because the former possessed two of Madman's pieces. Hence, Old Master Bai also wanted to purchase one, but no collectors were willing to sell. In the end, through many troubles, he finally had his own piece!

Even if it was for the sake of protecting Yun Wei's prestige, it didn't matter. After today, everyone would know that he, Bai Wei, also possessed one of Madman's calligraphy pieces!

When Old Master Bai was about to say he agreed, he saw Bai Xiaojiu shooting a glance at him.

Old Master Bai's heart immediately pounded.

Although he didn't know what had happened, his heart couldn't help but sink.

Something must have happened to the calligraphy piece.

He immediately felt a surge of sorrow flooding his heart.

However, he tolerated it and still maintained a smile on his face.

He was a wily fox in his seventies, so how could he ever accidentally expose his true feelings before a group of juniors?

He lowered his eyelids and slowly spoke, "No way. I'm going to admire Madman's calligraphy piece until I'm satisfied before showing it to all of you!"

Bai Zhongzhang then spoke out, "Grandpa, that's too petty."

Bai Wei immediately felt anger in his heart.

How would he not understand the thinking of his grandchildren?

If something had happened to that calligraphy piece, the culprits would surely be among his grandchildren.

His expression was unsightly as he looked at Bai Zhongzhang. "Is criticizing an elder something a junior like you ought to do?"

Bai Zhongzhang's expression stiffened.

The atmosphere here also froze.

At this moment...

Chapter 292 Face Smacking!!

At this moment, Shen Wanying's voice rang out. "Grandfather-in-law, don't be angry. I'm to be blamed. My grandfather has two of Madman's calligraphy pieces, but he treasures them so much that others

aren't allowed to look at them. That's why I have a stronger yearning to take a look. It's because Zhongzhang found out about this that he acted impulsively."

The moment Shen Wanying spoke up, Matriarch Bai, who never really had much interest in other things but cared a lot about her, immediately said, "Since everyone wants to take a look, just show it to them! It's just a calligraphy piece. It's not as if it'd be gone if others were to look at it!"

After Matriarch Bai said that, her old eyes turned toward Yun Wei. "Or is Yun Wei unwilling to show it to others?"

Yun Wei. "!!"

The troublesome ball was thrown back into her court.

Yun Wei had seen the situation in the Bai Family clearly.

The first grandson's status was firm, and none of his siblings dared to vie with him. However, even though Bai Xiaojiu kept a low profile, he was still targeted because Old Master Bai liked him.

Old Master Bai was protective of Bai Xiaojiu, which then led to Bai Zhongzhang, who was the oldest in their generation, feeling increasingly jealous.

On the other hand, while Old Master Bai was extremely strict with Bai Zhongzhang, Shen Wanying was doted on by Matriarch Bai because of the matter with Bai Xiaojiu's second uncle.

Matriarch Bai didn't say anything when Bai Zhongzhang was chided.

However, when Shen Wanying jumped out to say that she wanted to have a look at the calligraphy piece, Matriarch Bai immediately stood up for her

Yun Wei then bit her lips and looked at Bai Xiaojiu once again

Bai Xiaojiu's countenance also became grim, and he said, "Grandmother, it's not that we don't want to show it to Eldest Sis-in-law, but we haven't had the chance to frame it, so the proper protection isn't done yet. If everyone were to see it and couldn't help but want to touch it, the calligraphy piece would be damaged easily."

Matriarch Bai said, "It's not as if everyone here doesn't know any better. Why would they intentionally destroy the calligraphy piece? Stop finding excuses. Hurry up! Open it and show it to me as well!"

Bai Xiaojiu didn't dare to retort any further.

At this moment, the old master suddenly said, "That won't do. What if someone gets careless? A calligraphy piece that hasn't been framed mustn't be taken out like that! Hurry up and give it to me! I'll show it to you guys after I've framed it!"

If the old master was to act shamelessly, the matriarch wouldn't be able to do anything either.

Only then did Yun Wei heave a sigh of relief.

She exchanged a glance with Bai Xiaojiu. The two of them then went up with the box, handing it to Old Master Bai.

Since Old Master Bai already knew that there was a problem with this calligraphy piece, he'd definitely not open up the box to check it in front of everyone. He then handed it to the butler next to him. "Hurry up and bring it to my study. Tonight, I shall carefully study it by myself!"

"Yes."

The butler took the box and headed down.

Yun Wei and Bai Xiaojiu felt that they had finally passed this stage.

However, at this moment, something unexpected happened!

For some reason, Bai Xiaojiu's fifth cousin walked to the butler's side. After that, all of a sudden, he seemed to have lost his balance and lunged toward the butler.

The butler held the box and wanted to dodge carefully, but it was too late. He was pushed to the ground by Bai Xiaojiu's fifth cousin, and the box he was holding dropped too.

The lid opened from the impact and the paper fragments fell out!

When Old Master Bai saw that, his heart shrank. He felt his heart aching so much as if a piece of meat had been cut off from it!

The rest of the people also looked over and all of them exclaimed in shock.

"Aren't these paper shreds? Where's Madman's calligraphy?"

"That's what I was saying. How can the Ford City's Yun Family be able to buy a calligraphy piece that I couldn't buy? After all that, it turns out to be fake!"

"Trying to feign to be more than what you're capable of by putting on a front. What a joke."

Everyone spoke softly amongst themselves. However, both Yun Wei and Bai Xiaojiu's countenances turned pale.

Matriarch Bai also frowned, looking at Fourth Madam Bai with a displeased expression. "This is so embarrassing!"

Fourth Madam Bai's body trembled and she was so angry that she found it difficult to breathe.

How... How could that be possible?

She thought that the Yun Family really did have Madman's calligraphy piece!

After her visit, in order to raise Yun Wei's status, they then came to an agreement. However, it turned out that they didn't have anything?

The favorable impression that Yun Wei had accumulated at the beginning almost dissipated at this moment.

However, Fourth Madam Yun still felt that Yun Wei didn't seem like such a person.

After all, after the calligraphy piece was given to the old master, it'd be found out sooner or later.

She immediately asked, "What's going on?!"

Bai Xiaojiu took a deep breath. "Grandfather, the calligraphy piece inside was real. We just don't know who destroyed it!"

His fifth cousin immediately said, "What is real? If it's a real piece, won't you keep a careful eye on it? There was probably nothing inside. You guys didn't manage to buy Madman's work and are trying to put on a front here! Miss Yun, if you have it, you have it. If you don't have it, just say you don't. Sometimes, people mustn't be too pretentious."

Bai Zhongzhang spoke up as if in a fair manner, "Fifth Bro, how can you talk like that? It's definitely not Miss Yun's intention to have the calligraphy piece turned out like this. But what Xiaojiu said could be true too. However, even if we manage to find out the one who tore it, there's no way to prove if the calligraphy piece is a real one. So why not do this? If you can bring out evidence that the calligraphy piece is real, then we won't consider it as you deceiving the elders. I think that grandmother and grandfather won't continue to pursue this matter."

The calligraphy piece was real! Old Master Bai was the evidence!

But could he say such things now?

Of course he couldn't.

Everyone could only swallow the bitterness they felt.

Yun Wei clenched her fist tightly.

Pursue the matter...

Matriarch Bai was reminded by these words and she looked at Bai Wei. "I don't recognize a granddaughter-in-law like this!"

Matriarch Bai then threw the head accessory that Yun Wei had gifted her onto the floor and said to the others too, "Return all the gifts she gave you guys earlier! Let's forget about this marriage! No one in our Bai Family should marry such an unpresentable person!"

Bai Xiaojiu's eyes opened wide and he stood defensively in front of Yun Wei. "Grandmother!"

Matriarch Bai sneered. "Why? Are you going to go against your elders as well? If you really want to marry her, that's fine too! You can split away from the family! Our Bai Family doesn't want a grandson and a granddaughter-in-law like the two of you!"

Bai Xiaojiu's face turned black.

Old Master Bai's face also turned black. "That's enough! It's such a small matter, but you guys are all making a big fuss out of it! Isn't it just a calligraphy piece?"

"Isn't it just a calligraphy piece? I wonder who was talking about this calligraphy piece all the time. A few days back, when he heard that she was giving him one, he was so happy that he couldn't hold it in. But now, you are being defensive of them?" Matriarch Bai stood up. "I said that marriages can only happen

with the capital's influential families and the four great families. You didn't believe me then. Do you see it now? No matter how capable they are, they are still petty!"

After saying that, she looked at Fourth Madam Bai. "And you, we got you to pay a visit to check them out. After coming back, you had nothing but praise for her. But how did things turn out? Back then, you didn't have the capability of keeping my second son by your side, and now you can't even have good judgment of your daughter-in-law. You're clearly blind!"

She then pointed to the paper shreds on the floor, saying suggestively, "Sweep out all these thrash!"

A servant came in and started sweeping at Yun Wei with a broom.

Yun Wei's face flushed red from embarrassment. Bai Xiaojiu stood defensively in front of her, but it was in vain.

The Bai Family was very particular. The men took care of outside matters, and the women took care of family matters. So, the servants at home listened to Matriarch Bai's words the most.

Old Master Bai was enraged and was about to speak for them when a cold voice rang out from the door. "What is going on here?"

Everyone turned and saw Shen Ruoqing and Chu Cichen coming in like a perfectly-matched couple. As they entered, their gazes first landed on Yun Wei. After that, a hint of fury appeared on their faces when they saw what was going on.

Bai Xiaojiu's fifth cousin sneered and said, "This is a gathering to meet relatives. Why are you guys here?"

Shen Ruoqing took out the two sets of calligraphy pieces in her hands and said, "I'm here to bring the calligraphy pieces. Cousin, you came in a rush and left these two pieces in the guest room earlier."

Chapter 293 The Genuine Pieces Are Here!

Shen Ruoqing held two calligraphy pieces in her hands, and she didn't even place them in a box.

After she finished saying this, she passed the two calligraphy pieces in her hands to Yun Wei.

As a result, Yun Wei could only lower her head dumbfoundedly and stare at the two pieces of paper, feeling somewhat confused.

The atmosphere in the room fell silent.

At this moment, the eldest brother Bai Zhongzhang suddenly glared at his fifth brother, and the latter immediately reacted. He shouted, "Calligraphy pieces? What tricks are you guys playing now? Earlier, there were a bunch of paper fragments. What is this gift exactly now?"

After saying that, he took a step forward, attempting to snatch the calligraphy pieces from her hands. "If you are capable, just unscroll them and show us all! Don't assume that you can fake things just by giving two empty pieces of paper! Do you really think our family members are so easily swindled?"

Yun Wei subconsciously retreated while Bai Xiaojiu was preparing to step forward to block his fifth cousin. But then, Bai Zhongzhang suddenly walked over and held Bai Xiaojiu back. "Little Jiu, I feel that you should properly consider this marriage. Our Bai Family mustn't be swindled..."

Bai Xiaojiu wanted to struggle free from his eldest brother so he could help Yun Wei.

However, Bai Zhongzhang was too strong and Bai Xiaojiu was unable to free himself for a while.

Left with no other solution, he exerted force to push Bai Zhongzhang away before he managed to arrive in front of Yun Wei. However, it was a pity that he was a step too late.

Old Fifth was already in position and was about to seize the calligraphy pieces from Yun Wei.

Shen Ruoqing's eyes gleamed.

Just when she was about to take a step forward and act, Chu Cichen held her back. "Don't dirty your hands."

After saying that, he stepped forward and aimed a kick at Old Fifth's wrist.

Kacha~

His wrist broke.

The Bai Family was one of the four great families after all and had authority and status in the capital. This was why Chu Cichen's kick didn't target his vitals. It could be considered a show of mercy.

Old Fifth immediately screamed, "Ahh!"

Third Madam Bai immediately jumped up from her seat and ran over to support her biological son. She was so enraged that she stomped her feet. She then pointed at Chu Cichen. "This place is the Bai Manor, yet you actually dare to act violently? Do you know the consequences of injuring my son?!"

Chu Cichen retracted his leg and stood protectively before Shen Ruoqing, enduring all of Third Madam Bai's hatred. "He was the one who tried making a move against my cousin first."

Old Fifth immediately said, "I didn't do anything and merely wanted to see the calligraphy pieces. I don't want my family to be swindled again!"

After saying that, he seemed to have understood something. He then shouted, "Why are you guys so adamant about not allowing me to see it? Is it because the pieces in her hands are not Madman's works?"

Chu Cichen sneered. "I'm just protecting the pieces as you might tear them again. If you did, we would really not have Madman's works anymore."

Old Fifth's pupils narrowed as guilt surfaced in his heart.

He gulped down a mouthful of saliva. "What nonsense are you talking about?"

"Nonsense?" Chu Cichen laughed. He then took out his phone and opened up the footage from the surveillance camera. "The guest room has surveillance cameras. And this is the proof of you entering the room and destroying the calligraphy pieces that my cousin wanted to give to Old Master Bai!"

After saying that, he sent the video directly to Old Master Bai's WeChat.

Shen Ruoqing who was at the side lifted her brows.

When she was writing the first calligraphy piece, Chu Cichen was fiddling around with his phone. Could it be that he was trying to recover the camera footage then?

As expected of 527, his meticulous nature when it came to doing tasks hadn't changed at all.

Old Fifth was stunned. He had clearly turned all the cameras off before he acted. How could there be any footage?

He turned to look at Old Master Bai only to see Old Master Bai trembling in visible anger after viewing the video. Old Master Bai abruptly stood up and pointed at Old Fifth, cursing angrily, "Vile creature!"

How could Old Master Bai not be angry?

Old Fifth had torn the Madman's cursive calligraphy piece that originally belonged to him!

Seeing his grandfather flying into a rage, Old Fifth still tried defending himself. "Grandpa, you cannot malign me just from his words alone. I..."

Before he could finish his sentence, Old Master Bai already tossed the teacup in his hand onto the ground.

Old Master Bai's anger was palpable, and he glared fiercely at Old Fifth. "The footage is in my phone, would I malign you for nothing?!"

Old Fifth choked. He immediately cried out, "Grandpa, I didn't do this intentionally. I...it's because they kept being disrespectful to my mother, hence, I wanted to embarrass her!"

"So you chose to tear Madman's calligraphy pieces into shreds?!"

Old Master Bai was so infuriated that his hands were shaking. "Men, drag him into the ancestral hall and ground him for three, no, five days!"

Just when Third Madam Bai wanted to speak, Old Master Bai angrily added, "His sentence shall be extended by two days the moment anyone dares to plead!"

Hearing this, Third Madam Bai immediately shut up.

Old Fifth was escorted by the servants to the ancestral hall. When he passed by Bai Zhongzhang, Old Fifth cast a glance at him. However, Bai Zhongzhang's gaze was fixed on the calligraphy pieces in Yun Wei's hands. All of a sudden, Old Fifth suddenly understood something.

He halted his steps and turned his head to look at Old Master Bai. "Something is wrong, grandpa. Since I'm sure that I tore the calligraphy pieces into shreds, what are these calligraphy pieces in Yun Wei's hands?! They are definitely fakes!"

Old Fifth hated Bai Xiaojiu and Yun Wei immensely. He directly shouted, "I personally tore the genuine pieces into shreds, so how can there suddenly be two more pieces now? The Yun Family is basically treating us as fools!"

He continued to look at Old Master Bai. “Grandpa, believe me! I’m quite skilled in calligraphy and I’m from the calligraphy association. I do have the ability to differentiate a genuine piece from a fake one. I’m sure that the two pieces I tore in the guest room were genuine ones!!”

The majority of the young masters in the Bai family had their areas of specialization.

Old Fifth wasn’t intelligent enough, so he was willing to follow his eldest cousin. Since he was young, he had been fawning over Bai Zhongzhang. But because he knew that his grandfather liked calligraphy, he did put in some effort to train himself in that area.

He still managed to depend on his writing ability to join the China Calligraphy Association.

He wouldn’t make a mistake about this.

Bai Zhongzhang who was at the side also frowned. His tone was intentionally filled with puzzlement. “Miss Yun, what’s going on exactly? My fifth cousin has admitted to tearing your genuine calligraphy pieces. So what are the two calligraphy pieces in your hand?”

Third Madam Bai also started mocking at the side, “She acts as the victim while still wanting to give calligraphy pieces to Old Master Bai. She is clearly treating us as fools. The two pieces in her hands are definitely fake ones. Or maybe, she basically doesn’t have any pieces from Madman. The two pieces torn by my son are fake in the first place! The Yun Family wasn’t able to purchase any of Madman’s work, so they want to push the responsibility to my son now. What a good plan!”

This sentence caused Old Fifth’s unintelligent brain to spin quickly. He immediately called out with grief, “Grandpa, I understand now. Ever since she entered, she has been against my mother for the sake of provoking me. After that, she made sure everyone knew that she would send you a Madman’s work as a gift because she wanted to make me destroy it! I recall it now. I was careless when I judged the calligraphy piece earlier. Those are definitely fakes! In other words, they basically never had any genuine pieces!”

