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The Reluctant Bride Book I - Chapter 01-77

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Introduction



The Reluctant Bride (军婚之绑来的新娘) Book I

By Zen Xin Yue (禅心月)

Overview

Genre – Modern Romance, Melodrama, Angst

Book I – 326 chapters

Female Lead – Tan Pan Ting

Male Lead – Gu Jiao Wen

Synopsis

First meeting, Tan Pan Ting drinks her sorrows away at a bar and Gu Jiao Wen mistakes her for a drug dealer.

Second meeting, Tan Pan Ting loses her job and Gu Jiao Wen mistakes her for a hooker.

Third meeting, Tan Pan Ting's parents forces her to go on a blind date. She splashes a glass of water at Gu Jiao Wen's face, and he informs their families he wants to marry her.

Wedding, someone binds Tan Pan Ting to the altar.

Marriage, Tan Pan Ting wants to find a way to escape being Gu Jiao Wen's wife.

Love, when Tan Pan Ting realises she's falling in love with Gu Jiao Wen, she sees a beautiful woman fixing Gu Jiao Wen's tie, and she overhears them talking like they're having an affair.

Note:

- TRB I is a melodrama & angst story. Readers who dislike reading melodrama & angst genres, give TRB I a miss and spend time reading your favorite genres.
- Readers who have read TRB I in another language, please do not post comments about important plot twists, because it ruins the element of surprise for other readers.
- All TRB I characters, events & stunts are fictional.
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Chapters One to Three

Rock bottom.

At the bar of a nightclub, Tan Pan Ting drank her sorrows away.

‘Men are f’ing bastards... they’re all rotten... all men deserve to go to hell...’
Tan Pan Ting mumbled.

The techno music gave Tan Pan Ting a splitting headache. She cursed the liars who told her drinking would help her forget. What drown your sorrows? Her head hurt, and her heart clearly remembered the f’ing bastard.

‘You f’ing bastard... you took credit for my work... you liar... you f’ing cheater... you and the vixen deserve to go to hell together...’ Tan Pan Ting mumbled.

Tan Pan Ting slammed a hundred dollar note on the bar, and she stumbled outside the nightclub. Another f’ing bastard knocked her over, and her arm scraped against the pavement.

‘You f’ing bastard... why are you running away?’ Tan Pan Ting yelled. ‘You can’t injure someone and run away without saying sorry!’

Tan Pan Ting was drunk, but she remembered how gullible she was. She wasn’t going to be a naive pushover again so she chased after the f’king bastard to get an apology from him.

Tan Pan Ting ran blindly like she was chasing the f’king bastard she dated blindly for two years. She met him at her first workplace. She made a rookie mistake by believing the f’king bastard, ‘Pan Ting, tell the managers it was my idea. I’ll take responsibility if your plan fails... Pan Ting, I need this opportunity... Pan Ting, if I’m successful, you’ll benefit too... Pan Ting, trust me, I’m doing this for you...’

Tan Pan Ting wasn't angry the f'king bastard dumped her. She was angry the f'king bastard took credit for her work, and slept with the boss' daughter. Why did she trust such a f'king bastard?

Tan Pan Ting was too furious to hear sirens. The man who knocked her over, dropped a bag in an alley way and disappeared.

'Miss you're under arrest,' a junior cop said.

Tan Pan Ting turned around, she saw a bunch of actors pointing a gun at her. She stepped in front of the junior cop and wanted to touch the realistic toy gun.

'Are you and your cast members shooting an action scene?' Tan Pan Ting asked. 'Wow, the gun prop looks so real.'

'Don't move or I'll shoot,' the junior cop warned.

Tan Pan Ting was too drunk to read the police sign on the cars behind the actors pointing guns at her. She touched the actor's toy gun who threatened her, and he immediately twisted her arm.

'Ah!' Tan Pan Ting cried out. 'Save me! Someone wants to kill me!' Save me!

Tan Pan Ting didn't want to die without seeing the f'king bastard and the vixen receive their retributions.

'Don't move!' the junior cop said. 'You're under arrest. You have the right to remain silent. Whatever you say will be reported.'

Tan Pan Ting felt like she was the victim who was in the wrong place at the wrong time in a gangster movie.

'Is this place secured?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

Tan Pan Ting couldn't see the tall man's face in the dark alley way at a far distance. But the tall man was her hope of surviving by the way the gangsters looked intimidated by the tall man.

'Save me!' Tan Pan Ting said. 'These gangsters want to kill me.'

Gu Jiao Wen and the junior cops dismissed Tan Pan Ting's cry of innocence.

'Yes sir,' the junior cop said.

'Um, put down your gun,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'The drug dealers are caught but they got rid of the evidence,' the junior cop reported to Gu Jiao Wen.

Gu Jiao Wen ordered a female cop to search Tan Pan Ting.

The female cop took Tan Pan Ting to an unfamiliar place.

'What are you doing?' Tan Pan Ting asked. 'Let me go.'

The female cop ignored Tan Pan Ting, and she performed a strip search.

End of Chapters One to Three

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Chapters Four to Six

Piaget watch.

Tan Pan Ting was hand cuffed to a chair in an interrogation room. Friday the thirteen was indeed an unlucky day for her. She was heartbroken and arrested.

‘Who do you think you are?’ Tan Pan Ting asked the female cop. ‘Someone save me! Let me go! You stinky cops only know how to waste public money.’

The tall man entered the room, and the female cop left. Tan Pan Ting assessed the tall man looming over her. He was wearing an ordinary shirt and black pants, but he looked like a handsome star. She berated herself for praising her captor’s good looks.

‘Hey Mr, let me go,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘What right do you have to detain me?’

Gu Jiao Wen sat on the chair opposite Tan Pan Ting, and he looked at her coldly.

‘Where are the drugs?’ Gu Jiao Wen asked.

‘What drugs?’ Tan Pan Ting asked.

‘Don’t play dumb,’ Gu Jiao Wen said. ‘If you know what’s good for you then tell me where the drugs are.’

‘What drugs?’ Tan Pan Ting asked.

Gu Jiao Wen thumped the table, and Tan Pan Ting noticed the Piaget watch on his wrist. The f’king cheating bastard wore a Piaget watch too, ‘Pan Ting, you’re nothing but a lowly employee. You can’t compare to our company’s heiress.

Look what she gave me, a Piaget watch. Whereas you'll always be someone with two empty hands.'

'Drugs your mother,' Tan Pan Ting said.

Tan Pan Ting vented her heartbreak on Gu Jiao Wen.

Gu Jiao Wen gripped Tan Pan Ting's arm.

'Miss if you want to live a comfortable life then tell me where the drugs are,' Gu Jiao Wen threatened.

'Who do you think you are?' Tan Pan Ting asked. 'Do you think you're better than the rest of us? How dare you arrest an innocent citizen like me? Look at me, why would someone loveable as me deal drugs?'

'Miss, do you know what happens to someone convicted of possessing five kilograms of ecstasy pills is?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

Tan Pan Ting shook her head. She didn't sell a single ecstasy pill in her life.

'The death penalty,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'Mr, are you mental?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

Gu Jiao Wen twisted Tan Pan Ting's arm.

'Ah!' Tan Pan Ting cried out.

'Witnesses saw you with Tu,' Gu Jiao Wu said. 'Of course you know where the drugs are.'

'I don't know who Tu is,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'I'm going to contact the media, and tell them what a mental cop you are. You abuse your power by bullying an innocent person like me. All I did was drink at a bar to forget my heartbreak. I don't know anything about any ecstasy pills.'

Gu Jiao Wen couldn't believe after three months uncover, he and his team didn't have enough evidence to send the drug dealers to prison for life.

'Where are the drugs?' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'Drugs your mother,' Tan Pan Ting said.

Tan Pan Ting wanted to go home, and sleep. But the stinky cop detained her,

and hurt her arm.

‘If you don’t let me go, I’ll sue you for detaining an innocent citizen,’ Tan Pan Ting said.

‘Sue?’ Gu Jiao Wen said. ‘If you don’t tell me where the drugs are then you can sue me behind bars.’

‘Drugs, drugs, drugs,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘I don’t have any drugs. Let me go, I’m innocent. I’m going to post your photo on the internet, and you’re bad conduct will go viral.’

‘Go ahead,’ Gu Jiao Wen said. ‘But you won’t leave this place until you tell me where the drugs are.’

Tan Pan Ting’s final straw broke, she bit the stinky cop’s arm. She didn’t expect biting his arm was like biting concrete.

Gu Jiao Wen didn’t expect Tan Pan Ting would resort to biting him.

The events of the bad night made Tan Pan Ting crazy. Who wouldn’t go crazy after being cheated on, knocked down, arrested under false accusations and manhandled? She didn’t let go of the stinky cop’s arm until he gripped her chin painfully.

‘I’m asking you one last time,’ Gu Jiao Wen said. ‘Where are the drugs?’

Tan Pan Ting was in enough pain to make her eyes teary. She couldn’t believe the stinky cop expected her to confess for a crime she didn’t commit.

End of Chapters Four to Six

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Chapters Seven to Nine

Fever.

‘I don’t know anything,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘Let me go you MF.’

Gu Jiao Wen was impressed Tan Pan Ting was in enough pain for her eyes to be teary, but she didn’t confess. He understood why the drug lord made an exception, and let a woman into the drug lord’s gang.

‘You’ve arrested the wrong person,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘I’m innocent. I’m not going to let you MFs get away with wasting public money to harass innocent citizens.’

Gu Jiao Wen gripped Tan Pan Ting’s chin tighter.

‘You MF let me go,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘I hope all your children are little demons who makes you suffer. Unless you kill me, I won’t let you get away with this.’

Gu Jiao Wen let go of Tan Pan Ting's chin.

'Miss, it looks like unless you see your coffin then you won't cry for mercy,' Gu Jiao Wen said. 'You can spend tonight behind bars to reconsider your decision.'

Gu Jiao Wen didn't believe Tan Pan Ting wouldn't cooperate after being detained at the police station, and starved for a night.

'You MF, what right do you have to detain me?' Tan Pan Ting asked. 'I want to call my lawyer, and sue you for detaining an innocent citizen.'

Gu Jiao Wen ordered his team not to feed Tan Pan Ting unless she agreed to confess.

No matter how much Tan Pan Ting cursed, no one released her.

Later that night a junior cop reported to Gu Jiao Wen.

'Did he confess?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

'No,' the junior cop said. He passed Gu Jiao Wen a bag. 'This belongs to the woman we arrested tonight.'

Gu Jiao Wen searched the bag, and he took out Tan Pan Ting's work ID. The photo of the mild woman working for a cosmetic company contrasted with the wild woman in the interrogation room.

'Boss, do you think we arrested the wrong person?' the junior cop asked. 'Why would a drug dealer carry around their real ID?'

'Tell me again how you and the others found her,' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

'Boss, we saw her leaving the nightclub and chasing Tu to an alley way,' the junior cop said.

'Um, I want the culprit arrested within twenty-four hours,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'Yes boss,' the junior cop said.

The following morning, Tan Pan Ting woke up in an unfamiliar place. Her head throbbed, and her throat hurt like she was yelling all night. The door opened, and the harsh morning light hurt her eyes. She saw the female cop who strip searched her last night was holding her bag. All of last night's events flooded back to her. She remembered drinking at a bar, chasing the man who knocked

her over, being interrogated unfairly and detained overnight at a police station.

‘Miss, check your bag,’ the female cop said. ‘If nothing is missing, you can sign this form and leave.’

Tan Pan Ting didn’t bother to read the form before ripping it in half.

‘I’m signing nothing,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘I’m going to sue you MFs.’

Tan Pan Ting stormed out of the police station. On her way outside, she bumped into someone but she was too furious to care.

‘Are you blind?’ Gu Jiao Wen asked. ‘Why aren’t you watching where you’re going?’

Gu Jiao Wen steadied himself, and he turned around to see who bumped into him. It was Tan Pan Ting. She was striding toward a taxi in an angry haze.

Tan Pan Ting got into her bed the moment she arrived home. In her pained state, she heard someone walked into her room.

‘Jia Ju, you’re here,’ Tan Pan Ting said weakly.

‘Heavens, Pan Ting you look like you’re on your death bed,’ Zheng Jia Ju said.

‘Jia Ju, don’t worry,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘Perhaps I caught a cold.’

Zheng Jia Ju measured Tan Pan Ting’s temperature, it was thirty nine and half degrees Celsius.

‘Pan Ting, you have a fever,’ Zheng Jia Ju said.

‘Really?’ Tan Pan Ting asked. ‘Don’t worry. I’m OK.’

‘No wonder you didn’t answer my phone calls,’ Zheng Jia Ju said. ‘You’re sick.’

Zheng Jia Ju called a doctor for a home visit.

A while later the doctor examined Tan Pan Ting. He told Zheng Jia Ju that Tan Pan Ting drank too much, and Tan Pan Ting would recover after resting.

End of Chapters Seven to Nine

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Chapters Ten to Twelve

Fired.

‘Thank you Jia Ju for taking care of me,’ Tan Pan Ting said.

‘Are we not friends?’ Zheng Jia Ju asked. ‘You don’t need to thank me. I was worried about you when you didn’t pick up your phone last night.’

‘I still want to thank you,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘What did you want to tell me?’

‘I was out last night,’ Zheng Jia Ju said. ‘Guess who I saw?’

‘Who?’ Tan Pan Ting asked.

‘Zhang Jian Yuan,’ Zheng Jia Ju said. ‘Isn’t he your boyfriend? What was he doing having a cosy dinner with another woman in a restaurant?’

‘Jia Ju, don’t worry,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘I caught them together before.’

‘I hate people who cheat the most,’ Zheng Jia Ju said. ‘I called you to tell you Zhang Jian Yuan’s cheating on you. But you know already. Pan Ting, do you want to hire some people to ruffle him a little?’

Tan Pan Ting shook her head.

‘Are you going to resign?’ Zheng Jia Ju asked.

'No,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'I'm going to take revenge by being successful.'

'That's the spirit,' Zheng Jia Ju said. 'Show that cheating bastard you don't need him in your life to live a good life.'

'Um,' Tan Pan Ting said.

Monday morning, Tan Pan Ting went to work at Li's cosmetics company as usual. She was a diligent employee for two years. But she was still treated like an intern while Zhang Jian Yuan stole credit for her designs, and he was promoted to a supervising position.

Tan Pan Ting's office phone flashed red, Zhang Jian Yuan called her to his office.

'Pan Ting, I have an opportunity for you,' Zhang Jian Yuan said. He held Tan Pan Ting's shoulders. 'I want you to design a new cosmetic product. I'll pitch your design to the CEO. If the CEO likes your design, I promise you'll be promoted.'

Tan Pan Ting scoffed coldly, and she pushed Zhang Jian Yuan's hands off her shoulders. It was enough she fooled once by the f'king bastard.

Zhang Jian Yuan was frustrated Tan Pan Ting didn't sleep with him. He knew Tan Pan Ting was a traditional woman who wanted to save herself for her husband. He reasoned if he could get Tan Pan Ting to sleep with him then she would obey him.

'Pan Ting, the truth is I still love you,' Zhang Jian Yuan said. He hugged Tan Pan Ting tightly so she couldn't leave his office. 'Pan Ting, wait for me. After I overthrow the CEO, you're the woman I want to be with.'

Zhang Jian Yuan forcefully kissed Tan Pan Ting. Before she could slap him the door opened.

'Mei Bing... I'm innocent,' Zhang Jian Yuan said. 'Miss Tan kissed me.'

Li Mei Bing saw Zhang Jian Yuan's hands on Tan Pan Ting's waist, and Tan Pan Ting's hands on his chest. She believed Zhang Jian Yuan was telling the truth.

'Jian Yuan, I believe you,' Li Mei Bing said. 'Miss Tan, you're fired, because you disgracefully seduced your supervisor to wiggle your way to a promotion.'

Li Mei Bing wasn't going to let anyone steal her man.

Tan Pan Ting was shocked. It felt like another Friday the thirteenth on a Monday.

'Miss Tan, I want you to leave immediately,' Li Mei Bing said. 'You're not allowed to take anything from your office. All your work belongings are the company's intellectual property. Do you need security to escort you to door?'

Tan Pan Ting couldn't believe two years of hard work amounted to being dismissed unfairly, and a measly three month pay cheque. She couldn't even take her designs home.

End of Chapters Ten to Twelve

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Chapters Thirteen to Fifteen

Money.

Tan Pan Ting wandered around the streets depressed. A promoter handed her a leaflet, '188 dollars for five hours of singing.'

Tan Pan Ting was drawn to the karaoke bar's grand opening cake on the leaflet. Her stomach rumbled. She remembered she didn't get to eat her lunch before the f'king bastard cheated on her, and the vixen fired her.

Tan Pan Ting walked into the karaoke bar. The hostesses treated her like royalty because it was a Monday, and not many customers came to the karaoke bar's grand opening.

'Miss, my name is Money,' Money said. 'I'll show you to a VIP room.'

Tan Pan Ting was too deep in thoughts about her single and jobless status to think about how strange it was for someone to call themselves Money.

In the karaoke room, Tan Pan Ting screeched ten heartbreak songs in a row. Usually she was a good singer, but her voice was affected by alcohol and anger. She continued to choose songs like a broken heart in hell for the five hour singing marathon.

Outside Tan Pan Ting's karaoke room, two hostesses were gossiping about Tan Pan Ting.

'I didn't think a woman her age would come to a karaoke bar in the middle of a

Monday afternoon,' a hostess said. 'Why isn't she at work?'

'Didn't you see her red eyes and the big stack of money in her purse before?' Money asked.

'What do you mean?' the hostess asked.

'She's a night worker,' Money said and winked.

'Oh...' the hostess said.

If Tan Pan Ting could hear the two hostesses speculating she was a hooker, she would have come out of the karaoke room to give the two hostesses an earful.

Tan Pan Ting didn't hear, but an old fat man in his forties overheard the two hostesses talking when he walked out of the toilet. He waited for the two hostesses to serve another customer before he entered Tan Pan Ting's karaoke room.

Tan Pan Ting had taken her jacket off, because she was hot singing in the private room. She wore a red backless work outfit, and a pink bra under her jacket. When she felt someone's fat hand touched her back, she screamed into the microphone.

'Get your filthy hand off me,' Tan Pan Ting said.

The old man took out several hundred dollar notes, and he slipped it into Tan Pan Ting's pocket. He loved beautiful women, especially if they laid on his bed of money.

'Let me take good care of you,' the old man said. 'You don't have to play coy with me. I know you love money. I can give you money. I can make you a famous hooker if you show me a good time.'

Tan Pan Ting slapped the old man, kicked him in his balls and she hit his head with her bag.

'You MF, I'm not a hooker,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'You can roast like a fat pig in hell. I'm going to call the cops to arrest you.'

The old man hunched over in pain. Then his men walked into the room.

'Here you are,' one of the men said. 'We've been looking for you.'

The old man's eyes gleamed, and he pointed at Tan Pan Ting.

'Feel free to sample this woman,' the old man said. 'Today is my treat.'

