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After the ringing went on for a while, Nan Chen eventually stood up and walked to the side to pick up the call.

Cheng Xiangyun kept shooting glances at Ning Ran, who knew perfectly what she meant.

She was urging Ning Ran to eavesdrop on the conversation and find out who Nan Chen was speaking with.

However, Ning Ran refused to do that. Regardless who the person was, she would not intrude on another's private conversation.

After Nan Chen finished talking, he walked over and said, "That's all for today, so I'll get going first."

He did not give any explanations for his abrupt departure.

Since his boss was leaving, there was no reason for Jiang Zhe to continue staying. As such, he stood up as well.

Cheng Xiangyun stared at Ning Ran again, spurring her on to find out about the situation.

Ning Ran bolted up from her seat as she was also keen to find out the actual circumstances. She parted her lips, but could not find the right words to say.

"Ms. Ding, feel free to ask me anything," Jiang Zhe asked attentively.

Ning Ran found it hard to probe into Nan Chen's private life, so instead of asking what she wanted to ask, she said, "Please get the bill!"

Although it was a reasonable request to make, it still felt odd coming from Ning Ran and turned out comical.

Nan Chen had also stopped in his tracks as he was stunned by Ning Ran's comment.

"Ms. Ding, please don't worry, the bill will be placed on our account and the restaurant will invoice us tomorrow. If there is anything else the both of you need, feel free to let the waiter know. Everything will be on our tab," Jiang Zhe explained.

"Sure, okay." Ning Ran nodded.

Jiang Zhe then followed Nan Chen out of the restaurant.

Cheng Xiangyun and Ning Ran were the only two people left. Accompanying them was a table full of untouched dishes which looked delicious.

“Why didn’t you find out the reason he left so suddenly?” Cheng Xiangyun looked at Ning Ran.

“Why should I?” Ning Ran frowned, as she threw the question back to her.

“Well, since the children are his, it means he’s your man. How can you not be bothered if your man is going to meet another woman?”

“Firstly, the kids are mine, not his. Secondly, even if he is the biological dad of the kids, it does not mean he is my man. The kids were an accidental occurrence. He and I are entirely separate individuals,” Ning Ran corrected Cheng Xiangyun sternly.

“Fine, you’re so magnanimous and tolerant. Good for you!” There was nothing more Cheng Xiangyun could say.

“So what if I am neither magnanimous nor tolerant? Can I even go after him?” Ning Ran asked Cheng Xiangyun.

“That’s a valid point. He is Nan Chen. Even if he walks into a hotel with a lady blatantly in front of your eyes, there’s nothing you can do.” Cheng Xiangyun appeared to be deep in thought.

Even though she was simply stating facts, Ning Ran was still roused by her remark.

“Let’s not talk about him anymore. Anyway, nothing he does should concern me. Come, let’s eat!” Ning Ran said in a spiteful manner.

“Oh, what did Mr. Assistant tell us just now? If there’s not enough food, we can feel free to order more right?” Cheng Xiangyun suddenly changed the topic.

Ning Ran was shocked. “Aunt, don’t we already have enough food? We haven’t even started eating yet and you are already thinking of ordering more?”

“It’s obviously enough for the two of us, but it won’t be enough if I ask a few more friends to join us,” Cheng Xiangyun said.

Ning Ran was even more startled now. “You’re intending to ask your friends to come over?”

“Yeah, since the two of us won’t be able to finish so much food anyway, why not share the joy with others? My friends are always sharing pictures of crayfish on social media, I’m sure they’d be stunned to see lobsters that are even bigger than their heads! I just

want to let them know that our Ran has finally made it big! Right, I'm going to call them now!" Cheng Xiangyun said as she took out her phone.

"Aunt, that doesn't seem like a good idea. This dinner gathering was arranged by Nan Chen. Even though we don't have to pay, wouldn't it be too much if we get others... "

"What too much? Of course, it's not too much. Are you even aware of how rich that man is? Would he care about a few pennies? I'm going to make some calls now... "

Ning Ran sighed. Since the crazy Xiangyun was already unstoppable, she could only let her do whatever she wanted to.

Meanwhile, at the Nanshi Corporation headquarters, there was a sweet and innocent-looking beautiful young lady sitting at the reception area. She was the second daughter of the Ouyang family, Ouyang Qing.

The woman, who had always admired Nan Chen, was the one who called him at dinner just now.

Nan Chen only rushed back to the office because Ouyang Qing had told him that she had news from Tokyo and needed to talk to him face-to-face.

Nan Chen walked towards his office straight away after exiting the elevator.

Whereas Jiang Zhe went to the reception to bring Ouyang Qing to Nan Chen's office.

The moment Ouyang Qing stepped into the office, she started exclaiming exaggeratedly, "Wow! This is such a pretty office! Chen, your office must be one of the most enchanting office I've ever walked into."

That was the reaction most people had when they first entered Nan Chen's office. The only person who did not share the same opinion was Ning Ran.

She was not fond of the way his office was decorated as she felt it was too lavish.

An office should look like an office. It's not supposed to be a place for one to flaunt his wealth. If it was decorated like a palace, it wouldn't feel like an office anymore.

What's more interesting was that Nan Chen also did not like his office. He too, felt that it looked way too luxurious, to the extent that it was decorated in poor taste.

As such, Nan Chen felt rather awkward at the way Ouyang Qing envied the place.

He did not understand how could so many people fancy the things he disliked.

Nan Chen sat down and instructed Jiang Zhe to pour Ouyang Qing a glass of water.

However, Ouyang Qing whipped out a thermos flask from her bag and said, "Chen, I know you are busy and have to work late often. So, I have specially brewed you some coffee. I made it personally!"

Since the young lady was so thoughtful, Nan Chen felt bad to reject her good intentions and accepted it.

The coffee tasted mediocre. Either the brewing time had been too long, or there had been a procedure which wasn't well taken care of.