Old Fifth sneered. “I was right all along. Even grandpa failed to purchase Madman’s works, so how could the Yun Family possibly have any? After half a day, it turns out that they are indeed bragging! How malicious! As expected of someone from such a small place like Ford City!”

Fourth Madam Bai at the side was so angry that her body was trembling.

She even believed some of Old Fifth’s words because all of them knew that Old Master Bai had been trying to purchase one of Madman’s works for five years but hadn’t succeeded. So, how could the Yun Family possess one?

She inhaled deeply and looked at Yun Wei. “Miss Yun, tell the truth. Does the Yun Family have a genuine piece from Madman?!”

Yun Wei choked and her face flushed. She clenched her fists. “We do!”

The genuine piece was what Bai Xiaojiu had delivered!

Old Master Bai, Bai Xiaojiu, and even Yun Wei clearly knew about this matter.

However, she wasn’t able to say all these.

Hearing her tone, Old Fifth was even more overbearing now. "Where is it then? As long as you can take it out for us to verify, we will believe that you are innocent!"

He was extremely sure that the genuine piece had been torn by him!

Yun Wei glared at Old Fifth.

Bai Xiaojiu was also so angry that he wanted to go crazy.

He looked at his grandpa. But at this moment, even Old Master Bai didn't know what to say.

Old Fifth was simply too shameless!

Just when the situation was about to sink into awkwardness, Shen Ruoqing sighed and took a step forward. She then tugged the calligraphy pieces out from Yun Wei's hands and directly said, "The genuine pieces are here."

After saying that, she unscrolled them.

Chapter 294 What Exactly Happened Back Then? (1)

When Shen Ruoqing unscrolled the calligraphy pieces, everyone's emotions were very complex.

It was because they didn't think that these two works could be genuine.

Old Fifth sneered. "You actually dare to open them? Is it because you feel that no one in our Bai Family understands calligraphy? Today, I'm going to let you witness how I do a verification!"

After saying that, he continued smirking and walked toward one of the pieces.

"Let me tell you something. Madman's works are the hardest to imitate. This is because the smoothness of his writing is extremely difficult to copy. As for this work, from the start of the character stroke till the end, it is..."

His finger followed the arc of the first stroke downward, preparing to find a place that looked disjointed, snagged, or unsmooth so he could mock them.

Bai Zhongzhang who was at the side took a step forward and explained, "Miss Yun, you might not know this, but although my fifth cousin is young, he is a proud protege of the Calligraphy Association's president. His skill in identifying and verifying a calligraphy piece is top-notch. So, it will be for the best if you admit this is fake before he determines so."

Yun Wei nervously clenched her fists.

She felt very guilty because she obviously knew these were fakes.

However, her cousin and cousin-in-law were saying that these were genuine works, so she naturally couldn't expose them.

So, she chose not to speak.

Fourth Madam Bai at the side pursed her lips tightly, preparing to endure the mocking that would surely happen. She was also thinking about what she could do to protect her son's marriage.

Even if the Yun Family couldn't take out a genuine work of Madman's, Yun Wei's performance today was simply too dazzling.

Fourth Madam Bai liked that a lot!

In other words, was the Yun Family also swindled by someone?

Everyone in the room stared fixedly at Old Fifth. Other than him and Old Master Bai, the others only knew calligraphy slightly and weren't skilled enough to do an identification.

Hence, after Old Fifth's fingers finished tracing the first word and continued all the way until he reached the last, he suddenly froze.

Old Fifth. "??"

Where was the snag?

Where was it?

He was stunned!

Bai Zhongzhang looked at him. "Fifth bro, where's the unsmooth part?"

Old Fifth. "...Hmm, there are no problems with the smoothness. It seems that the imitator is truly capable. However, Madman's calligraphy works have a special characteristic. He hated troublesome things, so he simplified things frequently. For example, he would just draw a circle and use two strokes to round it up for all '田' characters. Let us take a look at the '田'...eh, this is correct. Hmm, in addition, Madman also liked to write things in a continuous flow because it is easier and would exude the feeling of everything being written in a single breath...Eh, this calligraphy work was written in a single breath too..."

The more Old Fifth spoke, the more stumped he was.

Why did he suddenly feel that these works were genuine ones?!

However, he was certain that the ones he had torn earlier were the real ones!

Even so, the contents of the torn ones were exactly the same as what he was seeing now!

When Old Fifth was dumbstruck, Bai Zhongzhang asked, "What's the matter?"

Yun Wei and Bai Xiaojiu exchanged a mutual glance and held their breaths.

Bai Xiaojiu lifted his head and saw the questioning gaze from his grandpa. He then showed a helpless expression and indicated that the calligraphy pieces earlier had been torn indeed. These two were fakes...

Old Master Bai then lowered his head in disappointment.

But at this moment, everyone in the room suddenly heard Old Fifth inhaling in surprise as he gasped, "H...how can these two calligraphy pieces be genuine ones?!"

Genuine ones?

Everyone in the room was confused now.

So, the torn ones were fake, and these two were the real ones instead?

Bai Zhongzhang's expression changed. He frowned. "Have you checked clearly?"

Chu Cichen's icy voice rang out in the room, "What? Does Mr. Bai hope that your fifth cousin didn't check clearly? Or is it because this result is outside of your expectations?"

His doubtful voice caused Bai Zhongzhang's countenance to change.

Chu Cichen took a step forward and put away the two calligraphy pieces. After that, he looked at everyone. "The Yun Family is indeed from Ford City and cannot be compared to the four great families of the capital. However, the females of the Yun Family will absolutely not stand here to get bullied! This marriage is something that the two parties already agreed to. However, the Bai Family has humiliated and insulted my cousin multiple times today. If the moral quality of the four great families is all of this standard, we might as well cancel the marriage!"

His words resounded powerfully and were strong like steel!

After the Bai Family proposed marriage to one of the Yun Family's daughters, even Yun Zhengyang had never thought of rejecting this. Moreover, Fourth Madam Bai had personally come and given a billion worth of betrothal gifts, with a majority coming from her own dowry. This caused the Yun Family to feel warmth in their hearts.

But in truth, they still felt a sense of inferiority deep down in their bones.

Because of it, they would never dare to seek fairness even if they were wronged.

However, at this moment, Chu Cichen stood there valiantly. It felt as though there were thousands of troops behind, backing him up. His unwavering courage and confidence caused everyone in the Bai Family to feel for an instant that their statuses couldn't match up to him...

Chapter 295 What Exactly Happened Back Then? (2)

After Chu Cichen finished speaking, he looked at Yun Wei. "Let us leave."

Yun Wei's eyes were red.

Ever since she was acquainted with Bai Xiaojiu. Everyone in the Yun Family, including herself, knew that their statuses were inferior to the Bai Family.

But at this moment, this cousin who grew up overseas and wasn't close with her at all actually stood up protectively in front of her, against all these people.

Hence, she followed Chu Cichen with no hesitation.

!!

This was also the first time Shen Ruojing ever saw Chu Cichen losing his temper. This loss of temper was different from the past, containing tyranny and also some charm. It seemed to exemplify what a man ought to do.

Woah~

She whistled in her heart. After that, she smiled and followed beside him.

She even felt a little moved now like how she had felt all those years ago. She was fond of this version of Chu Cichen.

Now, the three of them were happy, but the people from the Bai Family were anxious.

Bai Xiaojiu stretched his hand out to hold Yun Wei's wrist. "Weiwei..."

Yun Wei halted her steps.

Although she was unhappy with the Bai Family, she was truly in love with Bai Xiaojiu. The two of them were currently in the passionate phase.

Hence, Yun Wei also felt some reluctance.

As their interactions took place, Old Master Bai finally caught up. He laughed loudly. "Mr. Chu, that was so charismatic! However, you don't have to worry. The marriage proposal made by our Bai Family to the Yun Family is definitely a sincere one. As for the matters that happened today, I'll definitely give all of you a satisfactory explanation!"

He stopped before Chu Cichen. The aged old man then stretched his arm out and patted Chu Cichen on his shoulder. After that, his gaze turned heavy as he swept his eyes over to everyone on the scene.

This old man who ruled the Bai Family for close to four decades caused everyone to shiver in fright once he got angry.

His gaze first landed on his fifth grandson. "Go and kneel in the ancestral hall for two weeks. Other than having food delivered to him, no one is to allow him to go out!"

After that, he looked at Third Madam Bai. "As for you, you are the one who incited the verbal war. You are to visit them personally to apologize. Fourth daughter-in-law, you can accompany her!"

Fourth Madam Bai's eyes turned red as she lowered her head. "Yes!"

Old Master Bai's gaze then landed on his eldest grandson and he frowned.

He was very clear that everything today had been arranged by his eldest grandson. Old Fifth was merely his tool. However, his eldest grandson didn't leave any evidence behind.

At this moment, Bai Zhongzhang's body stiffened. He suddenly lowered his head and coughed.

Hence, Shen Wanying abruptly stood up and exclaimed, "Zhongzhang!"

She hurried over to support her husband. After feeling his pulse, she furrowed her brows and looked at Bai Xiaojiu. "Xiaojiu, why did you push your eldest brother earlier? You clearly know that he has stomach problems and a weak constitution."

Earlier?

When he pushed Bai Zhongzhang away to help Yun Wei?

Bai Xiaojiu was stunned. He didn't really use that much force!

However, Bai Zhongzhang was coughing intensely with his head lowered.

Shen Wanying sighed again and apologized to Old Master Bai and Matriarch Bai. "Grandfather and grandmother, Zhongzhang is not feeling well. I have to bring him back immediately so I can begin acupuncture treatment on him."

Old Master Bai frowned. But before he could say anything, Matriarch Bai already said, "Go on then, leave quickly!"

Shen Wanying immediately helped Bai Zhongzhang away.

Old Master Bai initially wanted to say something more, but Matriarch Bai immediately defended them. "What are you doing? This matter has nothing to do with Zhongzhang and his wife! Why do you have to harm your family members for the sake of placating the resentment of others? Back then, wasn't it already enough that you harmed our second son? Now, you still want to harm our grandson?!"

Old Master Bai. "??"

He pursed his lips and suddenly laughed.

After that, he looked at Chu Cichen. "Mr. Chu, will the Yun Family be satisfied now?"

Chu Cichen's gaze flashed. After that, he pondered and asked, "Old Master Bai, are you certain of your decision?"

Old Master Bai seemed to have come to a decision as he nodded. "Hmm."

Shen Ruoqing glanced at them. She felt as though they were talking about something else using this as a pretext, but she wasn't able to guess anything. She continued to observe Chu Cichen.

The furrow on his face had faded. He then looked at Yun Wei and said, "Quickly continue and give the gifts you prepared for Old Master Bai!"

This was equal to him acknowledging the marriage!

Fourth Madam Bai heaved a huge sigh of relief and hurried forward to grasp Yun Wei's hands. "Little Wei, don't worry. I'll find a day to bring your Third Aunt to your house personally to apologize!"

After Yun Wei passed the two calligraphy pieces to Old Master Bai, the introductory banquet could be considered to have concluded.

Although there was some unhappiness, the final ending was that both parties were joyful.

Bai Xiaojiu wanted to personally send Yun Wei back to Chu Manor, hence, the four of them boarded two cars.

When Bai Xiaojiu and Yun Wei were on the road, Yun Wei kept turning her head to look at the car behind them.

Bai Xiaojiu smiled and touched her head. "What are you looking at?"

Yun Wei came to her senses, but it felt as though she was still in deep thought. She turned and looked at Bai Xiaojiu. "Say...the calligraphy pieces were clearly torn into shreds, so how did they appear in my cousin-in-law's hands? Also, before we went back to the banquet, my cousin-in-law and cousin requested a brush and paper, in addition to some other items..."

As she said this, a thought flashed in Yun Wei's mind. Her eyes abruptly widened. "It can't possibly be..."

"Silly girl." Bai Xiaojiu rubbed her head. "I think things are as you expected. However, I'm not clear if Madman is your cousin or cousin-in-law."

Yun Wei. "!!!"

At this moment, in the other car, Shen Ruoqing and Chu Cichen sat in the backseat.

When it gradually left the Bai Manor in the distance, Shen Ruoqing looked at him and asked, "Why did you compromise although Old Master Bai has yet to punish Bai Zhongzhang?"

Chu Cichen continued, "Because Bai Zhongzhang has committed a great taboo."

Shen Ruoqing was like a curious baby. "What great taboo?"

She was indeed not too familiar with the style and habits of the four great influential families of the capital.

Chu Cichen continued, "Do you know what is the one thing people are least afraid of on the path of nurturing a successor?"

"What?"

"Making mistakes. As long as the successor continues to grow from his mistakes, there's no need to worry. It wasn't scary that Bai Zhongzhang made a mistake. What's scary was that after he committed a mistake, he actually didn't want to change for the better and only wanted to avoid punishment. In addition, Old Master Bai has silently permitted his cowardly ways."

Shen Ruoqing still didn't understand. "What does silently permitted means?"

"It means that Old Master Bai has decided to abandon Bai Zhongzhang." Chu Cichen turned and looked at Shen Ruoqing. "So, it's very possible that Yun Wei might be the future matriarch of the Bai Family."

Shen Ruoqing. "???"

She had originally felt a little regretful because Bai Zhongzhang wasn't punished. However, she hadn't expected that Old Master Bai's punishment was then the harshest one!

Her lips twitched and she still wanted to say something, but Chu Cichen continued, "However, it seems that Old Master Bai dreads Matriarch Bai somewhat. Hence, there might be some disputes later on. When you return, remind your cousin to be more cautious."

Shen Ruoqing's peach blossom eyes looked at him. "She is also your cousin. Why don't you remind her?"

His eyes were filled with a myriad of emotions and were extremely soul-stirring.

Chu Cichen looked at her and spoke seriously, "I only helped her because of you."

“ ... ”

The atmosphere in the car suddenly fell silent.

Because of it, Shen Ruoqing faintly felt her cheeks heating up. This car was a small SUV, and the backseat was actually large enough. However, the man beside her simply had too huge of a stature and caused the space in the car to feel a little cramped.

The temperature slowly rose as an ambiguous feeling entwined the two...

Shen Ruoqing stared at the man before her. His features were hard, but his skin was as exquisite as a woman's. Also, his breath was filled with pheromones...

Shen Ruoqing suddenly stretched her arm out and hooked it around the man's neck before slowly pulling him down.

Chu Cichen felt his breathing turning heavy as his heartbeats sped up.

He complied with her strength and allowed himself to be pulled lower. When he slowly turned his head, his gaze landed on her ruby-red lips...

But at the next instant, he heard the clear voice of the woman ringing out beside his ears. “Mr. Chu. Now, can you tell me what exactly happened back then?”

Chapter 296 The One And Only, Truth

“ ... ”

Chu Cichen felt that his blazing passion was instantly tossed into a land of frost and snow. His entire being immediately became clear-minded.

He coughed.

His adam's apple bobbed and his exhalation felt warm, causing Shen Ruoqing to feel a little discomfort.

Back when they were dating, they would always maintain a good social distance because there were many strangers in the park they dated at. The innocent them had never even held hands.

!!

So, after he proposed, the two of them immediately went to get a room in a hotel. The events after that simply escalated like a rocket.

Back then, Chu Cichen was the one who invited her to the hotel through a text message. She still recalled that the moment she entered, he immediately started hugging and kissing her.

She wanted to push him away.

But after thinking about their dating experiences through that half a year, things between them were indeed too innocent seeing that they hadn't even held hands before. Shen Ruoqing had never been a reserved person, so she decided to just go all the way...

Even after so many years, Shen Ruoqing could still recall every single detail of that night.

The first time they hugged.

The first time they kissed.

The first time they...

All her first times with regard to love happened that night.

Shen Ruoqing blushed and released her hold on the man's neck. Her peach blossom eyes were filled with charm and casually exuded a mesmerizing aura.

Chu Cichen didn't even dare to look at her. He maintained a straight face and loosened his collar while undoing the first button of his shirt.

This man had always shown self-restraint and he was conservative when it came to dressing, always buttoning all the buttons on his shirt. At this moment, he suddenly spoke to the driver, "Stop at the side."

"Yes, sir."

The guard-cum-driver slowly drove to the side and stopped there. Chu Cichen then looked at Shen Ruoqing. "Let's go down for a walk? We can chat while we walk."

"Sure." Shen Ruoqing wasn't fussy either. In addition, the atmosphere in the car was truly too ambiguous.

They left the car and walked into an open forest-like park at the side.

The trees in here were all cypress trees.

At this moment, the sky had darkened. The gray skies looked as though it was covered by a veil, exuding a hazy sense of beauty.

The two of them continued walking in.

Shen Ruoqing had initially wanted to know the answer as soon as possible, but when she saw Chu Cichen remaining silent, she decided to quietly follow him by his side.

The truth was now before her eyes. But maybe it was because the hazy night sky was too beautiful or the coldness of winter chill caused her to slowly be at ease, Shen Ruoqing didn't feel anxious at all.

Without realizing it, the two of them had ventured deep into the area filled with cypress trees.

The man beside her suddenly spoke, "Jingjing, tell me what am I to you?"

What was he?

Was he a tool for lust? A lover? Or...

The shadows cast by the cypress trees looked mottled on the ground as moonlight cascaded down on them.

Fallen leaves were everywhere at their feet...

Shen Ruojing abruptly lifted her head.

In the forest, the trees stood tall and erect, but because of the chill from winter, the leaves on the trees had all fallen away, only leaving bare branches behind.

Many tall and straight cypress branches shot straight into the clouds, causing her to instantly feel a stifling sense as though she was glancing up at the sky from under a cliff.

She wasn't very fond of such a feeling.

It felt as though the cliff was pressing down on her. It also felt like she was sinking into the sea, descending into the abyss!

Just when she was about to go crazy, she suddenly discovered a bright round moon hanging suspended quietly up in the sky, illuminating everything in the cypress forest, dispelling all her unease and anxiety.

Shen Ruojing pursed her lips, and she suddenly broke into a smile.

Actually, there was no such thing as falling in love at first sight. She had never been crazy for love, and the sole reason why she liked him was because...he was the only moon she could look up to when she was inside the abyss!

Shen Ruojing pondered for a moment before turning to look at Chu Cichen. She seriously replied, "My one and only."

This answer was seemingly out of Chu Cichen's expectation.

He was startled and stared at Shen Ruojing for a long time, failing to regain his composure.

Hesitation clouded his expression. It was as though what he was planning to say next had all been scrambled by her answer and he didn't know what to do.

Shen Ruojing had a guess in her mind, but she still asked, "So, what was the truth of what happened back then?"

Chu Cichen stared at her before sighing deeply. He finally made this difficult decision.

He would tell her the truth.

Chapter 297 Truth and Confession

The night was as dark as ink, and the moonlight cascaded down on the cypress forest.

Now, Shen Ruojing lifted her head and looked at the man before her.

Chu Cichen's originally tense body was slowly relaxing. His phoenix eyes were immeasurably deep, like the vast sky that was filled with stars. There seemed to be starlight gathering in his eyes.

His voice quavered a little as he asked, "518, do you want to see the Northern Lights?"

Shen Ruojing started. She fell silent for a moment before replying, "Yes."

!!

“Do you want to see the pyramids of Egypt?”

“Yes.”

“Do you want to see the Babylon Skypark?”

“Yes.”

“Do you want to see the blue flames of the Ijen Volcano?”

“Yes.”

“Do you want to go to the Cape of Good Hope and surf the seas there?”

“Yes.”

The man’s voice, which was originally trembling from nervousness, gradually calmed down. The emotions in his eyes also shifted from passionate to extreme focus. He enunciated each of his words slowly, “Actually, I’m not really keen on such adventures, but I want to go there with you and travel the world together. I wish to accompany you at your side, starting from us falling in love until both of us turn old and gray with age. Are you willing?”

Shen Ruoqing didn’t understand why he suddenly confessed to her once more. For a time, she didn’t know what she should reply.

Chu Cichen didn’t wait for her response. After he finished saying all these, he suddenly laughed in a carefree manner. “This was the confession I prepared for you back then. I once practiced the words before a mirror many times. Sadly, I didn’t manage to use them.”

Shen Ruoqing clenched her fists tightly. “In that case, why are you saying them now?”

Chu Cichen shifted his gaze away. “Because I’m afraid that after telling you the truth, I won’t have a chance to say these words anymore.”

Shen Ruoqing lowered her eyelids.

Chu Cichen then smiled and continued, “I’ve investigated the truth of what happened back then. Lu Cheng has indeed found witnesses who saw the dates between you and him. The canteen auntie from Ford City Music Academy was once a cleaner at the park where the two of you dated. She also revealed the identities of a few of her ex-colleagues, so I got Lu Cheng to investigate them. All of them expressed that they have seen you and him together. Hence, the relationship you had back then was real.”

He stretched his hand, wanting to touch Shen Ruoqing’s head.

However, Shen Ruoqing took a step back and evaded it.

Chu Cichen’s eyes dimmed. After that, he continued, “I’ve always been worried that you might have imagined the whole thing due to some psychological or mental problem. But now, I can finally be at ease after learning that you are healthy.”

Shen Ruoqing stared at him. “Continue speaking.”

Chu Cichen then said, "I didn't return to the country during those years. For this point, my subordinates around me and the plane tickets are all evidence. In fact, I even suspected that I had a problem. I also went to do a mental check-up, but everything about me was normal. There are no problems with our memories because..."

He paused and really didn't want to continue telling her.

He had been avoiding Shen Ruoqing because he was afraid of this very moment. But right now, he couldn't hide it from her anymore. He turned his head away and slowly spoke, "Because...during that half a year when you were dating. The person that you dated wasn't me."

"..."

The atmosphere fell silent. Only the sound of the wind and leaves falling could be heard.

For an instant, Chu Cichen felt as though his heart got squeezed. He knew that after he revealed the truth, it would be equivalent to him pushing this woman away personally.

All this time, her tolerance and fondness of him were only because she thought that he was her lover.

Earlier, she said that he was her only one.

However, that answer actually made his heart turn cold.

This was because, the one in 'only one' wasn't referring to him.

Shen Ruoqing still remained calm. She quietly looked at Chu Cichen's handsome face and asked, "Who is he?"

"I'm still investigating. The person who truly vanished all those years ago was him."

Chu Cichen didn't dare to look at her eyes because he was afraid of her looking at him like a stranger.

However, Shen Ruoqing was analyzing the facts logically. "So, in the country, the one I was dating was him. But when overseas, the person I met was you. I was actually dating two of you at the same time?"

"Hmm."

"The person who proposed was him and not you."

"Hmm."

"The one who went on dates with me every weekend, the one who sent me voice messages at night, was him and not you."

"...Hmm."

Shen Ruoqing suddenly took a step forward. "In that case, the person who confessed to me then was him and not you?"

Chu Cichen clenched his fists. "Hmm."

When he returned to the country, he felt that Shen Ruoqing was lying and pestering him every day. But now, he wanted nothing more than to believe that the 'lie' was true. He wanted nothing more than for the person who had accompanied her for half a year back then to be him.

However, the truth was just so cruel.

He suddenly didn't know how to face her...he also didn't know how she would view him.

This was the reason why he kept hesitating and was unwilling to say the truth.

He was afraid.

He was afraid that she wouldn't love him after learning the truth.

He was afraid that from now onward, she would treat him as a stranger.

During this period. Chu Cichen had been troubled every day.

The moment he learned this truth, his first reaction was to conceal this matter.

In any case, that person had vanished completely as though he had never existed before. In that case, if he pretended to be him and used amnesia as a reason or just said that he couldn't remember the details clearly, he would be able to keep Shen Ruoqing by his side.

He even went to find the canteen auntie, preparing to pay a fee to seal her lips.

But despite going to the canteen twice, he wasn't able to bring himself to do such a thing.

This was because he had once promised 518 that he would never lie to her in his entire life.

He could only listen to the canteen auntie's story, hearing her describe the dating process between Shen Ruoqing and that man. The two of them really liked strolling around aimlessly to various places.

Every time, it was unknown what the man said and Shen Ruoqing would always listen with a smile on her face.

After that, there was a time when the man confessed to the girl.

Because the distance was too far, the canteen auntie and her colleagues could only see the guy blushing, lowering his head and muttering something. The bunch of staff secretly gathered in the park's resting room and stared at the couple from afar.

The girl nodded and the staff all smiled.

The staff felt that the couple matched each other very well, and they agreed that both of them would go far together.

The more Chu Cichen heard about their past, the more he felt like he was an outsider.

The happier they sounded, the more sorrowful Chu Cichen felt.

The girl in her dreams had agreed to be together with him even before he confessed.

He had originally thought that both of them were fond of each other, and as long as he showed some initiative, she would seize it and they would be together. Sadly, from the start until the end, it was a case of mistaken identity.

Chu Cichen lowered his head in disappointment.

He didn't know if he still had a chance, but he wasn't willing to let go. He looked at Shen Ruoqing and asked, "Jingjing, do you feel that I can continue pursuing you?"

Shen Ruoqing didn't speak and continued staring at him.

Chu Cichen's heart slowly began to sink...

Just when he thought that she wouldn't agree, Shen Ruoqing suddenly spoke, "If you are not him, why is your confession the same as his back then?"

Chu Cichen abruptly started in shock. He lifted his head. "What did you say?"

Chapter 298 Little Puppy and Big Wolf

Shen Ruoqing also frowned.

Actually, when Chu Cichen kept insisting that he had no mental illnesses or amnesia, she already had this conjecture in her heart.

After that, Chu Cichen's reluctance to tell her made her even more sure of her conjecture.

It was because this was the only explanation despite it being the most improbable one.

At this moment, when Chu Cichen revealed everything, she actually felt that things became even more confusing.

She looked at Chu Cichen. "Back then, he confessed to me in the park and other than the term of address he used, the content of the confession is the exact same one."

Chu Cichen called her 518.

The little puppy-like guy back then didn't know she was 518, so he addressed her as Shen Ruoqing.

Chu Cichen was stunned. He frowned but he suddenly seemed to have understood something. He spoke with certainty, "He was pretending to be me."

Shen Ruoqing agreed with this.

She had met Chu Cichen for the first time overseas and was attracted by his demeanor, looks, and voice.

After returning to the country, she ran into him again. He said his name was Chu Cichen, and he looked exactly the same as the Chu Cichen she had met overseas. In fact, he even revealed details of their encounter overseas...

When she was overseas executing a mission, the imposter also said that he was overseas and swindled her to a school to take a photograph together. However, the one in that photograph was the real Chu Cichen.

Hence, all of this must have been arranged carefully by the little puppy-like imposter.

The little puppy stayed in the shadows and controlled everything.

But why would he do this?

He wanted to date Shen Ruoqing?

Shen Ruoqing was thoroughly perplexed.

Chu Cichen also looked at her. "Jingjing, couldn't you tell the difference? Is there something different between me and him that can allow you to differentiate us?"

Shen Ruoqing. "..."

As an extremely sensitive person, in addition to her taking on missions and being bosses of various industries, it was indeed pretty much impossible that she couldn't tell the differences between the real and the fake...

If she was honest with herself, she could still differentiate them...

When she recalled carefully, the Chu Cichen she encountered overseas clearly treated her slightly colder and was quite different from the compliant Chu Cichen she met in China. However, back then, because she was far from home and was also in charge of many missions, she didn't really focus on dating. This was why she didn't sense the differences then.

An ordinary couple would have different attitudes when it came to professional and personal lives.

In addition, her work often involved life and death, so when she met her boyfriend in the midst of executing a mission, how could she have the presence of mind to pay attention to her boyfriend's attitude?

Just when Shen Ruoqing wanted to say something, she lifted her head and saw Chu Cichen's hurt expression. His gaze was as though he was looking at a sl\*t who dated two guys at the same time.

Now that she thought back, she had indeed dated two guys at the same time those years ago.

One was the Chu Cichen overseas, while the other one was the little puppy imposter that masqueraded as Chu Cichen.

A sense of guilt soon flooded her heart.

Shen Ruoqing coughed. "I don't really mind it."

Chu Cichen sensed her guilt, and the dimness in his phoenix eyes brightened a little.

During this period, he was filled with trepidation, feeling afraid the person she liked might not be him but another man instead. However, right now, he understood that the person in China was masquerading as him. This caused him to heave a sigh of relief, and he also understood how he should subdue Shen Ruoqing's heart.

He suddenly sighed and spoke humbly, "My confession was stolen, and even the majority of our dates was him masquerading as me. Thinking back, it was really fortunate that I was the one who did it with you that night. The children are mine."

Shen Ruoqing. "..."

All of a sudden, she felt even more guilty.

This man must be intentionally acting pitiful before her...Shen Ruoqing thus decided to change the topic. "Back then, after the little puppy vanished..."

But before she could finish her words, Chu Cichen interrupted her. His voice was dripping with jealousy. "Little puppy? So, he is a little puppy in your heart?"

Shen Ruoqing. "!!"

Why did she blurt out the thoughts in her heart carelessly!?

She made her tone heavier. "Little puppy is just an alternate title to address him!"

Chu Cichen was brimming with righteous indignation, so he spoke with great dissatisfaction, "It sounds too intimate. Jingjing, you should understand that he was masquerading as me. He was swindling you."

"..."

Shen Ruoqing stared at him for a while before suddenly laughing. "Alright, I'll listen to you. Let me summarize everything for you: Back then, I met Chu Cichen for the first time overseas and ran into him again after I returned to Sea City in China. Chu Cichen said we were fated and after that, I encountered him a few more times..."

Chu Cichen's temples bulged the more he listened. "I think you better use the alternate title instead."

Shen Ruoqing lifted her eyelids and looked at him with a half-smile. "You are not jealous anymore?"

"I am," Chu Cichen honestly said. "However, if you refer to both of us as 'Chu Cichen', I will feel very weird."

Although he could tell who was who, he still felt very uncomfortable with it.

Shen Ruoqing rolled her eyes.

Although she didn't have much contact with Chu Cichen overseas, this man's meticulous and clingy nature was buried deep in his bones.

She continued, "After the little puppy disappeared, I had nothing to act on because I don't have any clues regarding him. But since he masqueraded as you, we should start our investigation with your identity and see if we can find any clues."

Chu Cichen immediately agreed, "Hmm, I'll do the investigation."

If even the confession used belonged to Chu Cichen, the person masquerading as him must have been extremely familiar with him. At the very least, this indicated that there was a traitor around him.

As for why the person wanted to masquerade as him to date Shen Ruoqing, they would naturally have the answer after they captured that person.

The matters between them were finally cleared up, and the mystery of why their memories didn't match up was also solved. However, it felt as though they sank into an even deeper mystery and scheme...

It was as though everything in their lives had been pre-arranged by someone.

At this moment, the surroundings were completely quiet as the two of them had ventured into the depths of the cypress forest.

After they finished discussing the important things, Chu Cichen suddenly asked, "If he is little puppy, what am I?"

Shen Ruoqing. "?"

She rolled her eyes. "Boring."

After saying that, she turned and walked back according to the path she had taken to come here.

Chu Cichen didn't give up and followed behind her. "So, what am I?"

(You are naturally a big wolf!)

The once little puppy had grown up and would protect her tyrannically...

Shen Ruoqing hastened her steps and ignored him.

Seeing that she remained silent, Chu Cichen continued following her while speaking in an aggrieved manner, "No matter what, the him you loved back then was also me, right?"

"..."

"Actually, I still feel a little afraid. I'm afraid that he did too good of a job masquerading as me and the person you loved was him and not me..."

The man continued chattering, and Shen Ruoqing abruptly halted and suddenly turned to look at him.

Under the night, the woman's peach blossom eyes blazed with passion, causing Chu Cichen to lose his rationality for an instant. He quickly took a step forward and held her close. He then lowered his head, preparing to go in for a kiss.

But at this moment, Shen Ruoqing's mobile phone suddenly rang.

Chu Cichen's action paused, and his eyes gleamed with hatred as he looked at her phone.

Who was the one calling, interrupting his romantic moment?!

He then saw Shen Ruoqing taking her phone out. After that, she spoke with a straight face, "It is the number of that person who said he knew the truth of what happened back then."

It was that person who spoke with an electronic voice. The person who had told them he would guide them to find the truth.

Chu Cichen's romantic feelings were instantly gone. He took another step forward and stood beside Shen Ruoqing. After he took her phone, he switched to speaker mode before accepting the call.

Chu Cichen didn't say anything, choosing to look at Shen Ruoqing.

Shen Ruoqing slowly spoke, "Hello."

As expected, the familiar electronic voice rang out. "Shen Ruoqing, you guys have finished investigating based on the first clue I gave, right? Do you want to know who exactly was the person dating you in the past?"

Chapter 299 Finding The Bai Family's Second Son

Shen Ruoqing narrowed her eyes. "Who?"

The electronic voice paused for a moment before continuing, "Before replying to your question, I need to ask you another question first. Ask your heart, who is the person you liked? The him overseas or the him in China?"

This question caused Shen Ruoqing's gaze to abruptly turn sharp.

She didn't turn her head, but she could sense Chu Cichen's muscles tensing.

She subconsciously wanted to speak, but Chu Cichen tugged her arm lightly. She turned her head to look at him only to see him faintly shaking his head as a plan could be seen in his phoenix eyes.

Shen Ruoqing didn't know what he wanted to do, but she followed his guidance and didn't answer immediately.

The electronic voice on the other end suddenly started laughing uproariously. "You hesitated. Shen Ruoqing, do you know what this means? It means that you already have a clear answer in your heart. The person who saved you from your depression and accompanied you for half a year was that guy!"

Shen Ruoqing subconsciously looked at Chu Cichen only to see the man pointing at himself and waving his hands, indicating for her not to mention his presence.

The two of them took on many missions in the organizations together and were already very familiar with each other. They could understand what each other intended with just an action.

Shen Ruoqing lowered her eyelids. "So, who exactly is he?"

"No matter who he is, he is not Chu Cichen." The electronic voice faintly contained some excitement. "Enough. I'll give you the second clue. Start investigating the people around Chu Cichen."

After saying that, the other party hung up.

Shen Ruoqing frowned and directly looked at Chu Cichen.

After the two of them exchanged a mutual glance, they suddenly spoke up at the same time.

"He is trying to divide us."

"He is trying to divide us."

After their voices rang out, the two of them fell silent again. A short while later, Chu Cichen was the first to break the silence. "Only seven people around me are worthy of my trust. They are my brothers who have weathered deadly situations with me before."

Shen Ruoqing then understood.

Someone among the seven must have betrayed Chu Cichen. Or maybe, one of those seven was intentionally arranged by someone else to be at Chu Cichen's side. No matter who that person was, this was indeed a matter that could cause one to feel great disappointment.

Shen Ruoqing no longer brought this matter up. She merely nodded. "Let us head back first."

The two of them returned to the roadside and got back into the car.

They soon arrived at Chu Manor and just so coincidentally, they ran into Yun Wei sending Bai Xiaojiu off. The four of them met each other at the Chu Manor's parking lot.

As Shen Ruoqing lazily walked forward, Bai Xiaojiu's eyes brightened when he saw her. "Miss Shen, the calligraphy pieces from Madman are real. Are those..."

Before he could finish speaking, Shen Ruoqing reacted and pointed at Chu Cichen directly. "Oh, he was the one who wrote them."

Chu Cichen. "??"

As expected, Bai Xiaojiu shifted his attention and focused on Chu Cichen. He then took a step forward and shook his hand. "Mr. Chu, so you are Teacher Madman!"

Chu Cichen. "?"

He wanted to deny it, but Shen Ruoqing already arrived beside him. After that, she patted his shoulder and showed a look of admiration on her face. She then nonchalantly continued to walk forward and enter the living room.

Chu Cichen. "..."

What else could he do? He could only silently tank this for his wife!

He coughed. "I don't want too many people to know of this."

"I understand, I understand."

Bai Xiaojiu left excitedly and soon drove back to the Bai Manor. Once he reached home, the butler told him that his grandfather wanted him to go to the study the moment he came back.

Bai Xiaojiu then went to the study. When he pushed the door open, he saw Bai Wei hanging the two calligraphy pieces they had obtained today on the wall. There was also a magnifying glass in his hands, and he would sometimes admire the words from afar or a near distance.

When he heard the door being opened, he quickly turned his head and asked, "What's going on with these two pieces?! I checked and they are both real! However, wasn't the calligraphy piece I originally bought already destroyed?"

Bai Xiaojiu's lips twitched and he explained everything that had happened today.

Bai Wei touched his beard and sighed in admiration. "I didn't expect Chu Cichen to be Madman! No wonder that big boss accepted him as his son-in-law despite his young age."

He smiled. "Since that big boss is supporting Chu Cichen's project from the shadows, I think it will be an extremely advantageous cooperation for us. The Bai Family doesn't want to be the sole family targeted for working with him, but I feel that you are suitable for this role. You should cooperate with him."

Bai Xiaojiu started slightly. "Grandpa?"

He naturally understood what his grandpa meant!

The Bai Family currently couldn't cooperate with Chu Cichen because the four great families were a united front. However, as an individual, Bai Xiaojiu could do so. On the surface, it would look like Bai Xiaojiu was rebellious and going against the family. But in reality, this was a great path with a boundless future paved for him by his grandpa!

Bai Wei sighed. "The future belongs to youngsters like you. Your eldest cousin is narrow-minded and caused your shine to be buried for over twenty years. You are soon to be married, and you can't possibly let your wife follow you and lead a life of cautiousness forever, right?!"

Bai Xiaojiu's eyes turned slightly red.

He understood what his grandpa was telling him. There was no need to be humble anymore. He could step out and vie with his eldest cousin for the leader position!

He suddenly took a step back and knelt on both his knees before kowtowing to Bai Wei.

Bai Wei went over and supported him. He then added, "Do you know what is the greatest difficulty you will face in the future?"

Bai Xiaojiu's gaze dimmed as he nodded. "Grandma."

Matriarch Bai was Bai Wei's first wife, and Bai Wei had always been very respectful to her. Also, their second son had left home because Bai Wei insisted on a marriage alliance for his second son. Because of it, their second son was determined never to return, and Bai Wei felt very guilty toward Matriarch Bai for this matter.

So, if Bai Xiaojiu couldn't obtain Matriarch Bai's support, it would be very difficult for him to become the leader.

Bai Wei sighed. "Because of your second uncle's matter, your eldest cousin and his wife have a solid status in the eyes of your grandmother. Hence, you have to do something to make things work."

Bai Xiaojiu felt conflicted. "However, it's highly possible that eldest sis-in-law's calls to 'second uncle' are fake. I feel that she basically didn't manage to find him at all."

Old Master Bai suddenly shot a look at him. "But ever since your grandma heard about the call, her medical condition stabilizes, and she no longer feels any soreness and pain in her waist and legs. She even feels that the food tastes better."

“...” In truth, Old Master Bai understood everything. It was just that he didn't bother poking a hole through the lie!

Bai Xiaojiu's lips twitched. “In that case, I only have a single option. I'm going to look for second uncle! Grandpa, what is his name?”

Back then, Bai Wei's second son was determined to leave home. His personality had always been stubborn and he had truly not returned home despite so many years. It was too difficult to find one person in the whole of China.

Old Master Bai sighed. “Bai Jiayao.”

Bai Xiaojiu nodded. After chatting a few more sentences with his grandfather, he turned and walked away. When he was closing the study's door, he heard his grandpa making a call to someone. “Shen Yuansong, let me tell you this. Your daddy now has two of Madman's calligraphy pieces! I'm finally equal to you, hahahaha...”

Bai Xiaojiu. “...”

His grandpa seemed increasingly like a kid the older he got!

However, Bai Xiaojiu understood. Shen Wanying was the granddaughter of Shen Yuansong's cousin and was also the most doted young miss of the Shen Family in her generation. If Bai Wei wanted Bai Xiaojiu to get the leader's position, he naturally had to have a chat with Old Master Shen...

—

Chu Manor.

After Shen Ruoqing entered the living room, she heard Matriarch Chu's voice. “Jingjing, quickly see who is here!”

Shen Ruoqing turned a corner and heard a voice that was filled with dissatisfaction. “Mother, it's fine if elder brother wants to relocate to the capital. You guys can just accompany him. Why must you get me and Shanshan to come over as well? I'm living a very good life in Sea City!”

It was Chu Cimo.

And beside him, there was a slim woman who seemed elegant and somewhat shy. At this moment, that woman's almond-shaped eyes were staring at him obediently. It was none other than Bai Shanshan!

She became slimmer again!

Her figure gradually returned to normal. Her face was as small as a palm, and she looked very photogenic. She was truly someone who was born to be an actress!

After seeing Shen Ruoqing, this woman who was initially feeling nervous, seemed to have found her sense of security. She then walked over excitedly. There was a look of joy on her face as she hugged Shen Ruoqing's arms. “Miss Shen~”

Her voice was like an oriole, very pleasant-sounding and airy.

Shen Ruoqing smiled at her, causing Bai Shanshan to blush. Shen Ruoqing then lowered her head slightly. From this angle, the Bai Shanshan who had slimmed down actually caused Shen Ruoqing to feel some semblance of familiarity when she looked at her features.

It was as though her nose looked the same as Bai Xiaojiu's. Their noses looked like the hump of a camel from the side.

Not only for Bai Xiaojiu. It seemed that everyone from the Bai Family had a nose like this...

Shen Ruoqing suddenly thought of something. She asked, "Shanshan, what is your father's name?"

Chapter 300 Meeting between Grandparent and Grandchild!

Shen Ruoqing had seen Bai Shanshan's mother before.

Bai Shanshan didn't resemble her mother, so this meant that she probably resembled her father more.

Shen Ruoqing vaguely recalled that Bai Shanshan's father had died a long time ago, hence, she and her mother relied on each other.

At this moment, by asking in such a manner, it actually made Shen Ruoqing appear very rude.

However, Bai Shanshan understood Shen Ruoqing's character and knew that there must be some reason she was asking this. Therefore, she answered obediently, "Bai Yao. Is anything the matter?"

"Nothing much," Shen Ruoqing replied. She decided to go ask Bai Xiaojiu what his second uncle's name was.

Before she found out the truth, she wasn't going to tell Bai Shanshan anything. If it turned out to be wrong, wouldn't it be awkward?

Bai Shanshan didn't take this matter to heart.

The few of them then sat down to chat. Only then did Shen Ruoqing understand that the reason Chu Cimo and Bai Shanshan hadn't come along with the butler earlier was because Bai Shanshan still had some matters to take care of.

Yan Zihao had died and Bai Shanshan did not need to process the divorce documents anymore. She just reported the death of her partner.

Moreover, Yan Zihao's mother had passed away as well. His only younger sister, Yan Zijing, was dealt a great mental blow and was lying in a sanatorium, living a life that was worse than death.

Therefore, all of the Yan Family's assets went to Bai Shanshan.

After Bai Shanshan went through the inheritance, she discovered that the Yan Family didn't have much money at the beginning. Over the years, they had relied on her voice to earn money. Hence, she didn't take a merciful stand but chose to keep all the money, giving them to Yan Xiaoqi. It would be considered compensation for the child over the years.

Just after she changed the ownership of the Yan Family's properties to Xiaoqi's name yesterday, Matriarch Chu called and urged both of them to come over.

Madam Bai came along too. Matriarch Chu was afraid that she might feel uneasy from staying with them, so she helped to find a three-story villa nearby and hired a nanny for her as well.

Both families were going to discuss the marriage between Chu Cimo and Bai Shanshan next.

At this moment, upstairs.

Chu Tianye's surprised gasp rang out. "So, you've inherited a large amount of inheritance?!"

The crybaby Yan Xiaoqi nodded.

Chu Tianye instantly said enviously, "The most wonderful thing in life is for your parents to rise in position, and die... allowing you to inherit a tremendous amount of inheritance! I didn't expect you to have reached the pinnacle of life at such a young age. Sigh, on the other hand, I have to work harder. Depending on my daddy's health situation, I'll probably have to wait for another 70 to 80 years..."

Chu Cichen who had just reached the door. "..."

His lips twitched. He really had no idea if he should feel happy that his son hoped that he could still live for another 70 to 80 years or to feel angry due to the pity in his son's voice!

Chu Tianye was really a good son to him! It was really a case of father gone, son smiles\*!!! Such great filial piety!!!

At this moment, his phone rang.

Chu Cichen picked up the call and Lu Cheng's voice rang out. "Bro Chen, I've contacted the kindergarten. That kindergarten for kids from distinguished families has a round to interview the parents. They have high expectations of their parents. Not only do the parents have to be well-learned, but they also have to come from a good educational background and be a loving couple. Lord Jing and yourself haven't gotten a marriage certificate, so I planned on using an overseas identity to get in touch with them, letting you guys skip this segment..."

Chu Cichen's phoenix eyes lit up a little.

Loving couple! ...

He thought about it silently for a moment before saying with seriousness, "No need. It'd be easy to leave clues behind if we use a foreign identity to contact them. We'll just go for the interview."

Lu Cheng. "?"

Why did he feel that getting exposed wasn't the reason?

He couldn't help but ask, "Bro Chen, are you sure? Lord Jing took an unorthodox path and didn't graduate from a proper famous university. She probably won't be able to pass the interview."

Chu Cichen nodded. "You're right. Then go talk to them and have them focus on the topic that inclines toward a good family atmosphere..."

Lu Cheng. "?????"

Who had said that getting in touch with them would expose their identity?!

During dinner, the entire family found out about this piece of news.

Chu Xiaomeng was sneakily passing a piece of vegetable to Chu Tianye and hadn't retracted her chopsticks when she heard the shocking news that she had to go to school!

Going to school meant that there'd be living people!

It was really scary!

She broke down immediately.

The sociable Chu Tianye jumped up excitedly. "Wow, am I going to get to know new VIPs... students?"

Chu Yu threw a dissatisfied glance at Shen Ruoqing. Uh, he didn't wish to go to school. He wished to stay with his mommy forever...

Even Chuyu barked twice at the side.

The three children had different thoughts. Only Chu Xiaoqi, who was very innocent, nodded. "Alright, Eldest Uncle."

All three children could finally be sent to school. Shen Ruoqing had just heaved a sigh of relief when she saw Chu Cichen suddenly looking at her. "Jingjing, this special kindergarten needs to interview the parents."

Shen Ruoqing. "???"

The next day, Chu Cichen and Shen Ruoqing brought the three kids, while Chu Cimo and Bai Shanshan brought along Chu Xiaoqi. The two families went out together.

They quickly arrived at International Royal Kindergarten.

Shen Ruoqing got out of the car and looked at this place.

The kindergarten had Chinese-style infrastructure, and the entrance was very impressive, with two lion statues standing there. If it wasn't because it was written on the signboard that this was a kindergarten, she would have thought that she had arrived at a Prince Manor!

Shen Ruoqing was looking at it when Bai Shanshan, who was behind her, spoke uneasily, "I looked for someone yesterday to learn about this school. The enrollment criteria they have are extremely strict and they have very high expectations of parents. However, my university isn't a 985 or 211\* and I'm just an undergraduate. Would we fail?"

Chu Cimo scratched his head. "Even if you graduated from a famous university, they'd probably still not care about you. Don't be nervous, we will just attend the interview casually. Anyway, if we can pass it, it'd be a pleasant surprise. If we can't, then just let Big Bro donate a building to them. We'd still be able to pass it then."

Bai Shanshan. "..."

Shen Ruoqing's lips twitched. At this moment, her hand was grabbed by a small hand. She turned and saw Chu Tianye looking at her seriously. "Mommy, you graduated from Sea City University. Your

educational background isn't sufficient either, right? But you must remember, even if I can't pass the enrollment assessment, you mustn't donate a building! It's not worth it!"

Shen Ruoqing. "?"

At this moment, the area beside her was filled with another presence. It was unknown when Chu Cichen had walked over and stood beside her.

The man laughed and said in a low voice, "There's no need to be nervous. The founder of this kindergarten is an unmarried lady. Back in their days, not getting married was a way of challenging the world. Therefore, she can be considered a person with temperament. Other than looking at the parents' external conditions, enrollment mainly depends on the family atmosphere."

The main thing was that he had contacted them and was sure that the admission was almost certain.

They just needed to go through a formality now.

Shen Ruoqing raised her eyebrows and was about to say that she wasn't worried when her hand was grabbed by a large warm hand.

She was slightly stunned. She then turned around and saw that the tips of the man's ears were red. He coughed and said, "The family atmosphere is mainly about the married couple's relationship. Jingjing, relax. We're an old couple with three children now."

Shen Ruoqing. "..."

The three children were almost six years old, which meant that under normal conditions, they would have been married for seven years.

In a family of seven years, the couple's fingers wouldn't interlink when they were holding hands, right?

Her lips curled, but she didn't expose him. She just followed him as they walked.

Suddenly, Bai Shanshan let out a surprised cry. "Oh no, I forgot my identification card in the car. I'll go and get it."

After saying that, she handed Chu Xiaoqi to Chu Cimo, while she turned and ran toward the entrance.

Chu Cimo wanted to say that he would go get it, but Bai Shanshan had moved very far away.

Bai Shanshan quickly ran to the entrance. After getting her identification card, she then rushed back into the kindergarten anxiously. However, at this moment, a few bodyguards suddenly dashed over from the other direction, blocking the entrance.

The domineering bodyguards accidentally bumped into her, and her identification card fell to the floor.

At this moment, an aged voice said, "You guys should be careful. You just bumped into a young lady."

Matriarch Bai was being supported by Shen Wanying and had just steadied herself after getting out of the car when she saw Bai Shanshan falling down from the collision. She then walked over to Bai Shanshan quickly and showed a hint of concern on her stern face. "Lass, are you alright?"

Bai Shanshan waved her hand and got up from the ground. "I'm fine, I'm fine."

When Bai Shanshan fell, her hair covered her face and Matriarch Bai didn't manage to see her looks clearly. However, at this moment, when her face was completely exposed in front of Matriarch Bai, the latter was instantly stunned.

Why did this girl look so familiar?