The old man wanted to make Tan Pan Ting pay for daring to hit him.

The group of men restrained Tan Pan Ting.

'Ah!' Tan Pan Ting cried out. 'Someone help! There are rapists in the room! Help! Someone call the cops! You MFs get your hands off me!'

Suddenly the door was broken down by cops. Money had called the cops when she saw a suspicious group of men entered Tan Pan Ting's room.

End of Chapters Thirteen to Fifteen

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Chapters Sixteen to Eighteen

Hummer.

‘Men to the left and women to the right,’ Shi Tu said.

‘Officers, you’re in time,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘Arrest these men. They wanted to assault me.’

‘Wait, there’s a misunderstanding,’ the old man said. ‘Officers, have a cigar on me. This woman is a hooker.’

‘Who’s a hooker?’ Tan Pan Ting asked. ‘You’re the hooker.’

‘Boss, what do you want us to do?’ Shi Tu asked.

Tan Pan Ting put on her jacket, and she wondered why the young man holding a gun looked familiar. When she looked at the tall man behind the young man, she remembered the tall man was the man who imprisoned her wrongly for a night and made her sick. She took out her phone, and took a photo of the tall man.

Gu Jiao Wen reacted the fastest, and he grabbed Tan Pan Ting’s phone.

‘You MF, I can remember you even if hell freezes over,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘Give back my phone, and give me your ID. I want to sue you.’

Shi Tu thought he had seen Tan Pan Ting somewhere before, but Gu Jiao Wen gave an order before he could remember where.

'Take these six men and the two hostesses back to the police station for statements,' Gu Jiao Wen ordered. 'I'll drive this woman to the police station myself.'

'Yes boss,' Shi Tu said.

Apart from Gu Jiao Wen and Tan Pan Ting, everyone left to go the police station.

Tan Pan Ting jumped up to snatch her phone. She was tall for a woman, but the tall man was a head taller than her.

'Give me back my phone,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'Don't think I'll let you get away for arresting and detaining me overnight on false charges.'

'Miss, do you know it's against the law for you to take a photo of a cop when they're on duty?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

Gu Jiao Wen was surprised he was attracted to Tan Pan Ting's natural body scent.

'How long have you been a hooker?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

'What?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

Tan Pan Ting lost her footing. She would have hit her head on the wall if the tall man didn't have quick reflexes and grabbed her arm.

'Do cops like you know what it means to be a good cop?' Tan Pan Ting asked. 'How many times do I need to say those men wanted to assault me?'

Gu Jiao Wen dragged Tan Pan Ting to his Hummer. She thought he must be the kind of cop who accepted bribes if he could afford designer watches and cars.

'Where are you taking me?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

Gu Jiao Wen drove Tan Pan Ting to the police station. He caught her arm before she grabbed the steering wheel.

'Let me go,' Tan Pan Ting said.

'If you don't want to die then sit still,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

Tan Pan Ting sat still because she didn't want to be in a car accident.

It didn't take long for Gu Jiao Wen to drive to the police station.

'Someone save me,' Tan Pan Ting yelled. 'Someone is kidnapping me.'

The cops in the parking lot didn't interfere, and they let Gu Jiao Wen take Tan Pan Ting into the police station.

'Mr Mental let me go,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'You have no right to detain me. I'm the victim.'

For the second time Tan Pan Ting was hand cuffed in the interrogation room. She couldn't slap the tall man, but she kicked him in the balls.

End of Chapters Sixteen to Eighteen

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Chapters Nineteen to Twenty-One

Buns.

‘Do you want me to be childless?’ Gu Jiao Wen asked.

Tan Pan Ting bumped her nosed on Gu Jiao Wen’s concrete chest and she cried out. She jumped up, hit her head on his chin, and made her teeth bite her tongue. But her failure to kick him in the balls hurt more than her pain.

Tan Pan Ting was about to fall on her way down, she grabbed Gu Jiao Wen's shirt to keep herself up. But her back hit the floor, and Gu Jiao Wu's concrete body fell on top of her soft body.

Gu Jiao Wen felt his hands landed on something soft as buns, and his lips landed on Tan Pan Ting's lips, he tasted a bit of her blood.

The door opened. Shi Tu witnessed a rare sight. Gu Jiao Wen was lying on top of a woman, and kissing a woman in the interrogation room.

'Boss... I'm sorry... I should have knocked... continue,' Shi Tu said.

Shi Tu quickly left, and closed the door.

'Get off me you MF,' Tan Pan Ting said.

Gu Jiao Wen pulled Tan Pan Ting up with him. They were both embarrassed his hands touched her breasts, and he accidentally kissed her. She wiped her lips, and a bit of blood was smeared to the corner of her lips.

'Let me out of here,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'You have no right to keep me here.'

'You assaulting a cop on duty is enough to lock you up for half a month,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'It's self-defence,' Tan Pan Ting protested. 'I haven't committed a crime, but I'm being detained unfairly. So it's not wrong for me to defend myself even against a cop.'

Gu Jiao Wen unlocked one of Tan Pan Ting's hand cuffs then he cuffed her momentarily free hand to the chair. He put the key in his pocket, and walked out the room like he wasn't attracted to Tan Pan Ting.

Gu Jiao Wen returned to his office. He had a mountain of paper work to do.

Shi Tu knocked on Gu Jiao Wen's office door.

'Boss, the men's lawyers are here with their bail money,' Shi Tu said.

'Don't accept their bail money,' Gu Jiao Wen said. 'Keep them locked up for a half a month.'

'Boss, isn't it a policy if someone pays their bail then they can leave unless they're charged with a serious offence?' Shi Tu asked.

'Attempting to gang rape someone is reason enough to lock them up for half a month,' Gu Jiao Wen said coldly.

'Boss, are you and Miss Tan friends or lovers...' Shi Tu asked and quickly retreated out of Gu Jiao Wen's office.

Shi Tu both respected and was scared of Gu Jiao Wen. He didn't want to die of curiosity.

Gu Jiao Wen worked through the paper work. His mind was on the unsolved drug case. Although 5kg of ecstasy pills weren't a small loss, he knew the drug lord had a lot more drugs hidden somewhere.

The next time Gu Jiao Wen looked at his watch, it was ten at night. He realised why he felt hungry. When he left the police station to buy a late dinner, he remembered he had forgotten something.

'Let me out...' Tan Pan Ting said in a hoarse voice.

Tan Pan Ting wasted her energy vainly. She couldn't believe she was the victim, but she was detained again. Even a criminal deserved to be treated humanely. Why didn't the MF cops give her anything to eat or drink?

Suddenly the door opened, the lights turned and someone entered the interrogation room that Tan Pan Ting was locked in.

End of Chapters Nineteen to Twenty-One

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Chapters Twenty-Two to Twenty-Four

Phone.

‘I’m going to report you to your superior about your misconduct,’ Tan Pan Ting said.

‘Impressive,’ Gu Jiao Wen said. ‘Even after being locked up for a day, your motor mouth still runs.’

Tan Pan Ting looked suspiciously at the take away containers of food Gu Jiao Wen put on the table.

'Eat,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'Get rid of it,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'I'm not going to eat the chicken dishes you bought. I don't know how you contaminated the chicken.'

'Are you saying you don't eat your kind?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

'Are you calling me a hooker again?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

'Are you admitting you're a hooker?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

'At least I'm human,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'Unlike you who treat innocent people inhumanely.'

'Are you going to eat?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

'No,' Tan Pan Ting said.

Gu Jiao Wen opened a container, picked up his chopsticks and ate.

Tan Pan Ting looked at a wall, but the grilled chicken aromas woke up her tastebuds.

'If you're done eating the chicken dishes you contaminated then let me out of here,' Tan Pan Ting said.

Gu Jiao Wen leisurely wiped his mouth.

'I'll free you on one condition,' Gu Jiao Wen said. 'Eat your dinner, and I'll free you.'

'I don't want to eat,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'I'm thirsty. I want water.'

Tan Pan Ting's throat was dry from cursing the stinky cops.

Gu Jiao Wen went to get a glass of water for Tan Pan Ting. After he returned, she struggled to drink the glass of water with her cuffed hands.

'Can I go now?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

'Eat your dinner then you can go,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'Do you expect me to eat like this for you to mock me?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

Gu Jiao Wen and Tan Pan Ting had a silent battle to see who would surrender first.

A long time later, Tan Pan Ting couldn't stand the silence anymore.

'Give back my bag,' Tan Pan Ting said.

'Eat first,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'OK,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'I'm happy to not waste food.'

Tan Pan Ting ate half of her dinner portion in a few mouthfuls because she was hungry.

'I'm done,' Tan Pan Ting said.

'Not yet,' Gu Jiao Wen said. 'It's a crime to waste food.'

'Tell me your name and position so I can report you to your superior,' Tan Pan Ting said.

Gu Jiao Wen took out a key, and he unlocked Tan Pan Ting's handcuffs.

'Go upstairs and you'll see a photo of me on the wall in one of the corridors,' Gu Jiao Wen said. 'Near my photo is the phone number of who you can call to place a complaint about any cops at this police station.'

Tan Pan Ting walked upstairs. She wandered around the maze of corridors for a long time. She couldn't find the photo of the man she wanted to kill, but she found the phone number of who to call to report a cop for misconduct.

Tan Pan Ting memorised the phone number, and she called the number using one of the cops' office phones.

'Hello,' Tan Pan Ting greeted. 'I want to file a complaint about one of the cops at this police station...'

'What did the cop do to you?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

Tan Pan Ting slammed down the phone. She turned around, and glared at Gu Jiao Wen.

'Who are you?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

Tan Pan Ting couldn't believe the cop she wanted to report was responsible for processing complaints against cops at his police station.

'Gu Jiao Wen,' Gu Jiao Wen said. He passed Tan Pan Ting her bag. 'You're free

to go.'

'You!' Tan Pan Ting said. 'If you value your reputation then don't let me see your face again.'

Tan Pan Ting wasn't crazy enough to stay and converse with Mr Mental when she was free to go. She snatched her bag, and stormed out of the police station.

End of Chapters Twenty-Two to Twenty-Four

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Chapters Twenty-Five to Twenty-Seven

Third Time's a Charm.

One month later, at a cafe.

'Jiao Wen, you're here,' Chen Ting Yu said.

'Mum, didn't you say you're sick?' Gu Jiao Wen asked. 'Why did you want to meet me here? Do you want me to take you to the hospital?'

'I'm OK,' Chen Ting Yu said. 'I missed my son. Hurry and sit.'

'Where's dad?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

'Your dad is escorting his friends here,' Chen Ting Yu said.

'Friends?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

'Yes,' Chen Ting Yu said. 'Jiao Wen, I know you're not a child anymore. But I still worry about you.'

'Mum if you asked me to come here for a blind date then I'm leaving,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'Jiao Wen, must you go?' Chen Ting Yu asked and blinked back crocodile tears.

Gu Jiao Wen was scared of Chen Ting Yu's tears.

'Mum, don't be like this,' Gu Jiao Wen said. 'I don't want to think about marriage right now.'

'When do you plan to think about marriage?' Chen Ting Yu asked. 'Jiao Wen, you could have gone to any college of your choice. But you chose to train in the

police academy. I didn't stop you. Then you were offered prestigious posts yet you chose to work as an undercover cop. Have you thought about how worried I am every time you risk your life going on a dangerous mission?'

'Mum...' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'Jiao Wen, if you care about me then all I ask is for you to settle down with a woman of your choice and make me worry less about you,' Chen Ting Yu said.

'Mum, don't pressure me,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'Jiao Wen, at least meet this woman today,' Chen Ting Yu said. 'Her dad was in the same army unit as your dad.'

'Yes mum,' Gu Jiao Wen said. 'This is the last time I'm meeting a woman you and dad want me to meet. Your emotional blackmail isn't going to work next time.'

'Alright,' Chen Ting Yu said. 'I only want you to have someone to take care of you.'

'Mum, I'm fine on my own,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'How can you be fine on your own?' Chen Ting Yu asked. 'I'm waiting for you to get married, and give me a grandchild.'

'Mum, if this woman I meet later agrees to marry me then I'll marry her, satisfied?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

'Yes,' Chen Ting Yu said. 'I have a photo of her in my bag. Do you want to see what she looks like before you meet her?'

'I don't need to,' Gu Jiao Wen said. 'It won't be hard for me to recognise a simpleton. Mum, wait here for me. I'm going to the toilet.'

In the women's bathroom, Tan Pan Ting failed to guilt trip another friend to pose as her boyfriend. Her parents sprung on her about another blind date.

Tan Pan Ting wasted two years on Zhang Jian Yuan. He used the excuse of building his career to postpone meeting her parents. She thought if she helped him get a promotion then he would have no reason left to not meet her parents. She didn't expect he would kick her the curb the moment he was promoted by taking credit for her designs.

In the morning Tan Zui Shi called Tan Pan Ting. He warned her to dress nicely if she wanted to keep her life. She was scared of the stern Tan Zui Shi, and wore a blue dress with a matching white scarf on her forced blind date.

Tan Pan Ting hung up her new phone, and she walked out of the bathroom. Suddenly someone bumped into her, and she dropped her new phone.

‘It’s you!’ Tan Pan Ting said. She glared at Gu Jiao Wen who was dressed in a formal white shirt and black pants. ‘Don’t you have proper duties to perform at work? I don’t owe you anything. But why are you such a free cop to stalk me?’

Tan Pan Ting hadn’t forgiven Gu Jiao Wen for detaining her on false charges, manhandling her and not telling her there was blood smeared on the corner of her mouth on the last night they saw each other. That night she didn’t know why the taxi driver stared suspiciously at her until she got home, and looked at her face in the mirror.

Gu Jiao Wen breaking Tan Pan Ting’s new phone gave her a good opportunity to make him pay a little for the troubles he put her through. She picked up her broken phone, and waved it in front of his face.

‘You broke my new phone,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘You have to buy me the same phone to replace this broken phone.’

‘Firstly you bumped into me and secondly it’s your fault for not holding onto your phone properly,’ Gu Jiao Wen said. ‘You should have watched where you’re going. Your phone breaking has nothing to do with me.’

‘Mr Gu, if you don’t replace my broken phone today then don’t think I’ll let you leave here,’ Tan Pan Ting threatened.

‘Let go of my arm,’ Gu Jiao Wen said.

Despite Tan Pan Ting’s shrewdness, Gu Jiao Wen thought she looked feminine with her hair down, and in a blue dress.

‘I’m not going to let go until you replace my phone,’ Tan Pan Ting said. She couldn’t win a physical fight against Gu Jiao Wen. But she was in a public place instead of locked up like the last two times she and Gu Jiao Wen met. ‘Ah! Someone help! There’s a peeping tom here!’

Gu Jiao Wen saw a security guard patrolling outside the bathrooms, and he quickly covered Tan Pan Ting's mouth.

End of Chapters Twenty-Five to Twenty-Seven

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Chapters Twenty-Eight to Thirty

Meet the boyfriend.

Gu Jiao Wu dodged Tan Pan Ting's kick.

'Don't yell,' Gu Jiao Wen said. 'Your phone still works.'

The security guard recognized Gu Jiao Wen, and walked away.

'Don't go,' Tan Pan Ting said to the security guard. 'Call the police, and report this pervert.'

The moment Tan Pan Ting realised what she said, she remembered it was pointless to report Gu Jiao Wen to himself.

'Let go of my arm,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'No,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'Even if my phone works, it's damaged. I'm not letting you off the hook today.'

'Alright,' Gu Jiao Wen said. 'I'll replace your phone. Now will you let go of me?'

'I don't want you to replace my phone anymore,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'I want a different kind of compensation. Follow me. Later let me do the talking. You don't

have to say anything. You only need to play along with me.'

Tan Pan Ting wanted to use Gu Jiao Wen to avoid being forced by her parents to go on blind dates in the future.

'Aren't you scared I'll do something to you if you don't let go?' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'Go ahead and hit me,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'Then I'll have evidence you're a pervert, and you used force to hit an innocent citizen.'

Gu Jiao Wen could have easily pulled his arm free. But he was distracted by Tan Pan Ting's scent and the defiant look in her eyes.

When Tan Pan Ting took Gu Jiao Wen to Chen Ting Yu's table at the cafe, he figured out how Tan Pan Ting wanted to him to compensate her.

Tan Pan Ting dragged Gu Jiao Wen to the table of four adults who were reminiscing the good old days.

Tan Pan Ting's parents and Gu Jiao Wen's parents were surprised to see Tan Pan Ting and Gu Jiao Wen arriving together. But Tan Pan Ting's words made them speechless.

'Dad, mum,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'The reason I don't want to go on blind dates anymore is because I have a boyfriend. This is my boyfriend, Gu Jiao Wen.'

Tan Pan Ting was satisfied to see Tan Zui Shi staring in shock at her hand that was holding Gu Jiao Wen's hand. She looked at Gu Jiao Wen's reaction. He looked like he didn't know what was happening. She thought he was a useless cop if he couldn't deduce the situation in front of him. She would have shaken his shoulders to wake his brain up if they weren't standing in front of her parents.

'Dad, mum,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'Gu Jiao Wen and I have plans. We'll leave first.'

Tan Pan Ting wanted to take Gu Jiao Wen to leave the cafe with her. Afterward she hoped she wouldn't ever see him again.

'Pan Ting, wait,' Tan Zui Shi said.

'Jiao Wen, why didn't you tell us that you and Pan Ting were dating?' Chen Ting Yu asked.

Tan Pan Ting was confused why Chen Ting Yu looked so happy to know she was dating Gu Jiao Wen.

‘This is good news,’ Chen Ting Yu said.

‘It is good news,’ Tan Zui Shi said. ‘We were worried you two would feel awkward meeting each other for the first time. It’s fate you two are together before we wanted to formally introduce you two.’

‘Indeed they’re fated to be together,’ Wen Xue Fang said and smiled.

‘Pan Ting, come sit next to me,’ Chen Ting Yu said.

Chen Ting Yu pulled her future daughter-in-law to sit down next to her.

‘Jiao Wen, Pan Ting, why didn’t you tell us this good news sooner?’ Chen Ting Yu asked.

Chen Ting Yu put a bracelet on Tan Pan Ting’s wrist before Tan Pan Ting had a chance to say something.

‘Pan Ting, this is a small gift I want to give you for our first meeting,’ Chen Ting Yu said.

‘Aunty, this bracelet...’ Tan Pan Ting said.

Tan Pan Ting didn’t understand why Chen Ting Yu wanted to give her an expensive bracelet.

‘Pan Ting, you and Jiao Wen will be married soon,’ Chen Ting Yu said. ‘You’ll become a daughter to me. Of course you can accept this bracelet.’

‘Aunty, I’m not marrying...’ Tan Pan Ting said.

Tan Pan Ting was confused. She didn’t understand why Chen Ting Yu was so happy to assume she was marrying Gu Jiao Wen.

‘Pan Ting, if you told your mum and me that you’re dating Jiao Wen sooner then we wouldn’t need to arrange this pointless blind date,’ Tan Zui Shi said.

‘Pan Ting, your dad’s right,’ Wen Xue Fang said. She looked at Gu Jiao Wen like he was her son-in-law. ‘Jiao Wen, when I saw your photo I thought you looked handsome and polite. But seeing you in the flesh, you look more handsome than your photo. Pan Ting, it’s a once in a lifetime opportunity for you to meet such a

good man like Jiao Wen.'

'Big sister, you're too kind,' Chen Ting Yu said. 'I think Jiao Wen is blessed to meet such a beautiful and a gentle woman like Pan Ting. I don't want anyone else but Pan Ting to be my daughter-in-law.'

'Since Jiao Wen and Pan Ting love each other, I think we should plan a wedding for them,' Tan Zui Shi said.

'Yes we should plan their wedding,' Gu Qi Jiang said. 'Let me ask Jiao Wen's grandpa to choose the earliest auspicious wedding date for Jiao Wen and Pan Ting.'

Tan Pan Ting's confusion turned to panic after she heard her parents discussed planning a wedding for her and Gu Jiao Wen.

'What wedding day?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

'Pan Ting you must be happy everyone gave their blessings for you and Jiao Wen to marry each other,' Wen Xue Fang said. 'I'm happy too. This time next year, you and Jiao Wen will give me a grandchild to carry.'

Tan Pan Ting looked back and forth between Gu Jiao Wen and Gu Qi Jiang. She choked on her saliva, because Gu Jiao Wen and Gu Qi Jiang looked like a father and son pair.

'Uncle, aunty, are you Gu Jiao Wen's parents?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

Tan Zui Shi and Wen Xue Fang were worried Tan Pan Ting was deliriously happy enough to get a fever.

'Pan Ting, are you worried we'll mistreat you?' Chen Ting Yu asked. 'You don't have to worry. All Jiao Wen's elders are easy going.'

'Aunty, I'm not worried about...' Tan Pan Ting said.

Tan Pan Ting realised she made a big mistake. She looked at Gu Jiao Wen, he looked as if none of the wedding discussions surprised him. She suspected he planned everything by finding her outside the bathroom, and turning her into a clueless fool.

'You!' Tan Pan Ting said. She pointed a finger at Gu Jiao Wen. She was too angry to care their parents were sitting with them. 'You did this on purpose.'

Everyone were surprised by Tan Pan Ting's outburst.

Gu Jiao Wen stared at Tan Pan Ting's finger accusing him of ambushing her. At the start he was surprised she wanted him to pose as her boyfriend. Then he was surprised she was his blind date. She dragged him to their parents' table before he could stop her. When their parents were discussing wedding plans, there wasn't an opportunity for him to get a word in to explain the situation.

'Tan Pan Ting, it was you who dragged me here,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

End of Chapters Twenty-Seven to Thirty

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Chapters Thirty-One to Thirty-Three

Not the boyfriend.

Tan Pan Ting couldn't believe every time she met Gu Jiao Wen, he either locked her up or mocked her. She raised her hand to slap Gu Jiao Wen's cheek, he captured her arm, pulled her onto his lap and he caged her arms on her lap.

'You didn't give me a chance to stop you,' Gu Jiao Wen whispered in Tan Pan Ting's ear.

'You MF, let go of me,' Tan Pan Ting said.

'Why would I let you go for you to hit me?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

'A MF and a deceitful bastard like you deserve to be hit,' Tan Pan Ting said.

Tan Pan Ting's parents and Gu Jiao Wen's parents' mouths widened at the same time.

'When did I deceive you?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

'How can you act innocent?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

Tan Pan Ting turned around to glare at Gu Jiao Wen, and her lips accidentally brushed his lips.

Tan Pan Ting's parents were embarrassed how brazen she was to kiss Gu Jiao Wen in front of his parents.

Tan Pan Ting remembered the sickening feeling when Gu Jiao Wen accidentally kissed her lips last time so she elbowed his chest and stood. Unluckily for her, she forgot he was holding her arms and fell back on his lap.

'Honey, I know you miss me but you should control yourself in front of our

parents,' Gu Jiao Wen teased.

'Who would miss a MF like you?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

Gu Jiao Wen let go of Tan Pan Ting before she permanently maimed his ability to have children.

Tan Pan Ting sat back in her seat for a second before she stood to lunge at Gu Jiao Wen.

'I'm not going to let you leave without receiving a memorable lesson from me,' Tan Pan Ting said.

'Pan Ting, are you done causing a scene?' Tan Zui Shi asked and held back Tan Pan Ting's arm.

Tan Zui Shi was embarrassed how highly he spoke of Tan Pan Ting to Gu Jiao Wen's parents. He told them Tan Pan Ting was an understanding and a gentle woman. He was ashamed Tan Pan Ting cursed and hit Gu Jiao Wen in front of everyone.

'Dad, let me go,' Tan Pan Ting said. She couldn't explain all of Gu Jiao Wen's offences against her in one go to her parents. 'I don't want to stay here.'

'Pan Ting, have you forgotten you're in front of your elders?' Tan Zui Shi asked. 'Even if you're upset with Jiao Wen, you should control yourself in front of everyone.'

'Dad, I hate him,' Tan Pan Ting said. She freed her arm to hit Gu Jiao Wen again. 'I want to kill him.'

Tan Zui Shi wished there was a hole for him to crawl in.

'Pan Ting, do you know you've crossed a line?' Tan Zui Shi asked.

Gu Jiao Wen stood in front of Tan Pan Ting before Tan Zui Shi's hand slapped Tan Pan Ting's cheek. Instead Tan Zui Shi's hand landed loudly on Gu Jiao Wen's cheek.

Everyone at the table tensed. Tan Pan Ting didn't know why Gu Jiao Wen would take a slap from Tan Zui Shi's hand for her.

'Uncle it's my fault,' Gu Jiao Wen said. 'I made Pan Ting upset. Uncle, I'm the

one who deserves to be hit.'

'Big brother, I'm sorry,' Tan Zui Shi apologized to Gu Qi Jiang.

Gu Jiao Wen bowed in front of his parents and Tan Pan Ting's parents.

'Uncle, aunty, it's my fault,' Gu Jiao Wen said. 'I didn't tell Pan Ting that her blind date is me, and I made her upset.'

Chen Ting Yu stood to hold Tan Pan Ting's hands before Tan Pan Ting could protest.

'Pan Ting, we can understand you're upset because Jiao Wen didn't tell you truth,' Chen Ting Yu said. 'Next time if Jiao Wen bullies you again, you can tell aunty. Aunty will deal with Jiao Wen for you.'

'Aunty, it's not what everyone thinks,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'Gu Jiao Wen and I don't have that kind of relationship. We're not lovers,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'Gu Jiao Wen and I don't know each other.'

'Pan Ting, you said Jiao Wen is your boyfriend and you call his name comfortably too,' Chen Ting Yu said.

'Because he...' Tan Pan Ting said.

Tan Pan Ting wanted to explain how much she hated Gu Jiao Wen for his offences against her, and how she cursed his name in her sleep.

'Pan Ting, you need to take responsibility too,' Wen Xue Fang said. 'If you told us that Jiao Wen's your boyfriend sooner then you'll have no reason to be upset with Jiao Wen.'

'Pan Ting, you're not a child anymore,' Tan Zui Shi said. 'Can't you be more understanding and reasonable?'

'Dad, Gu Jiao Wen isn't my boyfriend,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'I don't have a boyfriend.'

'Then why did you say Jiao Wen's your boyfriend?' Tan Zui Shi asked.

'Because Gu Jiao Wen bumped into me and I forced him to pretend to be my boyfriend,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'Dad, mum, I don't want to go on anymore blind dates you and mum choose for me. I didn't think Gu Jiao Wen's my blind date

today, and I'm angry at him for not telling me the truth. Dad, mum, there is nothing between me and Gu Jiao Wen.'

The parents didn't know what to believe. They looked at Gu Jiao Wen for answers.

'Jiao Wen, is it true?' Chen Ting Yu asked. 'Are you and Pan Ting not dating?'

'Like what Pan Ting said, I'm her boyfriend,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'You!' Tan Pan Ting said. 'Dad, mum, don't listen to his nonsense.'

'Nonsense?' Gu Jiao Wen asked. He acted like he couldn't see Tan Pan Ting's daggers. 'What am I supposed to say? Should I tell our parents about all the times we kissed and held each other intimately?'

'You!' Tan Pan Ting said. Lucky for Gu Jiao Wen, Chen Ting Yu was holding her hands. 'Stop saying nonsense.'

'Pan Ting, sit down,' Tan Zui Shi said. 'If you don't behave, I'll disown you.'

'Dad, believe me,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'There is nothing between me and Gu Jiao Wen.'

'Big brother, big sister,' Tan Zui Shi said. 'I'm ashamed of myself for raising a bad daughter. If Pan Ting and Jiao Wen didn't love each other then I would be too ashamed to see big brother and big sister again.'

'Big brother, big sister,' Wen Xue Fang said. 'I'm sorry too. Pan Ting's dad and I have doted on Pan Ting since she was a little girl.'

'It's alright,' Chen Ting Yu said. She pulled Tan Pan Ting to sit down next to her again. 'Pan Ting's a young woman. She can't let Jiao Wen get away with everything.'

'Pan Ting, look how good your mother-in-law is,' Wen Xue Fang said.

'Pan Ting, you don't have to worry about Jiao Wen's elders mistreating you because we only came here to visit Jiao Wen,' Chen Ting Yu said. 'Jiao Wen's elders all live in the city.'

'Aunty, I'm not worried about that,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'Aunty, uncle, I need to leave first because there is somewhere I need to be.'

'Pan Ting, what's so important that you need to leave?' Tan Zui Shi asked.

'Dad, I have a job interview,' Tan Pan Ting said.

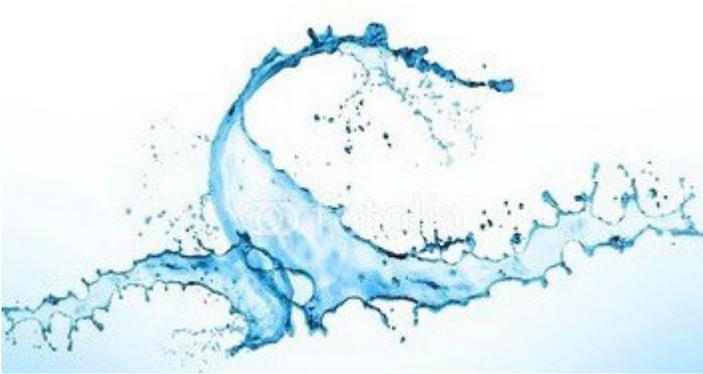
'Job interview?' Tan Zui Shi asked. 'Pan Ting, you have a job already.'

'I stopped working there for a month,' Tan Pan Ting confessed.

End of Chapters Thirty-One to Thirty-Three

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Chapters Thirty-Four to Thirty-Six

Splash.

‘Pan Ting, why didn’t you tell me and your mum?’ Tan Zui Shi asked.

‘I wanted to wait until I found another job,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘It’s hard to find a job right now.’

‘Pan Ting, is the market slow right now?’ Chen Ting Yu asked.

‘Aunty, I...’ Tan Pan Ting said.

‘Lately the security on the streets are tightened,’ Gu Jiao Wen said. ‘It’s hard for Pan Ting to find a job.’

Everyone, including Tan Pan Ting didn’t understand why security on the streets affected Tan Pan Ting’s job hunting.

‘Pan Ting, did you send your resume to the new karaoke bar opened last month?’ Gu Jiao Wen asked.

‘What?’ Tan Pan Ting asked.

‘Pan Ting, aren’t you familiar with places like the karaoke bar?’ Gu Jiao Wen asked.

‘Gu Jiao Wen!’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘Don’t say nonsense. I’m looking for a legitimate job.’

‘Nonsense?’ Gu Jiao Wen asked. ‘Didn’t you say a street worker is at least human?’

‘Gu Jiao Wen, if you keep saying nonsense then I’m not going to be courteous toward you anymore,’ Tan Pan Ting warned.

If the elders weren’t at the table, Tan Pan Ting would have kicked Gu Jiao Wen to hell.

‘Pan Ting, you finding a legitimate job is like a headless chicken looking for its head,’ Gu Jiao Wen said.

‘Chicken your mother,’ Tan Pan Ting said. She slammed the table. ‘You’re the chicken. Your whole family are chickens.’

Tan Pan Ting picked up the glass of water, and threw it at Gu Jiao Wen’s face.

‘Gu Jiao Wen, go f’k yourself,’ Tan Pan Ting said.

Tan Pan Ting grabbed her bag from the shaky table, stood and stormed out of the cafe without looking back.

The parents were dumbfounded. They didn’t understand Tan Pan Ting’s outburst, and why Gu Jiao Wen was smiling while he wiped his wet face.

‘Uncle, aunty, dad and mum,’ Gu Jiao Wen said. ‘I’m marrying Pan Ting.’

‘What?’ the parents asked together.

‘Jiao Wen... do you know what you’re saying?’ Chen Ting Yu asked.

Chen Ting Yu thought she was too old to understand the love lives of the younger generation.

‘Yes,’ Gu Jiao Wen said firmly. ‘Right now Pan Ting’s upset with me. But Pan Ting and I have known each other for a long time. She says my good looks make her feel insecure. She acts childish to get me to pay attention to her more often. Uncle, aunty, I’m serious about Pan Ting. Please give your blessings to let me marry Pan Ting. She’s upset with me for not agreeing to meet uncle and aunty sooner. The truth is I want to marry Pan Ting soon.’

Outside the cafe, Tan Pan Ting was oblivious about Gu Jiao Wen spewing nonsense about their non-existent love lives.

Tan Pan Ting hailed a taxi home. At home she confided with Zheng Jia Ju for two hours over the phone about the hateful Gu Jiao Wen. After she hung up, she

drank a glass of water to clear her dry throat and watched to TV while waiting for her parents to return home.

When Tan Zui Shi and Wen Xue Fang returned home, Tan Pan Ting was surprised to see them in good spirits.

‘Pan Ting, put your job hunting on hold,’ Tan Zui Shi said. ‘You can use this free time to mentally prepare for marriage. Yours and Jiao Wen’s wedding date is set for next month.’

Tan Pan Ting shivered uncontrollably.

‘Pan Ting, this weekend go with Jiao Wen to the city to meet the rest of Jiao Wen’s elders,’ Wen Xue Fang said. ‘You can take pre-wedding photos with Jiao Wen in the city too. Jiao Wen’s family wants to pay for yours and Jiao Wen’s wedding reception.’

‘Pan Ting, you don’t need to worry about anything except looking after your health,’ Tan Zui Shi said. ‘After you’re married, you can’t be childish anymore. Jiao Wen’s a good man, you shouldn’t bully him.’

Tan Pan Ting choked on another glass of water.

Wen Xue Fan patted Tan Pan Ting’s back, and she smiled at Tan Zui Shi.

‘Zui Shi, look at how happy our daughter is,’ Wen Xue Fan said.

‘Who said I must marry the MF Gu Jiao Wen?’ Tan Pan Ting asked. ‘Dad, mum, I don’t want to marry Gu Jiao Wen.’

‘Pan Ting, what did you say?’ Tan Zui Shi asked.

‘I said I don’t want to marry the MF Gu Jiao Wen,’ Tan Pan Ting said.

‘You...’ Tan Zui Shi said.

Wen Xue Fang held Tan Zui Shi’s arm to stop him from slapping Tan Pan Ting’s cheek.

‘Zui Shi, we can discuss this in a reasonable manner,’ Wen Xue Fang said. ‘Don’t hit our daughter.’

‘Tan Pan Ting, I don’t care what you want,’ Tan Zui Shi said. ‘Yours and Jiao Wen’s wedding day is settled. If you don’t marry Jiao Wen, I’ll disown you.’

True to Tan Zui Shi's words, the following day he didn't let Tan Pan Ting leave her bedroom, and he didn't let her friends visit because he didn't want Tan Pan Ting to be a runaway bride.

Tan Pan Ting vented online with Zheng Jia Ju.

Summer Night Sky: Help me escape.

Angel Jia Ju: I can't help you. I called your dad. He won't let me take you out before you're married.

Summer Night Sky: Tell my dad that as my bridesmaid, he should at least let you visit me.

Angel Jia Ju: Do you think I'm a real angel? How am I supposed to sneak you out of your home right under your dad's nose?

Summer Night Sky: I'm going crazy. Tell me what I'm supposed to do.

Angel Jia Ju: What else can you do except marry Gu Jiao Wen? Didn't you say he's handsome?

Summer Night Sky: You can go to hell. I rather marry a pig than marry that MF cop.

Angel Jia Ju: There is nothing I can do to help you.

Summer Night Sky: What happened to the sisterhood code of helping a girlfriend in need?

Angel Jia Ju: It's not like someone wants to kill you. Gu Jiao Wen only wants to marry you.

Summer Night Sky: I'm being forced to marry him is the same as someone killing me.

Angel Jia Ju: Why don't you act like you want to marry him? When your dad puts his guard down, you can run away.

'Pan Ting, why are you still in your pjs?' Wen Xue Fang asked from the door. 'Hurry and change your clothes. Uncle and aunty will be here soon.'

Tan Pan Ting quickly closed her chat screen with Zheng Jia Ju.

'Mum, I don't want to marry Gu Jiao Wen,' Tan Pan Ting said.

‘Pan Ting, stop being childish,’ Wen Xue Fang said. ‘Listen to me, and go change your clothes.’

‘Mum...’ Tan Pan Ting said.

Wen Xue Fang closed the door and left before Tan Pan Ting could protest again.

Angel Jia Ju: Pan Ting, what happened? Why didn’t you reply?

Summer Night Sky: His parents are coming here to visit me soon.

Angel Jia Ju: His family works fast.

Summer Night Sky: Don’t joke about my depressing life if you don’t want me to kill you.

Angel Jia Ju: You dummy. Why don’t you think of a way to make him call off the wedding?

Summer Night Sky: Like what?

End of Chapters Thirty-Four to Thirty-Six

Related



Chapters Thirty-Seven to Thirty-Nine

The Ring.

Gu Jiao Wen walked with his parents to an old building. He was surprised Tan Pan Ting lived in such a poor neighbourhood.

A while later, Wen Xue Fang welcomed Gu Jiao Wen and his parents into her home.

Gu Jiao Wen thought the three bedroom apartment was old but tidy. It showed the mistress of the home took good care of the home.

‘I’m sorry, everyone has to sit cramped in this small home,’ Wen Xue Fang said.

Wen Xue Fang was aware Tan Pan Ting was marrying up by marrying Gu Jiao

Wen.

'It's OK,' Chen Ting Yu said. 'Where's Pan Ting?'

'Pan Ting is putting on makeup in her room,' Wen Xue Fang said.

'I regret doting on Pan Ting,' Tan Zui Shi said. 'She has no manners.'

'It's OK,' Chen Ting Yu said. 'Pan Ting's a woman. It's natural she wants to dress up for Jiao Wen.'

'I'll go call Pan Ting to the living room,' Wen Xue Fang said.

'Aunty, let me go get Pan Ting,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'What... oh, Jiao Wu go ahead,' Wen Xue Fang said. 'You young love birds always want a private moment to yourselves.'

The parents saw Gu Jiao Wen's embarrassed face, and they let him go without teasing him again.

Gu Jiao Wen was more weary than embarrassed. He walked to Tan Pan Ting's bedroom. He carefully turned the doorknob. The door wasn't locked, and he entered Tan Pan Ting's bedroom.

Earlier Tan Pan Ting was sitting in front of the vanity table. She put on pale foundation to make herself look like Sadako from the Ring. Then she put on dark eyeshadow around her eyes, and brushed her long hair.

'Gu Jiao Wen, I won't believe you want Sadako to be your wife,' Tan Pan Ting said to herself.

Tan Pan Ting took off her pjs to put on a white dress. Suddenly the door opened, and she covered the front of her body with the white dress.

Gu Jiao Wen froze at the door. He didn't expect to walk into Tan Pan Ting's bedroom while she was changing her clothes.

Five seconds later, Gu Jiao Wen ran to cover Tan Pan Ting's mouth before she could scream.

'Don't scream,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'Mmm... mmm...' Tan Pan Ting mumbled.

Tan Pan Ting wanted to say Gu Jiao Wen was a peeping Tom. She didn't care about her fallen dress. She only wanted Gu Jiao Wen to let go of her mouth.

'I'll let go of your mouth if you promise not to scream,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

Tan Pan Ting was thrashing her arms and legs wildly. Gu Jiao Wu had no choice but to hug her. Her soft body against his body made his heart race.

'Promise you won't scream,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

Tan Pan Ting wanted to kill Gu Jiao Wen. She vowed after she escaped him, she was going to turn his pretty boy face into an unrecognisable face.

'Promise?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

Gu Jiao Wen couldn't see Tan Pan Ting's face under her thick ghostly makeup. But he could see the anger in her eyes. He understood the woman in his arms was a bomb ready to explode if he provoked her.

'I don't mind if you don't promise,' Gu Jiao Wen said. 'I can keep covering your mouth until our parents come in here to see us together like this.'

'Mmm... mmm...' Tan Pan Ting mumbled.

Tan Pan Ting wanted to say Gu Jiao Wen was a despicable pervert.

Half a minute later, Tan Pan Ting nodded her head and Gu Jiao Wen let go her mouth. She ran to grab the scissors on the vanity table, and she lunged at him.

'Die you pervert!' Tan Pan Ting said.

Gu Jiao Wen leapt to the bed to avoid Tan Pan Ting's stabbing him with the scissors in her hand.

'Calm down,' Gu Jiao Wen said. 'I didn't come here to see you naked.'

'You still have to die!' Tan Pan Ting said.

Gu Jiao Wen seized the split second, and he grabbed Tan Pan Ting's wrist to disarm her. But his legs hit the bed, he lost his balance, fell on the bed and she fell on top of him.

The scissors jabbed Gu Jiao Wen's palm, blood dripped onto his white shirt and some of the blood on his fingers was smeared on Tan Pan Ting's left cheek.

'Ah!' Tan Pan Ting screamed.

Tan Pan Ting had a blood phobia.

Tan Pan Ting's scream broke the morning tranquillity. The parents were worried an intruder was attacking Tan Pan Ting and Gu Jiao Wen. They rushed to Tan Pan Ting's bedroom.

Gu Jiao Wen heard the door opened, and he quickly rolled over to shield Tan Pan Ting's naked body.

The parents opened the door. They saw Tan Pan Ting's clothes on the floor, she was naked under Gu Jiao Wen and their legs were tangled together. What was out of place was the blood stain on his white shirt and on her left cheek.

The parents were speechless for a while.

Tan Pan Ting was shocked her parents caught her in a compromising position in bed with Gu Jiao Wen.

Gu Jiao Wen was the first to react. He pulled the bedsheet over Tan Pan Ting's naked body, got out of bed and spoke calmly to their parents.

'Uncle, do you have Iodine?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

'What?' Tan Zui Shi asked.

'Yes, yes,' Wen Xue Fang said. 'Jiao Wen, your hand is bleeding. Do you want to go to the hospital?'

'It's OK aunty,' Gu Jiao Wen said. 'It's a shallow cut.'

'OK,' Wen Xue Fang said. 'Jiao Wu, follow me to the medicine cabinet.'

Wen Xue Fang thought young love birds these days were in a rush to bed each other.

'I'll go and help bandage Jiao Wen too,' Chen Ting Yu said.

Chen Ting Yu was embarrassed Gu Jiao Wen wanted to bed Tan Pan Ting under Tan Pan Ting's parents' roof.

End of Chapters Thirty-Seven to Thirty-Nine

Related



Chapters Forty to Forty-Two

The Stepford girlfriend.

‘Pan Ting, are you injured?’ Tan Zui Shi asked.

‘Dad, I’m OK,’ Tan Pan Ting said.

‘Good,’ Tan Zui Shi said. ‘Come outside after you dress.’

Tan Zui Shi walked outside, and he closed Tan Pan Ting’s bedroom door.

‘Big brother, it’s my fault,’ Gu Qi Jiang said. ‘I raised a bad son.’

Gu Qi Jiang was embarrassed Gu Jiao Wen had the audacity to bed Tan Pan Ting under her parents’ roof.

‘Big brother, it’s my fault,’ Tan Zui Shi said. ‘I shouldn’t have doted on my bad daughter. In the future I’ll trouble you to take care of my bad daughter.’

Tan Zui Shi saw the scissors in Tan Pan Ting’s hand, and he was grateful Gu Jiao Wen’s parents didn’t sue Tan Pan Ting for assaulting Gu Jiao Wen.

‘Big brother, it’s me who’ll be troubling you,’ Gu Qi Jiang said. ‘In the future if my bad son dares to bully Pan Ting again, I’ll show him no mercy.’

Tan Pan Ting overheard Tan Zui Shi and Gu Qi Jiang’s polite exchange, and she wanted to flip the bed. She didn’t need anyone to take care of her. As long as the MF cop kept his distance from her, she would get her life back on track.

Tan Pan Ting stomped to her desk.

Summer Night Sky: What make him call off the wedding? The pervert snuck into my bedroom while I was changing into clothes. He saw everything!

Angel Jia Ju: If plan A didn’t work. There is plan B.

Summer Night Sky: I’m listening.

Angel Jia Ju: Be the perfect Stepford girlfriend to him. Bam, wham, on the wedding day you jilt him. It’ll make him pay for locking you up, and his perverted habits.

Tan Pan Ting pictured Gu Jiao Wen’s embarrassed face left at the altar, she would have cackled if his parents weren’t in the living room.

In the living room, Gu Jiao Wen’s cut hand was bandaged.

Chen Ting Yu looked at Gu Jiao Wen’s bandaged hand, and she believed Gu Jiao Wen must love Tan Pan Ting if he couldn’t wait until his and Tan Pan Ting’s wedding night next month to bed Tan Pan Ting.

‘Jiao Wen, clear your work schedule,’ Gu Qi Jiang said. ‘I want you to take Pan Ting to meet your grandpa in the city this weekend.’

Gu Jiao Wen had no interest returning to the city. Before he could open his

mouth, Tan Pan Ting walked into the living room. She removed her ghostly makeup, tied her hair in a ponytail and she wore a feminine white dress. If she wasn't smiling at him in a suspicious way, she would have looked like an angel.

Tan Pan Ting inwardly cursed the pervert. She sat next to the pervert on the sofa, and smiled angelically at him.

'Jiao Wen,' Tan Pan Ting called sweetly. She suppressed her urge to vomit at the sight of the blood stain on Gu Jiao Wen's white shirt. 'I'm sorry. It was an accident.'

Gu Jiao Wen looked into Tan Pan Ting's eyes, and he couldn't find sincerity.

Tan Pan Ting patted Gu Jiao Wen's cheek affectionately with one hand, and her other hand squeezed his bandaged hand.

'Jiao Wen, it's your fault,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'If you didn't pressure me to sleep with you before our wedding night, I wouldn't have injured you.'

Gu Qi Jiang and Chen Ting Yu were embarrassed Tan Pan Ting confirmed their suspicions that Gu Jiao Wen was their bad hot blooded son.

Wen Xue Fang didn't know what kinky bedroom role plays Tan Pan Ting and Gu Jiao Wen were into. One moment Tan Pan Ting wore thick ghostly makeup, and the next moment Tan Pan Ting looked angelic.

'Pan Ting...' Wen Xue Fang said.

'Pan Ting, don't say nonsense,' Tan Zui Shi interrupted.

Tan Pan Ting acted like she didn't hear her parents. She dug her fingernails into Gu Jiao Wen's bandaged hand, and kept smiling angelically at him.

'Jiao Wen, I've accepted we're getting married next month,' Tan Pan Ting said sweetly. 'I promise in the future I won't use scissors to injure you. Will you forgive me?'

Gu Jiao Wen winced. He felt Tan Pan Ting's fingernails drew blood through the bandage.

'Pan Ting, I forgive you,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'Truly?' Tan Pan Ting asked sweetly. She squeezed Gu Jiao Wen's bandaged

hand harder. 'Jiao Wen, you're too good to me.'

Gu Jiao Wen raised Tan Pan Ting's devil hand to his lips, and he kissed her hand.

'Of course I need to be good to my future wife,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'Jiao Wen, you're hateful,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'Our parents are here. Don't be a cad in front our parents. It's embarrassing.'

Tan Pan Ting lowered her head to appear shy, and she dug her fingernails deeper into Gu Jiao Wen's bandaged hand.

Gu Qi Jiang coughed awkwardly.

'Jiao Wen, control yourself,' Gu Qi Jiang warned.

Chen Ting Yu was happy she would be holding her first grandchild soon.

'Big brother, big sister,' Chen Ting Yu said. 'Please forgive Jiao Wen. Jiao Wen usually shows self-restraint. It's because Jiao Wen loves Pan Ting so he's impatient before their wedding next month.'

'It's natural for young love birds to be impatient,' Wen Xue Fang said. 'Let's head to the restaurant Zui Shi booked for dinner.'

'Yes,' Chen Ting Yu said. 'Jiao Wen, you can drive Pan Ting to the restaurant. Your dad and I will go with Pan Ting's parents to the restaurant.'

'Yes mum,' Gu Jiao Wen said. He held Tan Pan Ting's hand, and pulled her off the sofa with him. Some of the blood on his hand rubbed off on her hand. 'Let's go my future darling wife.'

'Yes my darling cad,' Tan Pan Ting said sweetly.

Gu Jiao Wen and Tan Pan Ting's lovey dovey act made them nauseous. But their parents believed their act, and their parents thought Gu Jiao Wen and Tan Pan Ting's marriage would be a happy union.

Later at a hotel restaurant, Tan Pan Ting sat next to Gu Jiao Wen and she acted like the perfect Stepford girlfriend.

'Jiao Wen, eat the steamed fish,' Tan Pan Ting said. She put steamed fish into Gu Jiao Wen's bowl. 'The waiter said all the fish dishes served today are fresh fish'

caught this morning.'

'Thank you,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'Jiao Wen, eat the prawn too,' Tan Pan Ting said. She put a prawn into Gu Jiao Wen's bowl. 'I heard the prawns here are the best quality prawns.'

'Big brother, big sister,' Tan Zui Shi said. 'It's true what they say about young women in love are the sweetest.' He was happy common sense returned to Tan Pan Ting after the scissors incident. 'My daughter hasn't once put food into my bowl in her life.'

'Dad...' Tan Pan Ting sulked.

Tan Pan Ting's convincing act made the parents laughed happily.

'Jiao Wen, you're a man,' Chen Ting Yu said. 'You should take good care of Pan Ting too.'

'Aunty, it's OK,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'Jiao Wen is always like this. I'm used to it.'

'Jiao Wen, if you're always like this, no wonder Pan Ting is upset with you,' Chen Ting Yu chided.

'Yes mum,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

Gu Jiao Wen's hand caressed Tan Pan Ting's thigh under the table, and he smiled at her.

Tan Pan Ting wanted to embed the chopsticks into the pervert's hand.

'Pan Ting, I promise in the future I'll take good care of you.'

End of Chapters Forty to Forty-Two

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Chapters Forty-Three to Forty-Five

Tea.

Tan Pan Ting stood, and she poured wine into Gu Jiao Wen's parents' glasses.

'Uncle, aunty,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'Drink a little wine to help digest dinner.'

Chen Ting Yu was pleased with her future daughter-in-law, and she was happy Gu Jiao Wen loved her future daughter-in-law.

Tan Pan Ting put the bottle of wine on the table. She picked up the warm teapot, and Gu Jiao Wen's teacup then she poured tea for Gu Jiao Wen.

'Jiao Wen, you'll be driving,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'You should drink tea instead.'

'Thank you,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

Tan Pan Ting let go of the teacup before Gu Jiao Wen's hand touched the teacup. Warm tea spilt on his shirt and pants. She regretted it wasn't hot tea.

'Jiao Wen... I'm sorry... it's an accident,' Tan Pan Ting said innocently.

Tan Pan Ting bent over Gu Jiao Wen's body. She grabbed the napkin, and

wiped his shirt and pants hard.

From the other diners' perspective, it looked like Tan Pan Ting was giving Gu Jiao Wen a hand job in public.

Gu Jiao Wen stood abruptly, and he gripped Tan Pan Ting's wrist.

'You did it on purpose,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'No... it's an accident,' Tan Pan Ting said.

Tan Pan Ting blinked consecutively to make herself cry, but her eyes were dry.

'Tan Pan Ting!' Gu Jiao Wen said.

Gu Jiao Wen gripped Tan Pan Ting's wrist tighter, and the pain helped her cry.

'Jiao Wen, I didn't drop the warm tea on you on purpose,' Tan Pan Ting said.

'Jiao Wen, you're hurting me. Let go of my wrist.'

'Jiao Wen!' Chen Ting Yu said. She was sad to see Tan Pan Ting cry. 'Pan Ting didn't do it on purpose. What are you doing?'

'Nothing,' Gu Jiao Wen said. 'Pan Ting soiled my clothes. I want to take her to the shops to help choose new clothes for me.'

'If you only want to Pan Ting to go shopping with you to buy clothes, do you need to grip her wrist?' Chen Ting Yu asked. 'Don't you know how to be gentle toward Pan Ting?'

Gu Jiao Wen let go of Tan Pan Ting's wrist, and she ran out of tears.

'Let's go, my future darling wife,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'Jiao Wen... my wrist hurts,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'I don't want to go shopping.'

'Pan Ting, your legs are in good condition,' Gu Jiao Wen said. 'You can use them to walk to the shops. Let's go.'

'Jiao Wen, what about our parents?' Tan Pan Ting asked. 'It's rude of us to leave before our parents finish eating dinner.'

'Jiao Wen, Pan Ting,' Tan Zui Shi said. 'You two go ahead and shop. Let us old folks stay here to eat dinner. It takes us old folks longer to digest at our age.'

'Pan Ting, listen to your dad,' Wen Xue Fang said.

'Mum...' Tan Pan Ting said.

'Darling, let's go,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

Gu Jiao Wen dragged Tan Pan Ting outside the hotel restaurant.

'Mr Mental, what do you want?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

Tan Pan Ting could endure acting like she wanted to marry Gu Jiao Wen in front of their parents. But she didn't have enough endurance to keep acting in front of Gu Jiao Wen.

'I want to go buy clothes,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'Go buy clothes on your own,' Tan Pan Ting said.

'Are you saying you want me to go back to the restaurant to tell our parents you spilt tea on me on purpose and you don't want to help me buy clothes?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

'Nonsense,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'It was an accident.'

Gu Jiao Wen and Tan Pan Ting had a glaring match for a while.

'Fine,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'You win this time.'

In a men's clothing shop near the hotel restaurant, the shop assistants were chatting together. When they saw a handsome man dragging a beautiful woman into their shop, the shop assistants' eyes zoomed in on handsome man's wet pants.

'Darling, I think you should buy several pants to leave in the car,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'I know how hard it is for you to control your bladder.'

The shop assistants coughed. They couldn't stop looking at where Gu Jiao Wen's pants was wet.

'Tan Pan Ting!' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'Darling, I know it's hard to admit you have a bladder problem,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'But you should listen to me, and book a doctor's appointment to help treat your bladder problem. It's not good for your health to hold in your urine.'

Tan Pan Ting acted like a loving girlfriend, and she chose a new pants for Gu Jiao Wen.

‘Darling, go change into new pants,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘I’ll wait for you.’

Gu Jiao Wen looked coldly at the pants in Tan Pan Ting’s hands.

‘Darling, it’s not good to wear wet pants all day,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘Do you need to go to the toilet? It would be inconvenient for the shop assistants if you wet your pants in their shop.’ She turned around to face a shop assistant. ‘Big sister, is there a toilet here?’

The shop assistant was intimidated by Gu Jiao Wen’s dagger to answer Tan Pan Ting’s question.

‘Darling, smile,’ Tan Pan Ting said. She pinched Gu Jiao Wen’s cheeks. ‘You’re scaring the shop assistants.’

Gu Jiao Wen thought in that moment if Tan Pan Ting was a man, she would look like a peacock waving her tail.

Gu Jiao Wen held Tan Pan Ting’s waist, he pulled her body against his body and her smile disappeared.

‘Darling, you know a man’s weak bladder isn’t the only reason a man wets his pants,’ Gu Jiao Wen said next to Tan Pan Ting’s ear. ‘A man can also wet his pants when a woman teases his body with her body.’

The shop assistants winked at Tan Pan Ting.

‘Darling, have you forgotten how you dry humped me in the private tea room before,’ Gu Jiao Wen asked. ‘It’s your fault my pants are wet.’

‘Gu Jiao Wen, what nonsense are you saying?’ Tan Pan Ting asked.

‘Darling,’ Gu Jiao Wen said. He squeezed Tan Pan Ting’s bottom. ‘There is no reason for you to suspect I have a mistress. You don’t have to follow me day and night to seduce me at every opportunity. Outside of work, all my energy is reserved to satisfy you.’

‘Gu Jiao Wen!’ Tan Pan Ting said.

If Tan Pan Ting wasn’t caged between Gu Jiao Wen’s arms, she would have slapped his despicable mouth.

Gu Jiao Wen blew on Tan Pan Ting’s neck.

‘Darling, last night when did you orgasm the longest?’ Gu Jiao Wen asked. ‘Was it the first time or the seventh time?’

The shop assistants were impressed with Gu Jiao Wen’s stamina.

‘Gu Jiao Wen, let me go,’ Tan Pan Ting said.

‘Are you sure?’ Gu Jiao Wen said. ‘Darling, you’re so wet. Do you want me again?’

‘It’s your pants that is wet, you cad,’ Tan Pan Ting said.

‘Darling you’re right,’ Gu Jiao Wen said. ‘I wet my pants again because of you.’

‘Gu Jiao Wen!’ Tan Pan Ting said and bit Gu Jiao Wen’s neck.

Gu Jiao Wen let go of Tan Pan Ting and he smiled.

‘Darling, I know it’s hard for you to control your libido,’ Gu Jiao Wen said. ‘But we’re in public. Wait a little longer, and I’ll satisfy you.’

Gu Jiao Wen acted like he couldn’t see Tan Pan Ting’s angry face. He grabbed the pants in Tan Pan Ting’s hands, and he walked into the change room.

Tan Pan Ting couldn’t bear the shop assistants’ curious stares at her. She walked out of the shop, and she admitted Gu Jiao Wen won another battle, but he didn’t win the war.

End of Chapters Forty-Three to Forty-Five

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Chapters Forty-Six to Forty-Eight

Match.

‘Pan Ting, you’re home,’ Wen Xue Fang said. ‘Jiao Wu called before. He said you’re sick and you went home first.’

Wen Xue Fang put her hand on Tan Pan Ting’s forehead.

‘Mum, I’m not sick,’ Tan Pan Ting said. She pushed Wen Xue Fang’s hand away. ‘Mum, I don’t want to marry Gu Jiao Wen.’

‘Why are you being childish?’ Wen Xue Fang asked. ‘What Jiao Wen said is right.’

‘What did he say?’ Tan Pan Ting asked.

‘Jiao Wen said you purposely poured the tea on him and you’re upset because he made you go shopping with him,’ Wen Xue Fang said. ‘He warned me that you’ll say you don’t want to marry him when you’re home, because you’re upset with him.’

‘Mum, you don’t know what a cad he is...’ Tan Pan Ting said.

‘Pan Ting, stop taking marriage lightly,’ Tan Zui Shi said. ‘You shouldn’t say you don’t want to marry Jiao Wen every time you’re upset with him.’

‘Dad, I...’ Tan Pan Ting said.

Tan Pan Ting sighed, and she walked to her bedroom. If her parents wanted to misunderstand, it would only be a one month misunderstanding. After she jilted Gu Jiao Wen, she would be free.

On the weekend, a Gu Household driver picked up Tan Pan Ting and her parents at the airport.

On the way to the Gu Mansion, Tan Pan Ting’s parents nagged her to behave at the Gu Mansion.

‘Pan Ting, members of the Gu Household are rich and powerful,’ Wen Xue Fang said. ‘Remember to be on your best behavior at all times. Don’t say or do anything offensive.’

‘Mum, isn’t it enough you and dad nagged me on the plane?’ Tan Pan Ting asked. ‘I get it, I’ll be good.’

‘Pan Ting, how can you talk to me like this?’ Wen Xue Fang asked. ‘Do you think it’s easy for you to marry into their family?’

‘Mum, enough,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘I’m tired. Wake me up when we’re there.’

When the driver parked at the Gu Mansion, Tan Pan Ting’s parents walked into the Gu Mansion first because Tan Pan Ting wanted to take a walk around the front garden.

Tan Pan Ting was in awe of the spacious front garden. It was a lot bigger than her family home. She stood in front of the water fountain, and stared at the Gu Mansion. It made her have second thoughts about jilting Gu Jiao Wen on their wedding day, because she was scared his family would take revenge on her by

hurting her parents.

‘Country bumpkin,’ a woman called.

Tan Pan Ting turned around, and she saw a beautiful woman in a Burberry dress and heels. The woman looked at her like she was a love rival. The woman disappeared by the time she heard Gu Jiao Wen’s voice.

‘Why aren’t you coming inside?’ Gu Jiao Wen asked.

Gu Jiao Wen was dressed casually than the formal outfit he wore the last time Tan Pan Ting saw him. He wore a designer sky blue shirt, and white pants. She thought he looked like a catalogue model.

Gu Jiao Wen checked out Tan Pan Ting while she checked him out. He thought she looked like a feminine woman in a blue and white polka dot dress. Too bad, her angry eyes ruined the illusion.

Tan Pan Ting thought she must have lost her mind if she was dazzled by Gu Jiao Wen’s looks. She knew behind his deceitful good looks was a man with Bluebeard’s heart.

Tan Pan Ting distracted herself by looking around for the woman.

‘What are you looking at?’ Gu Jiao Wen asked. ‘It doesn’t matter. Come inside.’

Tan Pan Ting followed Gu Jiao Wen to the front door. She stared at his elegant posture. He acted like he didn’t say anything despicable to provoke her the last time they saw each other at the men’s clothing shop.

At the front door, Tan Pan Ting hesitated to walk over the threshold. If she didn’t intend to go through with the wedding then there was no need for her to meet the rest of Gu Jiao Wen’s family.

Gu Jiao Wen turned around. He saw Tan Pan Ting stalling at the front door. He held her hand, and dragged her to the living room.

‘I was right,’ Wen Xue Fang said. ‘Pan Ting didn’t want to come inside before because she was waiting for Jiao Wen to escort her inside.’

‘Look at the young love birds,’ Chen Ting Yu said. ‘They’re even wearing matching outfits.’

Tan Pan Ting wanted to go back to the front garden to vomit.

Gu Jiao Wen sat on the sofa with Tan Pan Ting. They were opposite Gu Tian Chu. Gu Tian Chu was a healthy seventy-year-old man.

'Grandpa,' Gu Jiao Wen greeted.

'Um,' Gu Tian Chu said. He assessed Tan Pan Ting. 'No wonder the little boy Jiao Wen wants to marry this little girl. She's a good catch.'

Gu Jiao Wen gripped Tan Pan Ting's hand, and she had no choice but to greet Gu Tian Chu.

'Grandpa,' Tan Pan Ting greeted awkwardly.

'Um,' Gu Tian Chu said. He opened a small box, and he gave it to Tan Pan Ting. 'This is a small gift to commemorate our first meeting.'

Tan Pan Ting saw the seven figure necklace and gasped. What small gift? How could she accept an expensive gift from Gu Tian Chu if she wasn't going to marry Gu Jiao Wen?

'Grandpa, I can't accept this necklace,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'It's too valuable.'

'Take it,' Gu Tian Chu said. 'Wear it like you would wear costume jewellery. Jiao Wen, help put the necklace on your wife's neck.'

Tan Pan Ting felt uncomfortable the moment Gu Jiao Wen's fingers brushed her neck. She took the necklace from Gu Jiao Wen's hands, and she held it in front of Gu Tian Chu.

'Grandpa, I can't accept this,' Tan Pan Ting said.

'Are you saying it's not enough?' Gu Tian Chu asked.

'Not at all,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'It's really too valuable.'

Everyone in the living room tensed. If Gu Tian Chu was happy, life in the Gu Mansion was good. If Gu Tian Chu was unhappy, life in the Gu Mansion was bad.

Gu Jiao Wen played the role of the peacemaker, and he diplomatically accepted the necklace on Tan Pan Ting's behalf.

'Grandpa, Pan Ting is only scared she'll lose the necklace,' Gu Jiao Wen said. 'I'll keep it safe for Pan Ting to wear on special occasions.'

'Dad, don't scare another household's daughter,' Gu Qi Jiang said.

Gu Qi Jiang and Wang Tu Ya walked together to the living room from upstairs.

'Dad, you didn't even let little Jiao Wen's little wife rest after her flight,' Wang Tu Ya said.

Tan Pan Ting thought Wang Tu Ya looked like a beautiful woman about fifty years old.

'Uncle, aunty,' Gu Jiao Wen greeted.

'Tu Ya is right,' Gu Qi Jiang said. 'Jiao Wen, be a good fiance. Carry Pan Ting's bag, and take Pan Ting to her room to rest.'

'Yes uncle,' Gu Jiao Wen said. 'Grandpa, I'm going to take Pan Ting to her room.'

Upstairs, Tan Pan Ting retrieved her hand from Gu Jiao Wen's hand.

'I'm sorry I upset your grandpa,' Tan Pan Ting said.

Tan Pan Ting didn't want to marry Gu Jiao Wen, but she didn't want to reject Gu Tian Chu's sincerity.

'What's wrong?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

'Aren't you angry at me?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

Gu Jiao Wen shook his head.

'If you're not tired, I want to take you shopping,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'What?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

Gu Jiao Wen put Tan Pan Ting's suitcase in a guest room, and he held her hand to his car.

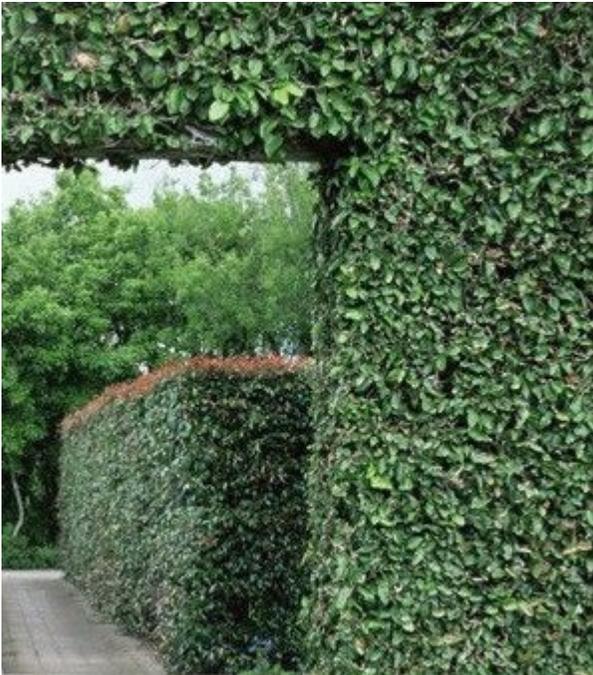
It was a sunny day, and a long walk to Gu Jiao Wen's car. Tan Pan Ting finally understood what her parents said about Gu Jiao Wen's family being rich and powerful. It made her confused why Gu Jiao Wen wanted to marry someone like her.

'Gu Jiao Wen, why do you want to marry me?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

End of Chapters Forty-Six to Forty-Eight

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Chapters Forty-Nine to Fifty-One

Vine.

Gu Jiao Wen looked at the vines on the walls.

‘Do you see the vines on the walls?’ Gu Jiao Wen asked. ‘Vines need support to live.’

‘Forget it,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘Pretend like I never asked.’

Tan Pan Ting didn’t know what she was doing. If she didn’t want to marry Gu Jiao Wen then she didn’t need to know why he wanted to marry her.

Gu Jiao Wen held Tan Pan Ting’s waist, and he looked down at her face.

‘What about you?’ Gu Jiao Wen asked. ‘Why do you want to marry me?’

‘Who...’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘Forget it. I’m tired. I don’t want to go anywhere. I want to rest.’

Gu Jiao Wen was in deep thought for a while.

‘Hey you, let go of me,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘I said I want to rest.’

Gu Jiao Wen let go of Tan Pan Ting’s waist, he held her hand and took her back to her room.

Tan Pan Ting didn't think her room looked like a guest room. It was a European styled room with a big Baroque bed. It looked like a master bedroom. She laid on the bed, but she couldn't sleep. She called Zheng Jia Ju.

'Pan Ting, I thought you're in the city visiting his family,' Zheng Jia Ju said.

'Jia Ju, I have regrets,' Tan Pan Ting said.

'What's wrong?' Zheng Jia Ju asked.

'Jia Ju, I found out how rich and powerful his family is,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'Do you think his family will hire a contract killer to kill me if I jilt him at the altar?'

'Pan Ting, I thought you're in serious trouble but your problem is nothing,' Zheng Jia Ju said. 'If you're scared his family will kill you then forget about jilting him, and marry him.'

'Jia Ju, I don't want to marry him,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'I rather turn into a pig than marry him. But I don't want to upset his grandpa.'

'You have another option,' Zheng Jia Ju said.

'What?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

'Suck up to his grandpa,' Zheng Jia Ju said. 'In one month win over his grandpa.'

'What?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

'It's a good plan,' Zheng Jia Ju said. 'If his grandpa loves having you as his grandson's wife then you'll have an easy married life. After a year, you can divorce his grandson citing irreconcilable differences. You'll get a good divorce settlement, and you'll get your freedom back too. No one will have a reason to send contract killers to kill you.'

'Jia Ju, that isn't a good plan,' Tan Pan Ting said.

'It's your choice,' Zheng Jia Ju said. 'You can runaway now and call off the wedding or you can forget about jilting him and marry him. I've got to go. Remember to not agree to hold the wedding in the city. If you hold the wedding in your own territory then you'll have a better chance of running away.'

Tan Pan Ting didn't know how long she held onto her phone or when she

closed her eyes. The next time she opened her eyes, it was the wedding day.

‘Gu Jiao Wen, let go of me,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘I don’t want to marry you.’

‘It doesn’t matter if you don’t want to marry me,’ Gu Jiao Wen said. ‘You’re my woman now.’

Gu Jiao Wen carried Tan Pan Ting to his bedroom, he tossed her on the bed and he pounced on top of her.

‘Don’t act like you don’t know you’re my woman,’ Gu Jiao Wen said.

‘Who wants to marry you?’ Tan Pan Ting asked. ‘I don’t want to marry you. Get off me.’

‘Keep dreaming,’ Gu Jiao Wen said and took off Tan Pan Ting’s clothes.

‘What are you doing?’ Tan Pan Ting asked. ‘Why do I feel numb?’

‘I drugged you so you can’t run away,’ Gu Jiao Wen said.

‘You’re despicable,’ Tan Pan Ting said.

Gu Jiao Wen kissed Tan Pan Ting’s neck, and his hands caressed her body.

‘Get off me,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘I rather turn into a pig than marry you... ah!’

Tan Pan Ting woke up, and she realised she was dreaming. She didn’t know why she dreamt she couldn’t escape Gu Jiao Wen. She sat up and wiped sweat off her forehead.

‘Tan Pan Ting, come out and eat dinner,’ Gu Jiao Wen said from outside the door. ‘Tan Pan Ting, did you hear me?’

‘I heard you,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘You can stop calling me.’

Tan Pan Ting got out of bed, and she opened the door. Gu Jiao Wen held her hand, and led her in the direction of the dining room.

‘Mr Pervert, let go of my hand,’ Tan Pan Ting said.

‘If I let go, do you know how to get to the dining room?’ Gu Jiao Wen asked.

‘Mr Pervert, let go,’ Tan Pan Ting said.

‘If someone holding your hand is a pervert, what about what happened in your room?’ Gu Jiao Wen asked.

'You...' Tan Pan Ting said.

Gu Jiao Wen let go of Tan Pan Ting's hand, and he walked quickly to the dining room.

'Hey you, do you have to walk so fast?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

'Didn't you say I'm a pervert?' Gu Jiao Wen asked. 'Why are you following a pervert?'

'Who wants to follow a pervert?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

Tan Pan Ting stopped following Gu Jiao Wen. She didn't need a pervert's help to find the dining room.

End of Chapters Forty-Nine to Fifty-One

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Chapters Fifty-Two to Fifty-Four

Lost.

Tan Pan Ting got lost walking around the Gu Mansion to look for the dining room. Outside a room, she overheard voices.

‘What do you mean you need to relocate for work?’ Qiao Tan Yuan asked. ‘Why didn’t you tell me?’

‘Now you know,’ Gu Jiao Wu said coldly. ‘Let’s go eat dinner.’

‘I’m not eating,’ Qiao Tan Yuan said. ‘You’re relocating on purpose. You know my life is based here.’

‘If you don’t want to go with me then you can stay in the city,’ Gu Jiao Wu said. ‘I’m not forcing you to come with me.’

‘Are you saying you want us to live separately permanently?’ Qiao Tan Yuan asked. ‘Are you moving out to avoid me?’

‘You can think what you like,’ Gu Jiao Wu said. ‘You can stay here or follow me. It’s up to you.’

‘Gu Jiao Wu, you’re not human,’ Qiao Tan Yuan said. ‘If you think using the excuse of relocating will make me divorce you then you can keep dreaming. I won’t divorce you.’

Tan Pan Ting took a step away from the door after she heard Gu Jiao Wu’s name. Suddenly the beautiful woman who called her country bumpkin walked out of the room.

‘Didn’t your parents teach you manners?’ Qiao Tan Yuan asked. ‘Why are you

eavesdropping?’

‘I didn’t...’ Tan Pan Ting said.

‘If you won’t eavesdropping then why are you standing here?’ Qiao Tan Yuan asked.

Qiao Tan Yuan pushed Tan Pan Ting’s chest, Tan Pan Ting stumbled back into someone else’s chest.

‘Pan Ting, what are you doing here?’ Gu Jiao Wen asked.

‘I... I got lost,’ Tan Pan Ting said.

‘Country bumpkin, aren’t you going to apologise for eavesdropping?’ Qiao Tan Yuan asked.

‘Gu Jiao Wen, I didn’t eavesdrop,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘I got lost and I ended up here.’

‘Let’s go eat dinner,’ Gu Jiao Wen said.

Gu Jiao Wen held Tan Pan Ting’s hand, and they turned around to walk to the dining room.

‘Country bumpkin, you can’t leave without apologising,’ Qiao Tan Yuan said.

‘Big sister, I need to take Pan Ting to dinner,’ Gu Jiao Wen said. ‘If you have something to say to Pan Ting, you can say it in front of grandpa.’

‘Gu Jiao Wen, if you call me big sister then treat me like your big sister...’ Qiao Tan Yuan said.

‘Enough,’ Gu Jiao Wu said from behind Qiao Tan Yuan. ‘If you want to act like a princess then go to the Qiao Mansion. This is the Gu Mansion. You have no right to make demands here.’

‘Gu Jiao Wu, I’m your wife but you’re siding with outsiders to gang up on me,’ Qiao Tan Yuan said.

‘Outsiders?’ Gu Jiao Wu asked. ‘Gu Jiao Wen is my little cousin. Qiao Tan Yuan, when did you become a member of the Gu Household?’

‘Gu Jiao Wu, you dare bully me?’ Qiao Tan Yuan asked. ‘Aren’t you scared I’ll tell my dad what sort of a man you truly are?’

Tan Pan Ting wondered why Gu Jiao Wu married a hot blooded woman like Qiao Tan Yuan if Gu Jiao Wu hated Qiao Tan Yuan.

Gu Jiao Wen pulled Tan Pan Ting away from Gu Jiao Wu's bedroom.

'Gu Jiao Wen, is she your sister-in-law?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

'Yes,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'Do you have an older brother?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

'No, he's my older cousin,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'Is he your aunty Wang's son?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

'Yes,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'How long has he been married for?' Tan Pan Ting asked. 'Is he married to the hot blooded woman?'

'Tan Pan Ting, not only do you like to eavesdrop, you also like to gossip,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'I didn't eavesdrop,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'I accidentally overheard their conversation.'

'Let's go to the dining room,' Gu Jiao Wen said. 'Forget what you heard before. Keep your lips sealed.'

'Don't worry, I have a small mouth,' Tan Pan Ting said.

The dining room was as big as a banquet hall, and the long wide table were covered with a variety of dinner dishes.

Gu Jiao Wen sat opposite Gu Tian Chu, and he forced Tan Pan Ting to sit next to him.

'Grandpa,' Gu Jiao Wen and Tan Pan Ting greeted.

'Um, eat comfortably,' Gu Tian Chu said. 'Where's Jiao Wu and Tan Yuan?'

'Grandpa,' Gu Jiao Wu greeted from the door. 'I'm here.'

Gu Jiao Wu entered the living room, and he sat next to Wang Tu Ya.

'Jiao Wu, where's Tan Yuan?' Wang Tu Ya asked.

‘She’s eating dinner at the Qiao Mansion,’ Gu Jiao Wu said. ‘Everyone can eat without her.’

Tan Pan Ting silently ate while she listened to the elders discuss the wedding like she was invisible.

‘The eighteenth of June is an auspicious day for a wedding,’ Gu Tian Chu said.

‘Dad, we’re planning to have the wedding ceremony for Jiao Wen and Pan Ting in the city and having the wedding reception in Pan Ting’s hometown,’ Gu Qi Jiang said.

‘I’m happy to give Jiao Wen and Pan Ting two wedding receptions,’ Gu Tian Chu said. ‘One in the city and one in Pan Ting’s hometown. Jiao Wen and Pan Ting can leave on the twentieth of June for their honeymoon.’

‘Jiao Wen can’t go overseas for his honeymoon,’ Chen Ting Yu said.

‘Jiao Wen can take Pan Ting to Hong Kong,’ Tan Zui Shi said.

‘It’s unfair on Pan Ting,’ Chen Ting Yu said.

‘Don’t worry,’ Wen Xue Fang said. ‘Pan Ting doesn’t like travelling overseas.’

Tan Pan Ting lost her appetite. She looked at Gu Jiao Wen, he was eating comfortably like the elders were discussing a stranger’s wedding.

‘Jiao Wen, go take Pan Ting sightseeing after dinner,’ Chen Ting Yu said.

‘Yes, mum,’ Gu Jiao Wen said.

End of Chapters Fifty-Two to Fifty-Four

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Chapters Fifty-Five to Fifty-Seven

The Echo Wall.

In Gu Jiao Wen's car, Tan Pan Ting looked out the window at the polluted night sky.

'Where do you want to go?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

'I don't know,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'You're the tour guide.'

'What about the Forbidden City, the Great Wall or Sanlitun Village?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

'Stop the car,' Tan Pan Ting said.

Gu Jiao Wen stopped on the side of the road.

'If you feel forced to be a tour guide then I can go sightseeing on my own,' Tan Pan Ting said.

Gu Jiao Wen held Tan Pan Ting's wrist, and he locked the doors.

'Where do you want to go?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

'Anywhere as long as I'm not in the same place as you,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'Gu Jiao Wen, let go of me and open the doors. I want to get out.'

'Where do you want to go?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

'I want to get out,' Tan Pan Ting said.

'You have two choices,' Gu Jiao Wen said. 'I can take you where you want to go or you can follow me.'

'I want to get out and you can go wherever you want to go,' Tan Pan Ting said.

'You've been everywhere in the city, but I haven't. I can go sightseeing on my own.'

'Where do you want to go?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

Tan Pan Ting thought talking to Gu Jiao Wen was like talking to a wall, it made her remember about the Echo Wall.

'Is the Temple of Heaven opened at this time?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

'Temple of Heaven?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

'Yes, I want to see the Echo Wall,' Tan Pan Ting said.

Gu Jiao Wen drove to the Echo Wall.

Tan Pan Ting didn't understand why someone as rich as Gu Jiao Wen would choose to be a cop in a small town. She shook her head. She didn't need to understand Gu Jiao Wen, because she didn't want to marry him.

Tan Pan Ting received a text message. She looked at her phone, it was a text message from Zheng Jia Ju. Since it was a long drive, she logged onto a chatroom.

Angel Jia Ju: I forgot to tell you last night. You better bring back a gift for me.

Summer Night Sky: What for? Anything here, you can buy at home or online.

Angel Jia Ju: Buying something for myself, and you giving me a gift are two different things. I don't care what you get me. You can get me a roast duck, and I'll still be happy.

Summer Night Sky: What are you? An eagle?

Angel Jia Ju: Yes. If you don't bring back a gift for me, I'll eat you.

Summer Night Sky: OK. I don't want to get married. We can live together.

Angel Jia Ju: I didn't say I want to be a lesbian.

Summer Night Sky: Lesbians live good lives. They don't need to have children.

Angel Jia Ju: Have you won over his family yet?

Summer Night Sky: Why do I need to win over his family?

Angel Jia Ju: Everyone knows we're like sisters. If he breaks it off with you, it'll

lower your little sister's worth on the market.

Tan Pan Ting laughed loudly. She was grateful to have a good friend like Zheng Jia Ju. She logged off the chatroom, and she noticed Gu Jiao Wen parked the car.

'Are we here?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

Tan Pan Ting tried opening her door, it was still locked.

'Aren't you getting out of the car?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

'Who were you talking to before?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

'None of your business,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'I want to get out.'

Tan Pan Ting couldn't stand the tension in the car.

'Before I was talking to my childhood friend, Zheng Jia Ju,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'Satisfied?'

Gu Jiao Wen unlocked the doors.

'Let's go,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

Tan Pan Ting got out of the car, and she looked suspiciously at the temple.

'Is this really where the Echo Wall is?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

Gu Jiao Wen bought two tickets to see the Echo Wall.

'Yes, it's the Echo Wall,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

At the Echo Wall, Tan Pan Ting wanted to hear if the wall actually echoed.

'Gu Jiao Wen, run over there and I'll stay here,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'I want to hear the Echo Wall.'

Gu Jiao Wen didn't move.

'If you don't want to help me then I'll ask someone else,' Tan Pan Ting said.

Gu Jiao Wen held onto Tan Pan Ting's arm to stop her from leaving.

'Stay here,' Gu Jiao Wen said. 'I'll go over there.'

Tan Pan Ting didn't need to wait long for Gu Jiao Wen to stand on the other end of the Echo Wall.

'Say something,' Tan Pan Ting said.

'Tan Pan Ting,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

Tan Pan Ting heard her name clearly. But Gu Jiao Wen acted like it would kill him to say more than three words when they were at the Echo Wall.

Tan Pan Ting waited for Gu Jiao Wen to say something else. When she gave up, he was standing in front of her.

'Let's go inside the temple,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'Isn't the temple closed?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

Gu Jiao Wen held Tan Pan Ting's hand, and they walked inside the Temple of Heaven. She was surprised it was still opened late at night for tourists.

Tan Pan Ting was focused on taking photos that she didn't notice Gu Jiao Wen was watching her taking the photos.

Gu Jiao Wen didn't understand why Tan Pan Ting looked so focused while she took photos of ordinary objects.

'If Jia Ju's here, she can help take photos,' Tan Pan Ting mumbled.

Gu Jiao Wen took Tan Pan Ting's phone out of her hands.

'Hey!' Tan Pan Ting said.

'Go stand over there,' Gu Jiao Wen said. 'I'll help you take photos.'

'Gu Jiao Wen, give back my phone,' Tan Pan Ting said.

'You don't want photos of yourself here?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

Tan Pan Ting stood in front of a statue. She looked at her phone in Gu Jiao Wen's hand, but she couldn't smile. Gu Jiao Wen taking photos of her was different to Zheng Jia Ju taking photos of her.

End of Chapters Fifty-Five to Fifty-Seven

Related



Chapters Fifty-Eight to Sixty

Not the guest bedroom.

Gu Jiao Wen walked to Tan Pan Ting, and he grabbed her bag.

‘Hey!’ Tan Pan Ting said.

‘You’re standing too stiff,’ Gu Jiao Wen said. ‘If I hold your bag, you’ll loosen up.’

Gu Jiao Wen took photos of Tan Pan Ting while she stood awkwardly without her bag.

‘Hey, I wasn’t ready,’ Tan Pan Ting said.

‘Doesn’t matter,’ Gu Jiao Wen said. He gave back Tan Pan Ting’s bag and phone. ‘Even if I wait until you’re ready, you still wouldn’t turn into an angel.’

Tan Pan Ting had enough of the pervert’s insults. She walked out of the temple to look for a taxi. If he hated her, there was no reason for him to marry her.

‘Where are you going?’ Gu Jiao Wen asked.

'Home,' Tan Pan Ting said.

'Do you know how to get home from here?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

'I don't need you,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'I can find my own way home. You don't have to force yourself to be in my company.'

Gu Jiao Wen held Tan Pan Ting's hand, he took her to his car and he drove to the Gu Mansion.

Later at the Gu Mansion, Tan Pan Ting opened her suitcase and took out her nightgown to shower. Then she sensed someone was behind her. She stood, turned around and saw Gu Jiao Wen.

'You... what are you doing here?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

'This is my room,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'What?' Tan Pan Ting asked. 'Isn't this a guest room?'

'Do you think my mum would let you sleep in a guest room?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

Gu Jiao Wen wanted to walk into the bathroom, but Tan Pan Ting stood in his way.

'Why didn't you tell me?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

'You know now,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'You can't sleep here,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'Look how big your home is. You can sleep in another room.'

'Are you scared I'll eat you?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

'Yes,' Tan Pan Ting said. She didn't forget how perverted Gu Jiao Wen was in her afternoon dream. 'Don't think you can hide your true perverted self under human skin.'

Gu Jiao Wen held Tan Pan Ting's waist, he spun her around and he smiled at her before he closed the bathroom door.

'Don't worry,' Gu Jiao Wen said. 'I'm not interested in chickens.'

'Gu Jiao Wen!' Tan Pan Ting said. 'If you have the guts, come out here and say

that again.'

Gu Jiao Wen opened the bathroom door.

'What is it?' Gu Jiao Wen said. 'Do you want to shower together with me?'

'Who wants to shower with you... ah... you're not wearing clothes,' Tan Pan Ting said and closed her eyes.

'Why would I wear clothes if I want to shower?' Gu Jiao Wen asked. 'If you want to shower together, come inside with me.'

'You!' Tan Pan Ting said.

Tan Pan Ting heard the sounds of water running. She opened her eyes, Gu Jiao Wen left the bathroom door opened.

Tan Pan Ting walked back to the bed, and she looked around Gu Jiao Wen's bedroom. If she wasn't in confused state in the afternoon, she would have noticed the study room connected to his bedroom. She walked to the study room. On the desk were cop training manuals. What guest room? She had walked straight into the pervert's cave.

Tan Pan Ting sat on the sofa in the study room. She couldn't sleep because her body was sweaty from going sightseeing on a hot day. She waited for a long time before she walked back into the bedroom.

When Tan Pan Ting stood in front of the bed again, Gu Jiao Wen had a towel wrapped around his waist, and he looked like he was asleep. She ran into the bathroom, locked the door and she had the quickest shower in her life.

After Tan Pan Ting showered, she put on her nightgown. She wished she had packed her nanny pjs instead of a thin summer nightgown. She carefully opened drawers until she found a spare bedsheet. Then she carried the bedsheet to the study room, and she slept on the sofa.

Gu Jiao Wen got out of bed, and he walked into the study room. He picked up Tan Pan Ting who was curled up on the sofa, and he carried her to the bed. In her sleep, she snuggled against his chest. When he laid next to her on the bed, he heard her mumble in her sleep, 'Gu Jiao Wen, you pervert.'

Gu Jiao Wen smiled, and he slept.

In Tan Pan Ting's dream, she was back in her bedroom and she was hugging her pillow to sleep. She didn't know why her pillow felt so comfortable that night. She wrapped her arms and legs around the pillow and she rubbed her face on the pillow.

Gu Jiao Wen woke up early like usual except he remembered Tan Pan Ting was sleeping on his bed. He didn't know when she rolled onto his side, and when she kicked the bedsheet off the bed. Her nightgown had ridden up her soft thighs, her face was on his shoulder, her arms hugged his chest and her legs wrapped around his waist. She was rubbing her inner thigh between his thighs so it was natural for his body to react.

Gu Jiao Wen tried to get out of bed, but Tan Pan Ting held onto him tighter. She buried her face on his chest, and her moist lips touched his chest.

'Tan Pan Ting, if you don't let go of me right now, I'll show what a pervert looks like,' Gu Jiao Wen warned.

'Mum, don't be noisy,' Tan Pan Ting said.

Tan Pan Ting opened her eyes because she didn't know why Wen Xue Fang's voice sounded deeper than usual.

'Ah!' Tan Pan Ting cried out.

Tan Pan Ting thought she was sleeping on the sofa. She didn't know how she ended up in bed with Gu Jiao Wen, and why she was hugging him.

'What did you do to me?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

'Shouldn't you ask what you did to me?' Gu Jiao Wen asked. 'You crawled onto my bed in the middle of the night, and you're rubbing your body against my body early in the morning. Are you that hungry for a man?'

'It's you who's hungry,' Tan Pan Ting said.

'Don't tell me you slept walk to my bed and mistook me for your pillow,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'I...'

Tan Pan Ting let go of Gu Jiao Wen, she pulled her nightgown down to cover her thighs and she blushed.

'You don't need to think of an excuse to climb onto my bed,' Gu Jiao Wen said. He rolled on top of Tan Pan Ting. 'If you're that hungry, I don't mind sacrificing myself to satisfy you.'

'Gu Jiao Wen, get off me,' Tan Pan Ting said. She doubted she slept walked onto Gu Jiao Wen's bed. 'Who needs you to satisfy me? Don't worry, you don't have to sacrifice yourself, I rather look for a bull than look for you.'

End of Chapters Fifty-Eight to Sixty

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No Ex

Chapters Sixty-One to Sixty-Three

Ex-factor.

‘What did you say?’ Gu Jiao Wen asked.

Tan Pan Ting didn’t avoid Gu Jiao Wen’s eyes, but he felt her body trembling out of fear under him.

‘I said I rather look for a bull than look for you,’ Tan Pan Ting said.

Gu Jiao Wen got out of bed abruptly, he grabbed clothes from a drawer and walked into the bathroom.

Tan Pan Ting picked up the bedsheet off the floor, and she covered herself head to toe.

‘Gu Jiao Wen, if I crawl onto your bed, don’t you know how to avoid me?’ Tan Pan Ting mumbled to herself.

Tan Pan Ting poked her head out of the bedsheet after she heard the bathroom door opened. Gu Jiao Wen was dressed, he didn’t look at her and walked out of the bedroom.

In the afternoon, Tan Pan Ting walked to the dining room on her own.

‘Pan Ting, in the morning Jiao Wen said he was called on duty and he had to fly back to the police station,’ Chen Ting Yu said.

Tan Pan Ting suspected Gu Jiao Wen flew back because he was angry at her. She wondered if he was angry about the last thing she said to him.

‘Pan Ting, did you hear what I said?’ Wen Xue Fang asked.

‘Sorry mum,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘What did you say?’

‘I said we should fly back too because Jiao Wen isn’t here,’ Wen Xue Fang said.

‘Everyone should stay for the week,’ Chen Ting Yu said. ‘Pan Ting, you’re not working so there’s no rush for you to fly home.’

‘Aunty, the company I applied for last time hired me,’ Tan Pan Ting lied. ‘I need to start work on Monday. Dad, mum, you two should stay here for the week. I’ll fly back home on my own.’

Tan Pan Ting didn’t want to stay at the Gu Mansion because she felt pressured by Gu Jiao Wen’s elders to marry Gu Jiao Wen.

‘Let Pan Ting fly home,’ Wen Xue Fang said. ‘We old folks shouldn’t force her to stay if her heart is with Jiao Wen.’

‘Pan Ting, do you want me to book your flight and escort you to the airport?’ Chen Ting Yu asked.

‘Aunty, it’s OK,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘I can book my flight online and take a taxi to the airport.’

Tan Pan Ting sighed inwardly. If the elders wanted to misunderstand she and Gu Jiao Wen cooked rice last night then she would let them misunderstand for another month.

Tan Pan Ting farewell Gu Jiao Wen’s elders, and she flew back home.

Tan Pan Ting spent the rest of the weekend preparing her design portfolio for her job interviews.

Wednesday morning, Tan Pan Ting received good news from one of the cosmetics companies she had a job interview with, she was employed again. The first person she called to celebrate the good news was Zheng Jia Ju.

In the afternoon, Tan Pan Ting met up with Zheng Jia Ju for lunch at a cafe.

‘Pan Ting, what are you doing home?’ Zheng Jia Ju asked. ‘How do you feel after meeting the rest of your in-laws?’

‘Jia Ju, can you not mention him?’ Tan Pan Ting asked.

‘Him?’ Zheng Jia Ju asked. ‘Do you mean Mr Gu Jiao Wen? Confess, what level

did you and Gu Jiao Wen get up to in his family home?’

‘Ground level,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘Nothing happened between him and me. I only stayed at his family home for one day then I flew back home.’

‘He must be impotent if he didn’t make a move when he had a beautiful woman in his bed,’ Zheng Jia Ju said.

‘Jia Ju, we’re in public,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘Don’t say nonsense.’

‘Think about it,’ Zheng Jia Ju said. ‘The reason why his family invited you to stay at their family home is because they want you and him to cook rice. It doesn’t make sense why he would waste an opportunity to cook rice with you.’

‘Nothing happened,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘What nonsense are you storing in your brain? I spent most of the weekend preparing for my job interviews. I called you out to celebrate good news. I got a job with one of the cosmetics companies I applied for. I start work next Monday.’

‘Really?’ Zheng Jia Ju asked. ‘Then lunch is on you today.’

‘No problem as long as you don’t mention him again,’ Tan Pan Ting said.

‘Deal,’ Zheng Jia Ju said. ‘Where’s my gift?’

‘Sorry,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘I rushed back home, and I forgot to buy you a gift.’

‘Pan Ting, you broke the sisterhood code,’ Zheng Jia Ju said. ‘We’re no longer sworn sisters.’

‘Good,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘It means I have no obligation to treat a stranger lunch.’

‘Keep dreaming,’ Zheng Jia Ju said. ‘We can break up after lunch.’

Tan Pan Ting laughed.

‘Jia Ju, you crack me up,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘I’m afraid I won’t let you break up with me after lunch.’

After lunch, Tan Pan Ting returned home in high spirits until her phone rang.

‘Miss Tan, I’m sorry to be the bearer of bad news,’ a HR manager said.

‘Unfortunately after reviewing all our applicants’ designs again, you didn’t meet all our criteria. I’m sorry to say the company is withdrawing the job offer to you.’

‘Why?’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘I thought everything was finalised, and the company was satisfied with my designs. You informed me I’ll be starting work on Monday.’

‘I’m sorry,’ the HR manager said. ‘You won’t be working for our company.’

The HR manager hung up. Tan Pan Ting suspected foul play was involved. She grabbed her bag and took a taxi to the cosmetics company.

Later, in the HR manager’s office, Tan Pan Ting demanded a legitimate reason why they revoked the job offer.

‘I want to know why my designs didn’t meet the company’s criteria,’ Tan Pan Ting said.

‘Miss Tan, if you want an answer then I suggest you ask yourself why first,’ the HR manager said.

‘What do you mean?’ Tan Pan Ting said.

‘The company’s hands are tied,’ the HR manager said. ‘The company can’t hire you. You need to ask yourself who you offended.’

Tan Pan Ting left the cosmetics company deflated. She didn’t know who she offended enough to force the cosmetics company to boycott her. An image of Gu Jiao Wen’s face popped into her head. She suspected he was the one pulling the strings behind the scenes. He must have thought if she was jobless, she would marry him for money.

Tan Pan Ting took a taxi to the police station. When she arrived at the police station, she stormed to reception.

‘Where’s Gu Jiao Wen?’ Tan Pan Ting asked.

‘Miss, why are you looking for Chief Gu?’ a receptionist asked.

‘You only need to tell me where he is,’ Tan Pan Ting said.

Shi Tu heard a commotion at reception, and he went to investigate. He recognised Tan Pan Ting was the woman that he saw Gu Jiao Wen kissed the last time she was at the police station.

‘Miss Tan, are you looking for boss?’ Shi Tu asked.

‘Where is he?’ Tan Pan Ting asked.

'Miss Tan, follow me,' Shi Tu said.

Tan Pan Ting followed Shi Tu upstairs.

'Miss Tan, why are you looking for boss?' Shi Tu asked.

'Are you a cop or a gossip columnist?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

Shi Tu wisely closed his mouth, and he knocked on Gu Jiao Wen's office door.

'Boss, someone is here to see you,' Shi Tu said.

Tan Pan Ting barged into Gu Jiao Wen's office.

'Gu Jiao Wen, you have guts,' Tan Pan Ting said.

Shi Tu was curious why Tan Pan Ting was angry at Gu Jiao Wen. But Gu Jiao Wen gestured for him to give them privacy. He walked out of Gu Jiao Wen's office, and closed the door.

'What's the problem?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

'Gu Jiao Wen, stop dreaming,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'Don't think I'll marry because you abused your power to threaten cosmetics companies to not employ me.'

Gu Jiao Wen sat back on his chair, and he calmly looked at Tan Pan Ting.

'You don't want to marry me?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

End of Chapters Sixty-One to Sixty-Three

Related



Chapters Sixty-Four to Sixty-Six

Sitting in a tree.

‘Why would I want to marry someone unethical as you?’ Tan Pan Ting asked.

‘Not a problem,’ Gu Jiao Wen said. He stood, and stepped in front of Tan Pan Ting. ‘If you go see my parents, your parents or my grandpa to tell them you don’t want to marry me then I’ll agree to call off the wedding.’

‘You!’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘Don’t think I wouldn’t dare.’

‘If you dare,’ Gu Jiao Wen said. He pointed at the door. ‘You can go and tell them. If you don’t dare then be prepared to marry me on the eighteenth of June.’

‘Gu Jiao Wen!’ Tan Pan Ting said. She pointed a finger at Gu Jiao Wen’s chest. ‘Why do you want to marry me? The truth is you can marry any woman you want. Why are your parents in a rush to marry you off? Is it because you’re impotent?’

‘Have you said enough?’ Gu Jiao Wen said in condescending tone of voice. ‘If you have, you can go.’

‘Are you really impotent?’ Tan Pan Ting asked.

Gu Jiao Wen gripped Tan Pan Ting’s waist, and he kissed her sweet lips. He captured her raised hand that was about to slap him then he pressed their bodies close together. He forced her tongue to play with his tongue when she bit hard, she bit her tongue instead of his tongue. His tongue licked blood off her tongue.

‘Mmm... mmm...’ Tan Pan Ting mumbled.

Tan Pan Ting wanted to tell the pervert to let go of her.

Gu Jiao Wen squeezed Tan Pan Ting’s bottom, and he pulled her closer to him so she could feel the proof against her stomach that he wasn’t impotent.

Gu Jiao Wen tasted salt on Tan Pan Ting’s lips, it was the taste of her tears. His lips released her lips, and he held her waist.

Tan Pan Ting raised her hand, and Gu Jiao Wen captured her hand again.

‘Don’t provoke me,’ Gu Jiao Wen warned.

Gu Jiao Wen’s thumb caressed Tan Pan Ting’s swollen lips, and she understood. She took a step back, turned around and she ran outside to hail a taxi.

Gu Jiao Wen gripped his desk, and he waited until the effect of kissing Tan Pan Ting wore off his stiff body. But remembering her sweet and salty lips made his body stiffer. He didn’t know when his self-control turned so feeble. He walked stiffly to the bathroom, and washed his face to cool off.

Outside the bathroom, Gu Jiao Wen bumped into Shi Tu.

‘Boss, is Miss Tan the same woman from last time?’ Shi Tu asked. He was curious why Tan Pan Ting ran out of Gu Jiao Wen’s office like a ghost was chasing her. ‘Did she look for you because she wanted to get even with you for detaining her?’

‘She’s my fiancée,’ Gu Jiao Wen said.

‘Boss, are you joking?’ Shi Tu asked.

‘Does it look like I’m joking?’ Gu Jiao Wen asked.

Gu Jiao Wen didn’t wait for Shi Tu’s reply, he walked stiffly back to his office.

In the taxi, Tan Pan Ting realised in her rush to escape Gu Jiao Wen, she left her bag and phone in his office.

‘Sir, I’m sorry,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘Can you turn the car around, and go to a different address?’

Half an hour later, Tan Pan Ting arrived at Zheng Jia Ju’s home. She borrowed Zheng Jia Ju’s money to pay the taxi driver.

In Zheng Jia Ju’s living room, Zheng Jia Ju couldn’t wait for Tan Pan Ting to confess.

‘Miss Tan Pan Ting, what got you all riled up?’ Zheng Jia Ju asked.

‘Jia Ju, can’t you see I need comfort from you instead of an interrogation?’ Tan Pan Ting asked.

‘Let me guess,’ Zheng Jia Ju said. ‘Did Mr Gu Jiao Wen kiss you?’

‘How did you know?’ Tan Pan Ting asked.

‘Why else would your lips be swollen?’ Zheng Jia Ju asked.

Tan Pan Ting touched her swollen lips, and she cursed the pervert.

‘Is he a good kisser?’ Zheng Jia Ju asked. ‘Is that why you’re angry?’

‘Do I look like I wanted him to kiss me?’ Tan Pan Ting asked.

‘Or are you angry because he kissed you senseless and you cooked rice with him?’ Zheng Jia Ju asked.

‘Whatever,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘I wouldn’t cook rice with a pervert like him.’

Zheng Jia Ju saw Tan Pan Ting’s caller ID on her phone, and she smiled at Tan Pan Ting.

Tan Pan Ting answered Zheng Jia Ju’s phone.

‘Gu Jiao Wen, what do you want?’ Tan Pan Ting asked.

‘Your parents called you,’ Gu Jiao Wen said. ‘They want you home to eat dinner.’

‘Why did you answer my phone?’ Tan Pan Ting asked. ‘Did you say any nonsense to my parents?’

‘Where are you?’ Gu Jiao Wen asked. ‘I’ll come pick you up.’

‘Who needs you to pick me up?’ Tan Pan Ting asked. ‘Just drop off my bag and phone at my parents’ home.’

‘Your parents invited me over to eat dinner,’ Gu Jiao Wen said. ‘I accepted their invitation.’

‘What?’ Tan Pan Ting asked. ‘Who gave you permission to accept my parents’ invitation? Who wants to eat dinner with you? You’re not allowed to eat dinner at my parents’ home.’

Gu Jiao Wen hung up.

‘Ah, the pervert!’ Tan Pan Ting said.

‘What did he do to provoke you this time?’ Zheng Jia Ju asked.

Zheng Jia Ju thought Gu Jiao Wen must be someone special to Tan Pan Ting if he could make Tan Pan Ting’s temper surface easily.

Tan Pan Ting held Zheng Jia Ju’s hands, and she looked pitifully at Zheng Jia Ju.

‘Jia Ju, the cop pervert wants to eat dinner at my parents’ home,’ Tan Pan Ting said.

‘Then go home and eat dinner,’ Zheng Jia Ju said. ‘He’s entering your territory. There is nothing for you to fear.’

End of Chapters Sixty-Four to Sixty-Six

Related



Chapters Sixty-Seven to Sixty-Nine

Call a plumber.

‘Who said I’m scared of him?’ Tan Pan Ting asked. ‘I just don’t want to see his face.’

‘Go home if you’re not scared,’ Zheng Jia Ju said. ‘But don’t embarrass yourself by losing to him in your own home.’

‘Wait and see me win,’ Tan Pan Ting said. She put her hand out. ‘Give me your money.’

‘Are you a robber?’ Zheng Jia Ju asked. ‘Do I look like your ATM?’

‘How can you say you look like my ATM?’ Tan Pan Ting asked. She accepted money from Zheng Jia Ju and patted Zheng Jia Ju’s shoulder. ‘You look like my piggy bank.’

‘Tan Pan Ting!’ Zheng Jia Ju called.

Tan Pan Ting stuck her head out of the taxi window, and waved bye to Zheng Jia Ju.

‘Wait for my winning news,’ Tan Pan Ting said.

Tan Pan Ting lost a battle to her parents the moment she arrived home.

‘Pan Ting, did you and Jiao Wen get to spend time together while your dad and

I were in the city?’ Wen Xue Fang asked.

‘Pan Ting, how are you and Jiao Wen getting along?’ Tan Zui Shi asked.

‘Dad, mum, you two don’t need to ask about me and him,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘Tell me about where you two visited after I left.’

‘Pan Ting, you don’t have to worry about your dad and me,’ Wen Xue Fang said. ‘We were well looked after by Jiao Wen’s family.’

‘Pan Ting, Jiao Wen picked up your phone,’ Tan Zui Shi said. ‘Did you stay over his apartment while your mum and I were in the city?’

‘Dad, mum, I’m tired,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘I’m going to sleep.’

‘Pan Ting, you can’t sleep,’ Tan Zui Shi said. ‘Jiao Wen will be here any second.’

A knock was heard. Wen Xue Fang ran to open the front door.

‘Jiao Wen, we just mentioned your name and you’re here,’ Wen Xue Fang said.

‘Hello aunty and uncle,’ Gu Jiao Wen greeted.

Gu Jiao Wen walked to the sofa where Tan Pan Ting was glaring at him.

‘Pan Ting, are you still upset with me?’ Gu Jiao Wen asked.

‘Stay away from me,’ Tan Pan Ting said.

‘I brought your bag and your phone,’ Gu Jiao Wen said.

Tan Pan Ting grabbed her bag and her phone from Gu Jiao Wen’s hands, and she pointed at the door.

‘The door is that way,’ Tan Pan Ting said.

‘Pan Ting!’ Wen Xue Fang said. ‘How can you be so petty toward Jiao Wen?’

‘Aunty, it’s my fault,’ Gu Jiao Wen said. ‘Before Pan Ting wanted me to drive her home, but I had to stay back at work.’

‘Pan Ting, your mum’s right,’ Tan Zui Shi said. ‘You’re being petty. Gu Jiao Wen’s the chief at the police station. Of course he has to set a good example for his juniors. He can’t drop his work duties just to drive you home.’

‘Mum, dad, I’m not petty,’ Tan Pan Ting said. She couldn’t say Gu Jiao Wen kissed her. She could only glare at Gu Jiao Wen. ‘I hate you.’

‘Jiao Wen, ignore Pan Ting’s pettiness,’ Tan Zui Shi said. ‘It’s my fault for raising a petty daughter.’

‘Uncle, it’s OK,’ Gu Jiao Wen said. ‘I’m used to Pan Ting’s pettiness. Uncle, aunty, why didn’t you stay longer in the city?’

‘We stayed long enough to see all the tourist attractions,’ Wen Xue Fang said. ‘Jiao Wen, in the future, we’ll trouble you to be understanding of Pan Ting’s pettiness and sulkiness.’

‘Aunty, Pan Ting is perfect the way she is,’ Gu Jiao Wen said.

Wen Xue Fang went to cook dinner while Tan Zui Shi played chess with Gu Jiao Wen.

Tan Pan Ting heard enough. She walked to her bedroom and paced back forth. Her parents were hoodwinked by Gu Jiao Wen. She couldn’t make her parents see the truth, but she thought of a way to get back at Gu Jiao Wen.

Tan Pan Ting snuck to the bathroom. She grabbed tampons and band aids from a drawer. Then she used it to clog the toilet.

Tan Pan Ting held in her cackle, and she walked to the living room where Tan Zui Shi and Gu Jiao Wen were playing chess.

‘Dad, what should we do?’ Tan Pan Ting asked. ‘The toilet isn’t flushing.’

‘Oh,’ Tan Zui Shi said. ‘Jiao Wen, wait here. I’ll go fix the toilet.’

‘Jiao Wen, dad just got home from the city,’ Tan Pan Ting said. She smiled sweetly and a dimple was visible on her cheek. ‘Help me fix the toilet.’

‘Pan Ting, how can we ask Jiao Wen to fix the toilet?’ Tan Zui Shi asked. ‘If you don’t want me to fix the toilet then I’ll call a plumber.’

‘Dad, it’s expensive to call a plumber,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘Let Jiao Wen fix the toilet. He’s good at fixing toilets.’

Tan Pan Ting held onto Gu Jiao Wen’s arm, and she pulled him up.

‘Honey, don’t disappoint me,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘I know fixing a toilet doesn’t suit your status. But I need to use the toilet. Can you fix the toilet for me?’

Gu Jiao Wen followed Tan Pan Ting to the bathroom. She pushed him into the

bathroom.

‘There’s the toilet,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘I’ll wait for you outside.’

Tan Pan Ting closed the bathroom door, and she locked it from the outside. She walked back to the living room, and she smiled sweetly at Tan Zui Shi.

‘Dad, I remembered I bookmarked the chess book about the same strategy Gu Jiao Wen’s using against you,’ Tan Pan Ting said.

‘Really?’ Tan Zui Shi asked.

‘Dad, come with me to the study room and I’ll show you the chess book,’ Tan Pan Ting said.

Tan Pan Ting showed Tan Zui Shi the chess book in the study room. Afterward she laughed triumphantly in her bedroom. Finally she gave Gu Jiao Wen a taste of his medicine. At least it didn’t stink at the police station like it would stink being locked in a bathroom.

Half an hour later, Wen Xue Fang set the dining table, but she couldn’t see Gu Jiao Wen.

‘Pan Ting, where’s Jiao Wen?’ Wen Xue Fang asked.

Tan Pan Ting was happily eating potato chips and watching TV on the sofa.

‘He’s helping us fix the toilet,’ Tan Pan Ting said.

‘Pan Ting, how can you let Jiao Wen fix the toilet?’ Wen Xue Fang asked.

Wen Xue Fang ran to the bathroom. She was surprised the bathroom door was locked from the outside. She quickly unlocked the bathroom door, and opened the door.

‘Aunty, I fixed the toilet,’ Gu Jiao Wen said. ‘Next time if everyone is careful not to put small bathroom items in the toilet then it won’t clog again.’

‘Jiao Wen, I’m sorry Pan Ting made you fix the toilet,’ Wen Xue Fang said. ‘Come out and eat dinner. Next time let Pan Ting’s dad fix the toilet.’

‘Aunty, it’s no trouble at all,’ Gu Jiao Wen said.

Tan Pan Ting stood next to Gu Jiao Wen, and she spoke softly for only him to hear.

‘The blue spots look good on your shirt,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘Did you enjoy spending time with the toilet?’

Gu Jiao Wen leaned his face close to Tan Pan Ting’s face.

‘Um, next time consider throwing sticker items in the toilet like chewing gum,’ Gu Jiao Wen said. ‘But I can’t promise it’ll be fixed as easily as this time.’

‘Really?’ Tan Pan Ting asked. She hit Gu Jiao Wen’s shoulder. ‘I’ll make sure to throw chewing gum into the toilet the next time you accept my parents’ invitation to eat dinner here.’

Gu Jiao Wen could only focus on Tan Pan Ting’s lips. He remembered their kiss, and his body reacted instantaneously.

‘Miss Childish,’ Gu Jiao Wen said.

‘You!’ Tan Pan Ting said.

Wen Xue Fang coughed awkwardly. Tan Pan Ting realised she was standing too close to Gu Jiao Wen so she turned around and walked to the dining table.

‘Pan Ting, why didn’t you wait for Jiao Wen to sit first before you sat at the dining table?’

‘Mum, he knows how to sit on his own,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘He’s not a child.’

Tan Pan Ting ignored Gu Jiao Wen while he sat next to her. She ate dinner and let her parents fuss over Gu Jiao Wen.

Gu Jiao Wen didn’t want to let Tan Pan Ting eat in peace. He picked up a chicken leg, and he put it in Tan Pan Ting’s bowl.

‘Pan Ting, eat the chicken leg,’ Gu Jiao Wen said.

End of Chapter Sixty-Seven to Sixty-Nine

Related

Chapter Seventy



Hygiene.

‘Thank you,’ Tan Pan Ting said to Gu Jiao Wen.

Tan Pan Ting took a bite of the chicken leg and Gu Jiao Wen whispered in her ear, ‘I didn’t wash my hands.’

Tan Pan Ting dropped the chicken leg on the table and she spat the piece of chicken leg out of her mouth.

‘Tan Pan Ting!’ Tan Zui Shi and Wen Xue Fang called out at the same time.

Tan Pan Ting coughed and rubbed her chest. Her finger pointed accusingly at Gu Jiao Wen. She wanted to curse him but only coughing sounds came out of her mouth.

Gu Jiao Wen held Tan Pan Ting’s hand and he rubbed her back.

‘Eat slowly,’ Gu Jiao Wen said innocently.

‘You!’ Tan Pan Ting said and pushed Gu Jiao Wen’s hand off her hand. ‘Gu Jiao Wen, you’re unhygienic!’

‘Pan Ting, you’re unhygienic,’ Wen Xue Fang said. ‘What are you doing?’

‘Pan Ting, where are your manners?’ Tan Zui Shi asked. ‘Is this how you should eat dinner?’

‘Dad, mum, it’s Gu Jiao Wen who’s unhygienic,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘He didn’t wash his...’

‘Enough,’ Tan Zui Shi said. ‘Jiao Wen kindly picked up a chicken leg for you. Why are you being rude toward him?’

‘Uncle, it’s my fault,’ Gu Jiao Wen said. ‘I shouldn’t tease Pan Ting while she’s eating.’

‘Jiao Wen, it’s not your fault,’ Tan Zui Shi said. ‘It’s my fault. I didn’t teach Pan Ting manners.’

Tan Pan Ting couldn’t do anything to vent her frustrations. She glared at Gu Jiao Wen and regretted she couldn’t drink all his blood.

‘Tan Ping, don’t be angry at me,’ Gu Jiao Wen said and held Tan Pan Ting’s hand. ‘I’m sorry. It’s my fault.’

‘Get lost!’ Tan Pan Ting said and pushed Gu Jiao Wen’s hand away. ‘I don’t need your fake kindness. This is all your scheming.’

‘Pan Ting, didn’t you hear Jiao Wen say he’s sorry?’ Wen Xue Fang asked.

‘I don’t need his sorry,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘I didn’t do anything wrong. Dad, mum, if you both love him this much then you both don’t need a daughter like me.’

Tan Pan Ting stood and ran out of her parents’ home.

‘Uncle, aunty, I’m going to chase after Pan Ting,’ Gu Jiao Wen said and chased after Tan Pan Ting.

After Tan Pan Ting ran a long distance, she realised it was a dark and hot night, which added to her frustrations. What happened to her goal to win in her own territory? Why did Gu Jiao Wen have to win again and in her own family home?

‘Ah...’ Tan Pan Ting yelled to the dark night sky.

Gu Jiao Wen covered Tan Pan Ting’s mouth.

‘Don’t be noisy,’ Gu Jiao Wen said. ‘Come home with me.’

End of Chapter Seventy

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Chapter Seventy-One



Lost.

‘Where’s home?’ Tan Pan Ting asked. ‘Gu Jiao Wen, I admit I lost. I can’t play against you. Are you satisfied? If you are, let go of me.’

Tan Pan Ting didn’t want to play games with Gu Jiao Wen anymore.

‘Gu Jiao Wen, I don’t know why you want to marry me,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘I only know, I, Tan Pan Ting, won’t marry you. Can you walk out of my life now?’

‘Pan Ting, do you really don’t want to marry me?’ Gu Jiao Wen asked.

‘Yes,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘I don’t want to marry you.’

‘Is that so?’ Gu Jiao Wen asked. ‘Ask yourself, who started everything?’

Tan Pan Ting straightened her back. She didn’t want to show she was intimidated by the tall Gu Jiao Wen in front of her.

‘What are you talking about?’ Tan Pan Ting asked.

‘Who was it that stood in front of my parents and announced that I’m their boyfriend?’ Gu Jiao Wen asked. ‘Who was it that acted affectionately toward me in front of my parents and misled them to think that we’re deeply in love with each other?’

Tan Pan Ting stepped backward slowly.

‘Who was it that visited my parents’ home and told my grandpa you’re marrying me?’ Gu Jiao Wen asked. ‘Pan Ting, you caused big misunderstandings. How can you say you don’t want to play anymore? Do you think walking away is going to be easy?’

‘Gu Jiao Wen, it’s you...’ Tan Pan Ting said softly.

Tan Pan Ting couldn’t speak confidently with Gu Jiao Wen’s looming presence stepping closer to her.

‘Tan Pan Ting, you started the games,’ Gu Jiao Wen said. ‘It’s too late for you to stop playing games.’

Gu Jiao Wen captured Tan Pan Ting in his arms and she had nowhere to escape.

‘Tan Pan Ting, even if you want to stop playing games,’ Gu Jiao Wen said coldly in Tan Pan Ting’s ear. ‘The only choice you have is to play games with me to the end.’

Gu Jiao Wen held the stunned Tan Pan Ting’s hand and pulled her toward her parents’ home.

Later that night, Tan Pan Ting didn’t know how she ate dinner and got to bed.

Two days later, Tan Pan Ting didn’t know what she was doing staying inside her parents’ home and why Gu Jiao Wen’s words were replaying in her head.

On Saturday morning, Tan Pan Ting’s parents weren’t home. It was a good opportunity for her to go see Zheng Jia Ju. She quickly changed clothes and walked to the front door. She opened the front door and didn’t expect to see Gu Jiao Wen standing there.

‘What are you doing here?’ Tan Pan Ting asked.

End of Chapter Seventy-One

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Chapter Seventy-Two



I don't feel refreshed but another day is starting

Another day.

'Driving you to take wedding photos,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

Gu Jiao Wen thought taking photos were unnecessary. He wouldn't bother if Chen Ting Yu didn't book the photography studio, and if he didn't need to pick up her phone calls. Chen Ting Yu called him several times on the phone last night and early in the morning to remind him about the scheduled wedding photo session.

'Wedding photos are unnecessary,' Tan Pan Ting said.

Tan Pan Ting didn't want to poke the tiger Gu Jiao Wen anymore. He gave her a scary vibe that he was capable of killing her anytime and anywhere.

'My mum booked the photography studio weeks ago,' Gu Jiao Wen said and waved his phone in the air. 'If you think taking wedding photos are unnecessary, you can use my phone to call my mum yourself.'

'Gu Jiao Wen, you... ' Tan Pan Ting said.

'Jiao Wen, did you come here to see Pan Ting?' Tan Zui Shi interrupted.

Tan Zui Shi and Wen Xue Fang returned home and they were surprised to see

Gu Jiao Wen visiting Tan Pan Ting.

‘Uncle, aunty, I came to drive Pan Ting to take wedding photos,’ Gu Jiao Wen said. ‘My mum booked the photography studio weeks ago. But Pan Ting doesn’t want to go.’

‘Pan Ting, what’s wrong with you?’ Wen Xue Fang asked. ‘Why are you still upset with Jiao Wen?’

‘Who said I’m upset with him?’ Tan Pan Ting asked.

‘If you’re not upset with Jiao Wen then go take the wedding photos,’ Tan Zui Shi said. ‘Do you need me and your mum to come to the studio too?’

‘Dad, no,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘Forget it. Gu Jiao Wen, let’s go to the studio.’

Ten minutes later, Tan Pan Ting sat silently in Gu Jiao Wen’s Hummer while he drove them to the photography studio called Spring Paris.

At Spring Paris, the studio assistants showed Tan Pan Ting and Gu Jiao Wen samples of wedding photos.

‘Mr Jiao, Miss Tan, the wedding dresses in these wedding photos are trending right now,’ an assistant said. ‘Please choose the wedding dresses you both like.’

Tan Pan Ting felt torn while she browsed through the sample wedding photos. When she was younger, she was like most girls who dreamt of wearing a beautiful wedding dress and marrying the man of her dreams. She didn’t think when she grew up, she and her groom were reluctant to marry each other.

‘Do you have sample wedding photos of the grooms’ outfits?’ Tan Pan Ting asked.

‘Of course,’ the assistant said and passed more wedding albums to Tan Pan Ting and Gu Jiao Wen. ‘Here are sample photos of popular grooms’ outfits. Miss Tan, you don’t need to worry about being overshadowed by your fiance on the wedding day, you’ll be a beautiful bride.’

Tan Pan Ting wasn’t worried about being beautiful on the wedding day. She was worried about attending the wedding day.

Tan Pan Ting was captivated by a white strapless wedding dress with a butterfly bow on the bodice.

'I want to wear this wedding dress,' Tan Pan Ting said.

Tan Pan Ting thought if she was forced to go through the motion of wearing a wedding dress then she might as well wear a wedding dress that she liked.

'Miss Tan, you have excellent eyes,' the assistant praised. 'The wedding dress you chose is the newest wedding dress design. The beads embroidered on the bodice are real diamonds. It's a simple wedding dress design but it's elegant and suits your figure. We'll customise the wedding dress to your preference.'

'OK,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'I'm leaving now.'

Tan Pan Ting stood up and acted like she couldn't see Gu Jiao Wen in the same room as her.

End of Chapter Seventy-Two

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Chapter Seventy-Three



Half an hour later, Tan Pan Ting emerged from the makeup and change room wearing a wedding dress and makeup for the wedding photo shoot.

‘Miss Tan, you look beautiful,’ the assistant praised. ‘Mr Gu will think you’re the most beautiful woman in the world.’

Tan Pan Ting looked at her reflection in the mirror. She didn’t think she looked beautiful like how the assistant praised her.

‘Miss Tan, follow me,’ the assistant said and took Tan Pan Ting back to the main studio.

Gu Jiao Wen was dressed in a tuxedo with a bow tie, and waiting for Tan Pan Ting in the main studio.

When Gu Jiao Wen saw Tan Pan Ting, he thought she looked more beautiful than usual. The strapless bodice wedding dress showed off her figure, and the light makeup suited her skin tone. He instinctively offered his hand toward Tan Pan Ting, but she walked past him toward the photographer.

‘A couple of simple wedding photos are enough,’ Tan Pan Ting said to the photographer.

‘Of course,’ the photographer said and helped Tan Pan Ting sit on the sofa.

The photographer thought Tan Pan Ting was a rare bride who didn’t want to take many wedding photos.

The photographer clapped their hands to gain Gu Jiao Wen’s attention.

‘Mr Groom, stand behind the bride,’ the photographer said.

Gu Jiao Wen snapped out of his daze and he stood behind Tan Pan Ting.

‘Mr Groom, put your hands on the Miss Bride’s shoulders and both of you look at the camera,’ the photographer instructed.

Tan Pan Ting felt Gu Jiao Wen’s hands on her bare shoulders and her body stiffened. She told her body to relax but it couldn’t relax with his hands on her shoulders.

Tan Pan Ting thought it was laughable that a woman and a man like her and Gu Jiao Wen were taking wedding photos because they didn’t love each other.

‘Mr Groom, Miss Bride, relax and look into each other’s eyes,’ the photographer said.

Gu Jiao Wen looked stiffly at Tan Pan Ting. He hated taking photos, let alone taking wedding photos.

Tan Pan Ting gave Gu Jiao Wen a who wanted to be Mr Groom and Mrs Bride with you look.

Gu Jiao Wen and Tan Pan Ting were oblivious to the photographer taking photos of them while they looked into each other's eyes, because they felt like time stopped.

It took Tan Pan Ting a long time to register Gu Jiao Wen was wearing a tuxedo and his hair was styled. She chastised herself being attracted to him. Attraction? She must have lost her mind.

End of Chapter Seventy-Three

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Chapter Seventy-Four

Tan Pan Ting emptied her head of thoughts about Gu Jiao Wen being attractive. She reminded herself that she and Gu Jiao Wen were putting on an act. What she wanted to know was when they could stop acting.

Tan Pan Ting thought taking wedding photos was an exhausting business. Changing clothes, retouching makeup and posing in different positions.

After a lunch break, Gu Jiao Wen and Tan Pan Ting took wedding photos outside. It was a hot day, and she wanted to ask the photographer to let them rest but Gu Jiao Wen's cold expression stopped her. She felt like Gu Jiao Wen was warning her to act like the happy couple to the end.

The wedding shoot ended at sunset, and an exhausted Tan Pan Ting sat in Gu Jiao Wen's Hummer.

'Are you hungry?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

Tan Pan Ting still made Gu Jiao Wen dazed. Usually she would jump up and down opposing him. When she was sitting quietly he could see her natural beautiful face.

'Take me home,' Tan Pan Ting said.

Tan Pan Ting's tone of voice made Gu Jiao Wen snap out of his daze. How could he think she's beautiful?

'Seeing your face makes me want to vomit,' Tan Pan Ting said.

Gu Jiao Wen's face sunk, he turned away from Tan Pan Ting, turned on the

engine and drove.

Tan Pan Ting closed her eyes. It was tiring looking at Gu Jiao Wen's all day.

Gu Jiao Wen drove smoothly while Tan Pan Ting napped. He parked in front of the apartment, his mother approved for him to buy.

'Tan Pan Ting, wake up,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

Tan Pan Ting was still sleeping. Gu Jiao Wen patted her cheeks, and she woke up.

'What do you want?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

There was nowhere for Tan Pan Ting to retreat from Gu Jiao Wen's close proximity.

'You're awake,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

Tan Pan Ting looked outside the window, it wasn't her home.

'Where is this place?' Tan Pan Ting asked. 'Gu Jiao Wen, why did you bring me here?'

Tan Pan Ting reacted quickly, she opened the passenger door and ran.

Gu Jiao Wen chased after Tan Pan Ting, she ran faster but he caught up easily because she was wearing high heels.

Tan Pan Ting wasn't used to running in high heels. She tripped, and grazed her arms and legs.

'Aw, it hurts,' Tan Pan Ting said.

Gu Jiao Wen carried Tan Pan Ting in his arms.

End of Chapter Seventy-Four

Chapter Seventy-Five

'Gu Jiao Wen, you MF, put me down!' Tan Pan Ting said.

'Quiet,' Gu Jiao Wen said. 'Can't you see you injured your arms? If you yell

again, I'll kiss you.'

'You!' Tan Pan Ting said.

Tan Pan Ting didn't say another word. Gu Jiao Wen quickly carried her into the apartment building.

Tan Pan Ting panicked, and forgot about Gu Jiao Wen's warning.

'Gu Jiao Wen, you MF, why did you take me here?' Tan Pan Ting asked. 'Put me down. I didn't give you permission to carry me.'

Gu Jiao Wen ignored Tan Pan Ting. The elevator doors opened, and he pressed his apartment floor.

Tan Pan Ting used her sore hands to hit Gu Jiao Wen's chest, but he didn't put her down.

The elevator doors opened on Gu Jiao Wen's apartment floor, he carried Tan Pan Ting to his apartment, put her down on the sofa and returned with a first aid kit.

'Sit still,' Gu Jiao Wen said, and held onto Tan Pan Ting's shoulders.

Tan Pan Ting didn't think she suffered any serious injuries. Her left arm was scratched, and her right arm was bleeding a little.

Gu Jiao Wen gently cleaned Tan Pan Ting's grazed arms. Afterward, he lifted her legs, and clean her grazed legs.

'What are you doing?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

Gu Jiao Wen gave her a warning look, and dabbed iodine on her grazed legs. He noticed her ankle was swollen, touched her ankle, and she cried out because she twisted her ankle.

'It hurts,' Tan Pan Ting said.

Gu Jiao Wen massaged Tan Pan Ting's swollen ankle. After a few minutes, she was amazed her ankle didn't hurt anymore.

'How do you know how to treat a twisted ankle?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

'When I joined the police force, if I got injured on the field, I had to apply first aid on myself,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

Tan Pan Ting was surprised Gu Jiao Wen answered her questions sincerely.

'How long have you been in the police force?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

'Seven years,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'Oh,' Tan Pan Ting said.

'Stay here and rest,' Gu Jiao Wen said. 'Your ankle will be less swollen tomorrow.'

Gu Jiao Wen went to pack the first aid kit away, and Tan Pan Ting looked around at his apartment.

End of Chapter Seventy-Five

Chapter Seventy-Six

Tan Pan Ting thought Gu Jiao Wen's apartment was clean and modern. His sky blue sofa matched the white walls. Scenery paintings were hung above the TV. The poems at the bottom of the paintings piqued her interest, she stood and walked to take a closer look at the paintings.

'What are you doing?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

'Nothing,' Tan Pan Ting said.

Tan Pan Ting sat back on the sofa, she was embarrassed she got caught.

'How's your ankle?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

'It's better,' Tan Pan Ting said.

Tan Pan Ting admitted Gu Jiao Wen had miraculous hands, but she was still wary of him.

'Since your ankle is better, I'll let you entertain yourself,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

Tan Pan Ting stood to leave, but she tripped and Gu Jiao Wen caught her in time. Their faces were an inch apart.

'What, do you want me to stay with you?' Gu Jiao Wen joked.

'Don't be a smart ass, who wants you around?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

Gu Jiao Wen carried Tan Pan Ting to the dining room.

'Put me down, I can walk on my own,' Tan Pan Ting said.

Gu Jiao Wen put Tan Pan Ting down at the dining table. There was a hot pot of combination noodles on the dining table.

'Eat if you're hungry,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'Did you cook this?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

'What, do you think I added poison?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

Tan Pan Ting didn't think Gu Jiao Wen would dare poison her. She sat at the dining table. The eggs looked tempting, and the combination noodle broth was fragrant. She couldn't believe Gu Jiao Wen knew how to cook.

'Aren't you eating?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

Gu Jiao Wen ate half of his bowl of combination noodles, but Tan Pan Ting didn't touch her bowl.

Gu Jiao Wen went to grab a ladle from the kitchen, and helped feed Tan Pan Ting.

Tan Pan Ting was wary why Gu Jiao Wen was suddenly nice to her. She wanted to ask him what he was scheming.

'I'm not a weakling,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'I only scratched my arms, I can feed myself.'

Tan Pan Ting ate a mouthful of the combination noodles Gu Jiao Wen fed her. How could he cook such delicious food?

End of Chapter Seventy-Six

Chapter Seventy-Seven

Tan Pan Ting felt like Gu Jiao Wen's eyes staring at her like he wanted to suck her into his eyes.

'Not bad, it's edible,' Tan Pan Ting said and avoided Gu Jiao Wen's eyes.

Tan Pan Ting sensed Gu Jiao Wen was still staring at her. She didn't feel comfortable eating, and put down her chopsticks.

'I'm full,' Tan Pan Ting said.

Gu Jiao Wen cleared the dining table, and washed the dishes.

Tan Pan Ting was amazed at how Gu Jiao Wen washed the dishes efficiently. She didn't know how many different sides Gu Jiao Wen had. The more she watched him look comfortable in the kitchen, the more she thought perhaps marrying him wasn't a bad thing.

'Do your arms still hurt?' Gu Jiao Wen asked.

'Huh?' Tan Pan Ting asked dreamily.

Tan Pan Ting shook her head of thoughts about marrying Gu Jiao Wen.

'Oh, my arms don't hurt,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'It's only scratched a bit. I want to go home.'

Tan Pan Ting felt like Gu Jiao Wen and she were behaving out of the ordinary that day.

'Alright, I'll take you home,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'I can find my own way home,' Tan Pan Ting said.

Gu Jiao Wen held Tan Pan Ting's hand, and didn't let her refuse. 'I'll take you home.'

Tan Pan Ting's body wasn't in any condition to run. She followed Gu Jiao Wen to his car, and he drove her home.

'Gu Jiao Wen, did you buy the apartment?' Tan Pan Ting asked.

Tan Pan Ting thought Gu Jiao Wen must be a corrupt cop, because a cop's salary couldn't afford a luxurious apartment.

'My mum bought the apartment for me,' Gu Jiao Wen said.

'Oh,' Tan Pan Ting said. 'Gu Jiao Wen, why did you agree to an arranged marriage? And why do you want to marry me?'

Gu Jiao Wen braked, and parked the car.

‘What do you think?’ Gu Jiao Wen asked.

‘I can’t think of a reason why you would want to marry me,’ Tan Pan Ting said.

Tan Pan Ting thought someone of Gu Jiao Wen’s calibre would have many women willing to marry him, and he didn’t need to have an arranged marriage.

‘Do you want to know why so you can use it as an excuse to change your mind about marrying me?’ Gu Jiao Wen asked.

‘What, don’t I have the right to know why my future husband wants to marry me?’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘At least if I know why then I’ll know what kind of marriage I’m entering.’

Tan Pan Ting and Gu Jiao Wen had a staring showdown. She lost, because she couldn’t stand his scrutiny.

‘Fine,’ Tan Pan Ting said. ‘It’s your choice whether you want to say why or not.’

Gu Jiao Wen changed to drive gear, and drove quietly for a while.

‘I’m at the stage of my life to get married,’ Gu Jiao Wen said.

‘Is it that simple?’ Tan Pan Ting asked.

‘Yes,’ Gu Jiao Wen said.

‘Forget it,’ Tan Pan Ting said.

Tan Pan Ting felt like Gu Jiao Wen wasn’t willing to tell her truth.

‘Our wedding is going to be held on the eighteenth at the city venue as planned,’ Gu Jiao Wen said. ‘My parents will finalise our wedding preparations.’

‘What if I said, I don’t want a husband?’ Tan Pan Ting asked.

End of Chapter Seventy-Seven

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