But that was not important as Nan Chen did not come for the coffee. He only wanted to hear about the news from Tokyo.

"Do you like the cup of coffee? Is it nice?" Ouyang Qing looked at Nan Chen with her big eyes in anticipation, hoping to get a compliment from him.

"It's not bad," Nan Chen replied politely.

"Thanks for the praise, Chen!" Ouyang Qing beamed.

But Nan Chen had not given her any praise. He merely said it was not bad out of courtesy.

Nan Chen looked at Jiang Zhe, who took the hint and left the room, shutting the door behind him.

However, Ouyang Qing did not bring up the main topic. Instead, she kept making small talk while pacing around the room, complimenting the interior of the office.

She seemed to have forgotten the reason she was here, and acted as though she was a visitor who was touring the office.

Nan Chen was concentrating on going through some work documents and did not broach the subject as well.

"Chen, where did you go just now if you just came back from outside?" Ouyang Qing asked.

Without lifting his head, Nan Chen answered, "Dinner."

"Who did you have dinner with? You even brought your assistant along," Ouyang Qing probed further.

"A friend," Nan Chen gave another one-word answer.

“Wow, that person must be really lucky to be Chen’s friend. Chen, you rejected me when I asked you out for lunch this afternoon, but you had time to meet your friend for dinner. Hmph! I’m so sad you do not like me.”

The coquettish manner in which Ouyang Qing spoke stunned Nan Chen for a moment. In fact, he had completely forgotten that the young lady had requested to have lunch with him.

However, he was not intending to explain himself, because Nan Chen did not have to account for his actions to anyone.

As such, he did not respond to Ouyang Qing’s comment.

Ouyang Qing realized that her tactic to act girly wasn’t working. In order to grab Nan Chen’s attention, her best option was to talk about the purpose of her visit. “Chen, I received news from Tokyo.”

Only then did Nan Chen shift his gaze from the documents on his desk to Ouyang Qing.

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“Aunt is in poor health. She keeps having nightmares and her appetite has also been decreasing. As such, she had lost a lot of weight lately,” Ouyang Qing said.

Nan Chen kept quiet.

“The doctors over there had diagnosed aunt with colorectal cancer. However, as surgery is not the best option for her current condition, the doctors had suggested that she come back here and try combating the disease with traditional Chinese medicine instead...”

When Nan Chen heard the word ‘cancer’, his mind instantly went blank.

He felt a sudden wave of sorrow as he stared at Ouyang Qing in a daze.

“But Chen, you don’t have to worry too much. The doctor had said the cancer is still in its early stages, it has not yet progressed to a stage where all hope is lost. TCM can create wonders and is often able to solve complex medical issues that Western medicine is unable to. Our priority now should be to bring aunt back home as soon as possible. I’ve already made arrangements with a TCM practitioner who’s one of the best in the country. I am confident he’ll be able to help Aunt.”

Ouyang Qing looked at Nan Chen expectantly, as if waiting to claim the credit.

However, Nan Chen did not speak as he was still wallowing in sadness.

“Chen? Don’t be too worried yeah? The doctor has already said it’s a good thing the cancer was discovered early, so the chances of recovery are high. Aunt just has to receive treatment here.”

Nan Chen finally snapped out of his misery and said, “I’ll go talk to Grandpa now.”

“Chen, do we still need the Old Master’s permission to bring aunt back, given that she’s already so seriously ill? What if he doesn’t agree?”

“Grandpa will agree. I will explain the situation to him properly.”

Nan Chen put on his jacket and was ready to leave his office.

“If that’s the case, I’ll go with you. I know the actual situation better, so it might be clearer if I do the explanation instead,” Ouyang Qing volunteered.

“No need,” Nan Chen rejected the woman coldly.

“Chen, it really pains me to see you feeling so down. Aunt’s condition is really not as serious as you imagine, don’t be too worried alright?” Ouyang Qing said.

Nan Chen did not respond.

After they left the office, Nan Chen instructed Jiang Zhe to arrange for transport to send Ouyang Qing home, while he took huge strides towards the elevator.

Nan Chen leaned on the backrest after he got into the car, and closed his eyes.

Many past memories flashed through his mind. Some were pleasant, while some made him feel sad. But a common denominator in all those memories was his mom, Bai Hua.

As Bai Hua’s dad was Japan’s foreign ambassador to China, Bai Hua had grown up in China.

She had given birth to Nan Chen and Nan Xing after marrying the boys’ father, Nan Zhiyuan.

Everything went smoothly until Bai Hua and Nan Zhiyuan did something that disgraced the Nan family, which almost caused the downfall of the entire family.

In order to appease the situation, Nan Zhengde drove his son and daughter-in-law out of the Nan family and banned them from staying in China.

The original plan had been for them to go to the USA. However, after taking into consideration that Bai Hua’s family was in Tokyo, they had gone to Tokyo instead. The couple had also vowed not to return to China for the rest of their lives.

Time healed all wounds. After so many years, any feelings of longing or hatred had all been diluted with the passage of time.

As Nan Chen rose in power and became the pillar of the Nanshi Corporation, the adverse impact which his parents had brought unto the family had also been gradually negated.

However, the Old Master had yet to forgive his son and daughter-in-law. Over the years, he had not once brought up the possibility of them returning to the country.

Even though Bai Hua had fallen ill, Nan Chen still could not be sure if his grandpa would relent.

When Nan Chen arrived at the Nan residence, it was already late.

However, to his surprise, his grandpa was still awake and was in the study looking at some calligraphy works.

The elderly man had recently acquired some famous works of master calligraphers and was deep into inspecting those works these few days. As such, he had been going to bed later than usual.

Nan Chen waited at the door as the servant informed the Old Master of his arrival. The man only entered the study after being granted permission by his grandpa.

The Old Master looked delighted to see his grandson and waved him over. "You arrived just at the right time. Look at this masterpiece. The strength of the strokes and contrast created at each point are simply perfect. It's definitely worth ten thousand right?"

Nan Chen took a glance at it but could not feel the impressiveness which his grandpa had described.

He did not know much about calligraphy. As Nan Chen was always occupied with work, he hardly had any time to learn about the arts.

"I can't really tell, but if Grandpa thinks it's good, I'm sure it's definitely worth that amount. But Grandpa, you shouldn't be staying up late just to study the works, it's bad for your health," Nan Chen replied.

"If I had slept earlier, you wouldn't have been able to talk to me if you come at this hour," the Old Master laughed heartily as he said that.

Nan Chen glanced at his watch. Even though it wasn't considered too late yet, he decided to make it quick.

"Grandpa..." Nan Chen began to speak, but hesitated.

“What is it?” The elderly man looked at Nan Chen, motioning for him to speak his mind.

“There are two things. The first is, your great grandchildren are not Nan Xing’s kids, they are mine,” Nan Chen said.

The Old Master was momentarily stunned and looked at Nan Chen in a daze.

It has become Nan Chen from Nan Xing...How was a mistake of such nature even possible?

“Grandpa, it’s a complicated story, but there was a blunder made in the DNA testing which caused the issue. Other than that, there were no problems.”

Nan Chen was just worried his grandpa might misunderstand that Ning Ran was involved with both brothers, which was not the truth.

After all, the nature of the confusion—mixing up the father of the children—made it easy for anyone to think that way.

Only after hearing Nan Chen’s explanation did the Old Master heave a sigh of relief. “I see. Have you confirmed the results already? Is it final?”

“Yes, grandpa, the kids are confirmed mine, it’s for sure.”

The elderly man stroked his beard and suddenly starting laughing. “Actually, I have always thought that that boy resembles you more than Xing. So he’s indeed your son! His character and behavior are exactly the same as yours when you were at that age, almost identical!”

Nan Chen nodded and said, “I think Dabao is very much like me too, but Erbao’s personality takes after Nan Xing more.”

“Yup, regardless of whose kids they are, as long as they are a ‘Nan’, I won’t have any issues with it. So, what’s the second thing you want to talk to me about which is worrying you?” Nan Zhengde asked.

The Old Master was really sharp. He could already sense that Nan Chen was troubled.

“It’s regarding news from Tokyo,” Nan Chen said softly.

The elderly man’s high spirits were brought down at once.

He rolled up the calligraphy and put it back into a drafting tube carefully. “Why are you talking about them at this hour? Are you trying to make me lose sleep?”

“Grandpa, Mom has contracted cancer and the doctor has advised her to seek treatment in China.”

Even though his grandpa was visibly upset, Nan Chen had to finish his sentence.

“Cancer?”

“Yes.”

“The medical standards in Japan are very advanced as well, why is there a need to specially come back for treatment?”

“The doctors were of the view that a conservative treatment using TCM would be more suitable for mom’s condition. If that is not OK with grandpa, I will arrange for them to go to either Hong Kong or Taiwan instead. There are good TCM practitioners there as well. As a last resort, I can also send some TCM practitioners over to Japan.”

The Old Master was silent.

“I got it, grandpa. I shall make a move first then, please have a good rest,” Nan Chen was able to roughly guess his grandpa’s stance on the matter from his silence.

“Wait.”

Nan Chen stopped walking.

“Do you believe your mom’s illness is real? What if she is faking it just to come back?” Nan Zhengde said.

“As a son, I shouldn’t be questioning the authenticity of it. Even if it’s a lie, I would still come and make the request to you, grandpa,” Nan Chen replied.

The elderly man nodded and said, “I know. Indeed, in your position, it wouldn’t be right to doubt your mom.”

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Nan Chen nodded, acknowledging his grandpa’s kind understanding regarding this matter. “Thanks, grandpa,” Nan Chen said as he looked towards the floor.

“I’m only agreeing to this because of you. Otherwise, I would never have entertained the possibility of letting them return,” the elderly man said. Nan Chen thanked his grandpa again.

“Ok, ok. That’s enough. You shouldn’t worry too much as well. It’s all predestined that we each have our own hour,” the elderly man tried to comfort his grandson.

“Yup. Have an early rest, grandpa.” Nan Chen could finally let out a sigh of relief after leaving his grandpa’s study.

Now that he had gotten his grandpa’s approval, the next thing to do was to verify the legitimacy of his mom’s illness. After getting confirmation, his parents would be able to return to the country.

However, Nan Chen was having conflicted emotions. If his mom had really faked her cancer, the couple would not be able to return. As such, even though he hoped his mother was still healthy, he also hoped that his parents would be able to return to the country.

As Nan Chen pondered over the possible scenarios, he had subconsciously walked to his kids’ rooms. The lights were already switched off and the children were in bed.

After hesitating a few seconds, Nan Chen ended up going into Erbao’s room. The gentle light coming from the kiddish bedside lamp cast a warm glow on the little girl’s sleeping face.

Erbao fidgeted a lot in her sleep, and one of her chubby legs was sticking out of her blanket. Nan Chen gently pushed her leg back under the blanket and made sure the little girl was properly covered, before turning off the bedside lamp.

After that, he went into Dabao’s room. The boy was more well-behaved in his sleep and had switched off his bedside lamp.

However, he was a light sleeper and woke up the moment Nan Chen entered his room.

Nan Chen felt bad that he had disturbed the boy in his sleep. He would not have come in if he had known it would wake his son up.

“Third Uncle, you’re back?” Dabao sounded happy to see the man.

“Sorry, I shouldn’t have come in and roused you from your sleep.”

“No worries, Third Uncle. I’ve already slept enough. It wouldn’t affect me.” Dabao suddenly sat up.

“Sleep more, don’t get up,” Nan Chen said, still feeling bad.

“Third Uncle, do you have something to tell me?” Dabao surprised Nan Chen with the question.

How did the boy know? Nan Chen was stunned.

“Nope, nothing. Why did you ask?” Nan Chen was curious.

"It's just that you feel different these few days as compared to last time. So, I thought you had something to say," Dabao replied with a smile.

"If that's not the case, I shall go back to sleep first then. Good night, uncle," the boy added.

Nan Chen pulled up the blanket for Dabao while asking, "In what way do I feel different?"

Dabao gave it a thought before shaking his head. "I don't know how to explain it... It just feels different."

"Actually, something has indeed changed. I wanted to talk to you about it but I'm worried it'll scare you," Nan Chen said, testing the waters.

"What exactly are you trying to say, Third Uncle? Just be direct with me, it's alright!" Dabao tilted his head and looked at Nan Chen.

"I... have something important to tell you, that is... "

Nan Chen was being coy about it, which was definitely unheard of.

"Third Uncle, be brave! I'm listening," Dabao cheered the man on.

"I'm actually not your uncle, but your Daddy."

Nan Chen could feel his heart going into overdrive after he said that, as he waited anxiously for Dabao's reaction.

He was worried that the boy would be taken aback by this revelation and not be able to accept this new reality.

Dabao kept quiet for a while after hearing what Nan Chen said.

It was the first time Nan Chen had felt so stressed due to someone else's silence.

He was usually the one who used silence to pressurize others. However, he was now experiencing first-hand how it felt to be on the receiving end.

"Do you not like it... " Nan Chen asked, feeling unsettled.

"Hehe," the boy suddenly chuckled.

Even though Dabao was still a child, he did not usually laugh or smile often like other kids. It was a rare sight for the boy to be laughing, even more so when it was already so late at night.

“Why are you laughing? Does it sound too absurd?” Nan Chen felt even more jittery after seeing the boy’s reaction.

“No, I just find it funny,” Dabao chuckled again.

“Really? What’s so funny about it?” Nan Chen asked.

“Because all along, I had felt that you were more like my Daddy. I can’t believe you are actually Daddy!”

Dabao got excited and he lifted his covers before he climbed up.

“You should be lying down. Why are you not sleeping anymore?”

“We need to do a formal introduction,” Dabao said with a serious expression on his face.

“Formal introduction?”

“Yeah, our relationship is not the same now. Shouldn’t we properly get to know each other again?” Dabao asked.

Nan Chen immediately understood what the boy meant. He extended his hand and said, “Hi, I’m Nan Chen, your daddy. It’s a pleasure to meet you.”

“I’m Ning Sirui, your son. Please look after me,” Dabao wore a solemn expression.

“Isn’t this a little too formal?” Nan Chen asked.

“I think it’s fine,” Dabao answered.

“Why are you not asking me why I have suddenly become daddy?”

“As a child, I don’t have to know every single thing that’s going on in the adults’ world. But my guess is that something went wrong during the DNA testing.” Dabao was behaving in an oddly matured manner, for a child his age.

Nan Chen let out a gasp when the boy finished talking. *Why is he speaking like an adult?* The boy was too mature; it did not seem suitable for someone his age to be acting that way.

Was this how I was like when I was a child too?

“Do you really not mind at all?” Nan Chen was still not fully convinced.

“Of course not! It’s nice to have you as my Daddy. I have always found you more like my Daddy anyway,” Dabao said.

“OK, it’s a relief to know that. Can I give you a hug?”

“Sure, but I find it a bit awkward if I have to address you as ‘Daddy’ immediately”, the boy frowned as he said that.

“There’s no rush at all. We have ample time to get used to our new roles.”

Nan Chen lifted Dabao from the bed and twirled him around a few times. “I’m a dad now. It feels great,” he smiled.

“Have you told Erbao about it?”

“Not yet, as I don’t know how to tell her. Can you do it for me tomorrow?”

“Sure.”

Nan Chen placed Dabao back down on the bed and said to the boy, “I’m so glad. I was worried you might find it disturbing.”

“Not at all, I’m glad too.”

“I’m happy to know that. You should go back to sleep now.”

Nan Chen covered Dabao with a blanket before tiptoeing out of the room.

When he was back in his own room, he took out his phone and dialed a number.

Ning Ran had just lied down on the bed and was about to drift off to sleep when her phone, which was placed next to her pillow, started vibrating.

Assuming it was Zheng Lunlun who was harassing her to play games with him again, she yelled into the phone in an annoyed tone, “I already said I’m not playing, can you stop disturbing me? Are you crazy?”

The next moment, a cold and husky voice sounded on the other side of the phone, “What are you playing? Why are you shouting?”

Ning Ran was suddenly alert. “Why are you calling me at this hour of the night?”

“Who did you think it was?” Nan Chen asked.

“No one.”

“Then what do you mean by you are not playing? What were you playing? And why are you not playing anymore?” Nan Chen pressed on. It wasn’t so easy to fool him.

“I already told you there’s no one. Can you stop being lame? Why are you kicking up a fuss so late at night?” Ning Ran wished that the man would stop harping on it.

Nan Chen had initially called to inform the woman that he had already made it clear to Dabao that he was the kids’ real daddy.

However, he did not expect Ning Ran to answer the call in such a strange manner. That threw him off.

She must have been talking to another man before I called. Otherwise, she wouldn’t have said those words.

Who is the person though? Could it be that ‘Feng’ guy?

Nan Chen stood up and was about to go to Ning Ran’s place so that he could clarify with her in person.

But he started wondering about the purpose of him doing that. It didn’t feel right to look for the woman just because of a phone call.

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Ning Ran knew that the person on the other side of the phone must be angry when she was met with dead silence.

Well, that’s how he is. Others will holler or bellow when they are angry, but not him. When he’s angry, he will only keep quiet with a stone-cold expression on his face.

Ning Ran could imagine the murderous aura Nan Chen must be emitting right now. *Thank god we are talking over the phone. I will hate to see the look on his face now.*

Anyway, it is so late already. I can’t possibly continue talking on the phone with him at this hour.

“I thought this call was from my friend. She asked me out, but I turned her offer down as it was too late...”

Ning Ran was still fumbling to come up with an explanation when she heard a busy signal on the phone. Nan Chen had hung up on her.

“Crazy bas***d!”

After hanging up the phone, she continued sleeping.

For the next few days, Ning Ran was on a tight filming schedule. It was late autumn already, so the director was rushing to complete the filming before wintertime.

Ning Ran was immersed in her work, leaving her with no personal time to spend with her children.

On that day, she had filmed continuously without catching a wink, until it finally ended at 6 pm. By then, she was totally drained of energy.

After changing out of her costume and back into her attire, she dragged herself out of the film set and saw a dark green Land Rover in front of the entrance.

The second the car window was rolled down, Ning Ran heard Erbao calling out loudly, "Mommy!"

Pleasantly surprised, Ning Ran hurried over, "Why are you here?"

Dabao chipped in, "We're all here."

Ning Ran shifted her gaze to Nan Chen, who was in the driver's seat.

Wow! Instead of his iconic black formal suit, he's wearing a grey tracksuit instead!

This was the first time Ning Ran saw him wearing a color other than black.

He looks good! Black emphasizes his aloofness, but grey adds a tinge of gentleness, giving him a more cheerful vibe.

Cheng Xiangyun was not around today as her company had sent her to the Capital for a learning trip which would take around 15 days.

Ning Ran was still fretting about the dinner tonight and had expected Nan Chen to come today.

Well, it works for me. At least I won't be having cup noodles for dinner alone today.

"Mommy, let's cook dinner together later," Erbao suggested cheerfully.

"Cook dinner?" Ning Ran asked in astonishment.

Do the three of them know how to cook? Who would believe that?

"Mommy, we know all about your secret. To think that you still want to hide it from us. Haha!" Erbao made a face at her.

Ning Ran was baffled, "Secret?"

"Daddy's secret." Erbao buried her face into her hands in bashfulness.

Ning Ran flushed despite herself. *She is the most adorable kid in the world! So, one will be shy in front of one's own kids too.*

"Both of you know already?"

"Yes," chorused Dabao and Erbao in unison.

"Did you tell them?" Ning Ran looked at Nan Chen inquiringly.

Nan Chen kept quiet, implying his admission.

Who else could it be other than him? He must be the blabbermouth! How shameless of him! How can he leak out the secret to my children before I tell them myself! I wonder how he explained it to them? I bet he had a tough time doing so!

"From now on, we're a family! Let's go!"

Erbao curled up her fist into a small ball and extended it straight above her head as if readying herself to rush forward. It was a moving sight.

Furthermore, she sounded very seasoned when she said that. *Did Poker Face teach her to say that?*

Ning Ran glanced at Nan Chen, but he ignored her. He could not recall ever teaching Erbao to say such things.

Furthermore, Nan Chen was not a person who liked to say mushy stuff such as *From now on, we are a family.*

Nan Chen started the car and drove forward amid Erbao's cheering.

Ning Ran asked, "Where are we going?"

"To prepare dinner! Erbao enthused.

Ning Ran could feel a headache brewing. *What exactly are they planning to do? Why must we prepare dinner ourselves?*

"Daddy asked me what we like to usually do, so I told him we like to cook dinner together with Aunt Xiang and have dinner together afterwards. Then Daddy said we should cook dinner together." Dabao finally revealed the truth.

So that is the reason. Cooking dinner together may sound like a heart-warming family activity but, in fact, it is very troublesome. One needs to prepare ingredients in the first place. Also, after preparing all the ingredients, who will be the chef? It can't be the two kids, so this role can only fall on Nan Chen. I will never believe he can cook!

“Is everything fine?” Nan Chen asked directly, upon noticing the troubled expression on Ning Ran’s face.

Ning Ran wanted to point out all flaws in their plan but, she could not bear to dampen their moods, after seeing how excited they are. Thus, she nodded, “Everything is fine.”

Nan Chen drove the car to one of the big supermarkets under Nanshi Corporation, where they intended to purchase the ingredients.

Erbao was exceptionally excited, as this was the first time they were engaging in a family activity after they acknowledged each other.

Erbao loved company, especially when she was engaged in group activities with her family.

Even the eyes of Dabao that was usually composed, sparkled with excitement.

Mommy and Daddy are bringing us to shop in the supermarket! This is a brand-new experience!

Their appearance in the supermarket caused a stir. Other customers in the supermarket gasped at them, in awe of their looks.

“Look at the kids. They are so beautiful!”

“Notice how good-looking their parents are? Of course, their kids will be beautiful too.”

“But aren’t they too beautiful? Are they a family of celebrities? I feel like I have seen them on television before.”

Ning Ran was still getting used to receiving such compliments.

Nan Chen, on the other hand, was in his comfort zone. He had always stolen the limelight no matter where he was, even in parties attended by prominent people or in more crowded places. Certainly, such supermarkets were nothing to him.

Erbao was lazy and did not want to walk. Thus, she sat on the child seat in the trolley.

Dabao walked with Nan Chen. It was an amusing sight, to see the same stoic expressions on their faces, one being a miniature version of another.

Ning Ran had assumed that Nan Chen had a plan in mind for the dinner, but soon realized that she was wrong.

Nan Chen was only responsible for pushing the trolley at Ning Ran's side.

For every item that Ning Ran picked up and subsequently returned to its shelf, he would put it into his trolley. He had assumed she was concerned over the prices. *Well, the price does not matter to me. After all, the entire supermarket belongs to Nanshi Corporation. There's no need to help me save money.*

"Why are you putting the items I don't want into the trolley?" Ning Ran asked, puzzled over Nan Chen's actions.

"You don't want them?"

"Yes, I'm only taking a look and not buying them."

"Why do you need to look at them when you don't want to buy them?"

Ning Ran was stumped for words. *What kind of logic is that? Must I buy everything I see?*

"You don't need to waste time looking at them if you don't need them," reasoned Nan Chen logically.

"How will I know whether they suit my needs if I don't look at them?"

Nan Chen did not reply her.

At this moment, a few men, decked in formal suits, hurried over with nervousness spelt all over their faces.

The fat man leading the pack was sweating profusely and bowed respectfully before Nan Chen, "Sir Chen, I didn't know you have come here to inspect. Sorry..."

Nan Chen, who had a superb memory, recognized the man at a glance, "Manager Luo."

He was the manager of the supermarket. He had assumed that Nan Chen was here for an inspection, sending him and his team into a panic.

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"I'm not here for work. I'm here to... shop."

Manager Luo and his team members exchanged doubtful glances at each other. None of them believed Nan Chen's words. Even the senior managers needed to arrange for prior appointments to report their work to Nan Chen, due to Nan Chen's busy schedule.

How is it possible that such a busy man will do his shopping personally?

Hence, Manager Luo and his team did not believe Nan Chen, thinking their boss was here for an incognito visit. "Sir Chen, please let us know if you have any instructions for us. We will make the changes immediately."

"It is okay. You can go off first." Nan Chen waved his hand dismissively. I seldom have the chance to do grocery shopping with the two kids. They better not spoil my mood.

But Manager Luo and his team were not on the same wavelength as Nan Chen. Our boss arrives out of the blue. How can we return to our office and pretend he isn't here? It's simply impossible!

Therefore, the senior executives hung around Nan Chen at his heels, in the supermarket. Not only were Nan Chen and Ning Ran unhappy with their actions, but even the kids were also displeased too. How can we shop leisurely when someone is gawking at us?

However, Nan Chen was not one to holler at others when he was displeased. He pulled a long face and stared sharply at Manager Luo and his team.

However, this only increased their sense of trepidation as they mistook Nan Chen for being displeased over their mismanagement of the supermarket.

Finally, Ning Ran could not take it anymore and believed she must handle it herself. Otherwise, the whole situation would only worsen.

Thus, she walked over to Manager Luo.

Manager Luo was not certain of Ning Ran's status as he had not received news that his boss was married. He wanted to greet her as 'Madam' but worried he might address her wrongly, so he nodded with a smile on his face, "Hi, what do you need? We will endeavor to meet them."

"Stop following us. Sir Chen is unhappy," warned Ning Ran in a low voice.

"Huh?"

"Do you like a bunch of people following you when you are doing your grocery shopping?"

"This..."

“He is not here for an inspection. He’s only here to buy some ingredients to cook dinner for the kids. Stop creating a scene. It will only add on to everyone’s anxiety and discomfort. What is the point?”

“Okay, sorry to disturb you. Please inform any of the staff here should you need any help. We will serve you to the best we can.” Manager Luo wiped away the sweat on his face.

“Okay, please stop following us then.”

Finally, Manager Luo and his team walked off and left them alone.

Nan Chen heaved a deep sigh of relief and looked at Ning Ran approvingly. This woman is rather good at communication.

They continued shopping in the supermarket. When they arrived at the snacks section, Erbao was even more excited and wanted everything. Nan Chen met all her requests, doing his best to satisfy Erbao.

When it was time to foot the bill, Nan Chen passed Ning Ran a credit card and asked her to make payment.

Of course, Ning Ran did not stand on ceremony. I don’t have any money on me anyway so Poker Face must be the one paying.

They bought three big bags of groceries. The supermarket’s employees offered to deliver the groceries to Nan Chen’s house, but Nan Chen rejected them. In the end, the employees helped them to carry the groceries and put them into the car.

Without consulting Ning Ran, Nan Chen drove to her residence – the villa in the Red Maple City.

It was the two kids’ first visit to the villa in the Red Maple City. They screamed in exhilaration, “Mommy’s new house! We are here!”

After putting all the groceries into the house, Nan Chen went into the kitchen and stood there, looking lost. He looked at Ning Ran pleadingly.

Ning Ran snickered, “Doesn’t Sir Chen intend to cook dinner? Please start now.”

“Where should I start?”

“You don’t even know where to start? How will you make dinner for us then?”

“The recipe is available online.”

Ning Ran finally understood him. His confidence in his culinary skills is derived solely from the recipes available online. He intends to follow the culinary video, step-by-step, to make dinner. But the video does not teach its viewers the preparatory steps before cooking. For example, it asks one to clean and cut the vegetables, but it does not teach one how to do so. No wonder he looks so lost.

“Sir Chen, why don’t you go out first? We may need to wait till tomorrow if you are to cook dinner for us. I can starve but not the kids. Stop giving me trouble and go somewhere else. I can do it myself.”

Ning Ran put on the gloves, ready to start the dinner preparations.

A look of frustration crossed Nan Chen’s face. I am omnipotent in the business world. How can I be defeated in this mere kitchen?

Nan Chen’s prideful ego did not allow him to leave the kitchen with his head down. Instead, he stood on the side and looked at Ning Ran as she busied herself in the kitchen.

Thankfully, the open-concept kitchen in the villa was big enough to accommodate Nan Chen without him being in Ning Ran’s way.

“You’re good,” Nan Chen said suddenly.

Ning Ran was busy and did not catch what he said, “What?”

“You’re good at domestic chores,” repeated Nan Chen.

Ning Ran smiled. Is this the first time Poker Face compliments me? Also, isn’t it ironic that he praises me for being good at domestic chores?

“Are you saying I’m a village girl?” Ning Ran asked casually.

“Yes,” agreed Nan Chen.

His answer infuriated her. I can diss myself but not you! If not for someone causing my mother’s death, my family fortunes would not have declined, and I would still be a rich, young mistress!

“Do you think you are better than others, just because you don’t know how to do domestic chores?” Ning Ran glared at Nan Chen, holding a clove of garlic and pointing it at him.

Nan Chen was perplexed at her sudden outburst of anger. Is she thinking of attacking me with that clove of garlic? It has such an overwhelming smell. Wouldn’t it be embarrassing if it hits my face?

Thinking of this, he took a few steps backwards quietly.

“Why do you say I am a village girl?”

“You said it yourself,” replied Nan Chen indifferently.

“Forget it. I am magnanimous and will not hold it against you.” Ning Ran put down the clove of garlic in her hand and continued cooking.

Nan Chen continued observing Ning Ran in silence. It was apparent to him that Ning Ran was an experienced cook as she had first poured the cooking oil, followed by the vegetables into the frying pan deftly. After tossing the pan a few times, the aroma of food began to waft through the air.

Nan Chen was stupefied by the sight before him.

He had eaten a lot of delicious food but never had he once pay attention to the process involved.

So the process involved in producing such sumptuous dishes is so wonderful. It is like a project. Every step taken must be precise and is equally important. No wonder Laozi teaches that the principle in governing a country is similar to that of cooking. Every step that is taken in cooking indeed contains great knowledge.

“Come over here and take the dishes out. Why are you standing there in a daze? Do you expect me to serve you?” Ning Ran ordered.

Nan Chen’s face clouded with displeasure at being ordered around, but he suppressed his anger.

Anyway, this woman is always bad-mannered. I shall not hold it against her. Otherwise, we will not be able to continue with this dinner.

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After washing his hands, Nan Chen cautiously slipped on gloves before picking up the dishes. He felt that it was a hygienic practice, but Ning Ran felt like scolding him. Given your speed, when can we start eating dinner?

“Enough, Sir Chen. Why don’t you stand aside? I can do it myself.” Ning Ran berated. Nan Chen felt aggrieved. I have tried my best already, but this woman keeps belittling me. So what if she can cook? Must she be so arrogant?

Nan Chen insisted on helping her with the dishes despite her reluctance. How embarrassed will I be in front of the kids if I don’t lift a finger? Furthermore, I was the

one who suggested cooking dinner together. The kids will think I'm useless if I do nothing.

In the end, his insistence on helping out in the kitchen made things worse, causing more trouble for Ning Ran. Nonetheless, he refused to give up.

I don't believe that I, who can conquer the business world, have no use in the kitchen! In the end, the dinner was finally ready after Ning Ran's painstaking efforts.

Erbao applauded enthusiastically, "Mommy is the best! Daddy is great too!"

Dabao brought the ladle over to scoop rice for everyone.

Suddenly, Nan Chen used his phone to take a photograph of the dishes on the table.

Although having a family dinner together might be a usual activity for many people, it was a rare experience for him.

He, who had attended countless lavish banquets, placed so much importance on these few home-cooked dishes that he actually bothered to take a photograph of them.

After taking the photograph, he realized Ning Ran and the two kids were staring at him weirdly. He suddenly felt rather embarrassed.

It was my first time doing such things. I used to think that the people who took photographs of their food were silly and low-class. But never would I imagine I would do the same today! What exactly is my purpose in doing such a thing?

"Is Daddy planning to send the photograph to your friends?" Erbao asked, smiling.

Ning Ran was thinking the same too, but she dared not ask him.

If he sends a photograph of home-cooked dishes to his friends, won't it make the entertainment news?

"No."

Nan Chen kept his phone with an air of nonchalance to disguise his embarrassment.

I do not intend to send the photograph to my friends. This dinner is important to me, but I can't pinpoint the reason for its importance. Is it because I helped in serving the dishes? Or is it because Ning Ran was the one who cooked the dinner? And I want to take a photograph of it because it is of utmost importance to me?

“Daddy, don’t you want to take a photograph with Mommy? If you plan on sending photographs to your friends, one is not enough. You should at least take our photographs too.” Erbao suggested.

“I’m not sending the photos to my friends,” repeated Nan Chen awkwardly.

This kid... Why does he think I am sending the photographs to my friends?

“You should take a photograph with Mommy even if you don’t want to send it to your friends,” suggested Erbao impishly.

Ning Ran and Nan Chen were embarrassed, and both were at a loss of what to do next.

Nan Chen sneaked a peek at Ning Ran and realized she was already helping herself to the dishes while burying her face into her bowl of rice.

Nan Chen was an arrogant person and could not accept the rebuff. Humph!
You don’t want to take photographs with me? Well, I’m not willing to do that too!

Actually, Ning Ran was receptive to the idea. It’s only a photograph. After all, I face the cameras every day. Taking photographs is nothing to me. However, I will not force Nan Chen to do so if he is unwilling. Although he is indeed very handsome, I can’t possibly be so thick-skinned and insist on taking a photograph with him?

“Daddy, Mommy, lean closer to each other. I’ll help both of you to take a photograph together,” Erbao insisted.

The embarrassment between Nan Chen and Ning Ran deepened at Erbao’s insistence.

“Daddy, you are a man. You should take the initiative.” Even Dabao chipped in too.

These two kids are surely enjoying themselves now.

Nan Chen could not bear to dampen their spirits.

Thus, he inched closer to Ning Ran. Ning Ran, who on the other hand, was not acting coy too and cooperated with him. Nonetheless, there was still a bowl’s width of a gap between them.

“Daddy, do you not know each other? Why are both of you standing so far from each other?” Erbao complained, unsatisfied with their awkward behavior.

“Yes, the gap between both of you is too huge!” Dabao agreed with Erbao, furrowing his brows.

Both of them inched closer upon hearing the two kids’ words.

But it was not enough to satisfy the children.

“You should do this.” Suddenly, Erbao leaned closer to his brother and rested her head on her brother’s shoulder.

“Yes, yes, yes. That should be the way.” Dabao echoed in agreement.

The pose was intimate, suitable for a pair of young siblings.

But it was difficult for Nan Chen and Ning Ran to mimic it.

They exchanged a glance with each other, detecting despair in each other’s eyes.

Their relationship had not advanced to such a level yet.

Having kids together had been an accident.

Both of them inched closer together. At least this time, the sleeves of their clothes made contact. This was the best they could do.

Seeing that they took too long to warm up, the kids had lost their enthusiasm.

“Forget it, just take a photograph in this position.”

Erbao took Nan Chen’s phone, but as an afterthought, passed it to her brother, worrying she could not fulfil her duty.

Dabao took the phone and snapped a photograph of Nan Chen and Ning Ran. Despite the awkwardness on their faces, they were an enviable couple with matching good looks.

Nan Chen glanced at the photograph. She is no doubt an actress. She does look good in photographs. In fact, her photographs are prettier than her in person, although she is not considered ugly by any standards.

“Let me see.”

Ning Ran was curious. I wonder how my first photograph with Poker Face will turn out to be. Thus she took the phone over.

It’s quite satisfactory. In fact, it is not bad at all. The only problem is the blank expression on Poker Face’s face. Taking photographs with him is akin to taking with a statue.

Ning Ran’s curiosity was piqued. Is he born with a stoic expression? Or has he put on an indifferent expression on purpose?

They continued having dinner after taking the photograph.

But Er Bao was not fully satisfied yet. She went over to them, "Shall we take a photograph together as a family? Mommy and Daddy took a photograph already. You can't leave Dabao and me out!"

Dabao was in an agreeable mood today, and he concurred with his sister immediately, "Yes, yes."

However, there was no other person in the house except for the four of them. Thus, they could only do a wefie.

Erbao wanted to hold the phone but her hands were too short to complete such an uphill task.

The person with the longest hands was undoubtedly Nan Chen, but he did not know how to take a wefie. Never in his life had he taken a wefie or selfie before. How can I do such a silly thing!

He was not satisfied with the photograph after a few attempts.

Resignedly, he passed the phone to Ning Ran, signaling her to try.

Actually, Ning Ran was not good at taking a selfie or wefie too. She had neither time nor interest to do such a thing. Facing the cameras every day nearly caused her to be on the verge of collapse, what's more, taking photographs of herself in her leisure time.

Left without a choice, Ning Ran reluctantly took over the role of the photographer.

Although the outcome was not satisfactory, it was still way better than the photographs taken by Nan Chen.

"Okay, we have taken the pictures, Let's eat now."

Ning Ran felt lethargic from a whole day of filming and loads of domestic chores she did just now. She had lost her appetite and only wanted to lie down to rest.

But she was overjoyed. It had been too long since she felt this way. She had forgotten how it felt to be happy.

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After dinner, Ning Ran did not want to wash the dishes, as she was simply too tired to move.

Thus, Dabao and Erbao offered to take up the important role of washing the dishes.

But Nan Chen was worried. How can the children at their young age, do such a tedious household chore?

Ning Ran, however, claimed that such a household chore was nothing to the two kids. They had prepared breakfast for her many times before, not to mention washing dishes.

In the end, Nan Chen and the two kids washed the dishes together. Their chemistry was rather lacking though, given that they broke two bowls and a plate during the process.

Naturally, the two kids pushed the blame to Nan Chen, claiming that the bowls broke due to his clumsiness.

Nan Chen did not bother to defend himself and shouldered the blame bravely.

After bathing, Ning Ran wanted to change into her pajamas. But considering that Nan Chen was in the house, she decided against it and eventually changed into a tracksuit instead.

Taking the opportunity when the two kids and Nan Chen were playing together, she ran into the study room alone to practice her script.

This was her habit. Unless something unexpected occurred, she would usually practice her script for the next day of filming.

Only through repeated practices could she perfect her role with a deeper understanding of her role's feelings and her train of thoughts. In this way, she could then excel by immersing herself into her role during her filming on the next day. Thus while she was indeed talented in acting, it was, more importantly, due to the hard work she put in, to achieve the superb acting skills that she was known for today.

While she was lost in her script, someone knocked on the door. Nan Chen came into the study room after a half-hearted acknowledgement from Ning Ran.

"It's getting late. Why don't you help bathe the kids and put them to bed afterwards?"

Ning Ran was exhilarated. She had assumed Nan Chen would want to bring the kids back to the Nan family. It turns out I'm wrong.

"Okay. Though they can bathe themselves, I haven't helped them bathe for a long time. I will go now."

After bathing, the kids changed into their pajamas but they refused to sleep, wanting to play again.

After letting them play for some time, Ning Ran reminded them to sleep again, seeing that it was getting late. But Erbao still refused to go to bed.

Nonetheless, she went to bed obediently after a meaningful stare from Dabao.

With both kids in bed, only Nan Chen and Ning Ran were left in the living room.

An awkward silence ensued.

Nan Chen was sorting through his emails on his handphone. Finally, I have some time to myself to look at the emails.

Ning Ran sat beside him, browsing through her script while occasionally stealing glances at Nan Chen.

But Nan Chen's attention was solely on his work, and at times, he would frown or stretch himself after being in the same position for too long.

Soon, it was 11p.m.

By now, Ning Ran was sleepy, and she wanted to go to bed. This fellow doesn't seem to be moving along anytime soon! I can't jolly well leave him be in my house.

"I don't have coffee in my house. Shall I pour you some water?"

"Okay," replied Nan Chen casually without lifting his head.

Thus, Ning Ran placed the glass of water on the table before him, but he did not take a single sip. In fact, he did not even shift his gaze away from his phone at all.

Ning Ran was really sleepy by now. Covering her mouth with her hand, she gave a suppressed yawn.

But Nan Chen still did not get her hint.

Finally, Ning Ran could not take it any longer and asked, "Are you going to take a long time to complete your work?"

Nan Chen raised his head, and after glancing at Ning Ran, he took a sip of water which had cooled down already.

"There are still some more matters for me to attend to."

"Okay."

Again, they fell into an awkward silence.

After 10 minutes, