

At the office.

After Qiu Mu-Cheng ended the call, she gathered her things and prepared to leave.

Now that Ye Fan was not around, there were many chores for her to do at home.

Her parents spent most of the day playing mahjong, and rarely bothered themselves with the household chores. The washing machine at home was filled to the brim with dirty laundry, and the floor had been left unwiped for several days already.

Since she was getting off work earlier today, Qiu Mu-Cheng thought she would hurry home and do the chores.

In the past, everyone in Qiu Mu-Cheng's family thought that Ye Fan was just an inconsequential character. But now, he had barely been gone for a few days and Qiu Mu-Cheng was already feeling exhausted from overwork.

It was only now that Qiu Mu-Cheng realized just how much pressure and responsibility Ye Fan had been shouldering for her at home.

Take yesterday for example. Qiu Mu-Cheng had been getting ready to do the laundry when she realized she did not know how to use the washing machine in the first place. In the end, she had to call Ye Fan for advice. And she did not even know how to turn on the stove, let alone make dinner. The whereabouts of everyday condiments such as salt, soy sauce and vinegar was also a mystery to her.

This is human nature. People do not cherish what is around them; only when their loved ones are no longer around will they realize just how much their other halves have integrated into their lives.

And Qiu Mu-Cheng could not help but acknowledge that Ye Fan had become slightly indispensable to her. Not just in her daily life but in her heart as well.

In the past, although her parents had complained day in and day out, but at least Ye Fan was also around. He had shamelessly made outrageous comments that she found both funny and exasperating. During her three years of marriage with him, those jokes had mostly been her only source of relief.

Now that Ye Fan was not around, she could only hear her parents' abuses and complaints in the house. That was why Qiu Mu-Cheng would rather work overtime till late at the office, than go home and listen to her parents' accusations and complaints.

But no matter how unwilling she felt about this, that was still her home. And eventually, she would have to go back there.

"Ah, if only I have a home that truly belongs to me~"

Suddenly, the thought to buy a house grew in Qiu Mu-Cheng's head. But she only entertained the idea for a while.

Nowadays, house prices were high. And since her career was only just taking off, she did not have enough savings to buy one.

"I should just focus on my work first~"

Qiu Mu-Cheng shook her head to clear away the unrealistic fantasy. And then she walked out of her office.

Undoubtedly, Qiu Mu-Cheng was the

number one beauty of the Qiu family. The exquisite high heels she was wearing encased her feet and showed off her mesmerizing snow-white ankles, while her OL outfit gave her a certain otherworldly charm. As she walked through the office, she attracted sideway glances from numerous company employees. One after another, they greeted her respectfully.

“Miss Qiu, good evening~”

“Miss Qiu, good evening~”

Now that Qiu Mu-Cheng had been put solely in charge of a major project, the employees were naturally respectful toward her. But just then, she ran into Qiu Mu-Ying, who was also getting off work at the same time. And when Qiu Mu-Ying saw how respectfully everyone was treating her cousin, she was overwhelmed by jealousy.

And so, she chimed in with a mocking remark. “I don’t know why you are feeling so smug. You didn’t get to this position through your own ability. Instead, you got it through your husband’s sexual favors. Don’t you feel dirty?”

“Mm? What are you talking about?” Qiu



Mu-Cheng was going to ignore her cousin but, when she heard this, she could not help but frown.

Qiu Mu-Ying crossed her arms and smiled coldly at her cousin. "Don't tell me you have no idea what I am talking about?"

"The only sure way of keeping a deed secret is not to do it in the first place."

"At first I was curious. I was wondering why Miss Xu, the president of Hongqi Group, insisted on working only with you? And then everything became clear on the day before yesterday. My husband and I were at Belle's Cafe when we ran into that good-for-nothing. He was sitting like a lap dog beside Miss Xu and doing his best to suck up to her."

Qiu Mu-Ying's words caused Qiu Mu-Cheng to become even more confused. "What are you trying to say? Who is a lap dog?"

"Heh, it looks like you are still in the dark?" Qiu Mu-Ying looked like she realized something when she saw the look of bewilderment on her cousin's face. And her smile grew wider.

“One should not wash their dirty linen in public. There are too many people around us, so I won’t go into details.”

“But Mu-Cheng, as your sister, I would like to give you a warning. Put a leash on your husband. Otherwise, you might get cheated on and not know it.”

“Grandfather values his reputation highly so, even if your actions can bring us profit, you should know what consequences to expect if you people do anything to bring shame on our family.”

“You are on your own~”

Qiu Mu-Ying sneered and then left.

Qiu Mu-Cheng was left behind, with a sombre expression on her face.

At this moment, Qiu Mu-Cheng had already left the office. As she walked along the street on the way home, she kept on recalling the things her cousin had just told her.

She said she saw someone drinking coffee with Miss Xu. Could it be Ye Fan?

But Ye Fan has already left for the countryside six days ago. How could he make an appearance at Belle's Cafe?

Just then, she suddenly remembered the phone call from Su Qian.

Her BFF had also claimed to have run into Ye Fan today.

Could it be that Su Qian was not lying?

Had Ye Fan already returned to Yunzhou?

Or maybe, he had not even gone to the countryside in the first place.

But if that was the case, why did he lie to me?

Maybe he is doing something shady and does not want me to find out?

As Qiu Mu-Cheng's thoughts spiraled out of control, she suddenly became upset.

It was obvious that an upset person would think about more things.

And so, the memories of certain events popped into her head. For example, she

remembered that time when the leaders of Jiangdong had visited the Han's residence in Jianghai to pay their respect to her. And that time at the jewelery exhibition when Young Master Shen had acted so respectfully toward Ye Fan. And, of course, that time when Hongqi Group had awarded a contract to her at practically no cost to herself.

Before today, she also had her own suspicions. But she had thought that perhaps Ye Fan had done them favors in the past. But now, it looked like maybe Su Qian was right after all. It was possible that Ye Fan was risking his life for those people and doing shady deeds as their "white gloves."

Suddenly, Yunwu Lake appeared before her. Qiu Mu-Cheng was surprised at how far she had walked unconsciously.

And just as she was letting her imagination run wild, her phone suddenly rang.

The caller was Ye Fan.

"Mu-Cheng, have you reached home yet?"



“Have you found the soy sauce yet? I think, for the time being, you had better not make dinner. Go order some takeout. You don’t even know how to use the stove, right? What if you have an accident?”

“Also, do you know how to use the washing machine? Look at yourself. You can’t even take care of yourself. Now, do you understand the bliss of having a husband at home?” Ye Fan’s shameless words drifted through from the other end of the line.

And Qiu Mu-Cheng was instantly amused by Ye Fan’s buffoonery. Her face split into a smile, and then she told him off for being shameless in a fit of pretend rage.

Ye Fan only chuckled in response.

“Oh yeah, do we still have washing powder at home? Buy a packet on your way home. Don’t go to that discount supermarket in our neighborhood. They are cheats. Their merchandise are not cheap at all. Go to Yifeng Supermarket. It’s just next door.”

“Alright alright. I know already. Normally, I don’t see this talkative side of yours. You are even more talkative than my mother,”

Qiu Mu-Cheng said in a rebuking tone. However, just then, a warm smile that nobody could see was dancing on her lips.

Perhaps, this was what a home felt like.

“Are you still at your mother’s? Is she doing well? When are you coming back?” she asked softly.

Ye Fan paused for a moment before he answered with a laugh. “Hahaha, I knew it! You do miss me. Darling, if you tell me you miss me, I will come back right away and warm your bed for you.”

Qiu Mu-Cheng blushed slightly, but continued to retort in a haughty manner.

“Get out! Why would I miss you? I just want to tell you to take your time. The later you come back the better. It is best if you do not come back at all.”

As expected, this bastard is simply too shameless!

Qiu Mu-Cheng was about to end the call.

“Ai, Mu-Cheng, I nearly forgot. The weather report says we are going to have a storm

tonight. So remember to shut the windows. And turn up the heat. You sleep like a pig after all. This time, there is no one around to cover you up again if you kick away your blanket!”

“Shut up, you stupid man! You are the pig~” After one final scream, Qiu Mu-Cheng ended the call.

At this moment, for some reason, she was no longer feeling upset. A snug feeling trickled through her heart as a warm smile appeared on her face.

“That fellow. He may be useless but he knows how to care for others~”

Qiu Mu-Cheng laughed delightfully.

The smile that appeared on her face at this moment was peerlessly beautiful and intoxicating.

If her work colleagues were here right now, they would be surprised to find out how beautiful the normally cold and unsmiling Qiu Mu-Cheng looked, when she had a smile on her face.

Afterward, she did not dally around and

started to make her way back home with a joyful heart. Since she was in a good mood, her steps were lighter than before.

But in the instant when she turned around, Qiu Mu-Cheng saw a couple standing not too far away on the bank of Yunwu Lake. And the hitherto joyous woman became frozen to the spot.

All the warmth and happiness had already vanished.



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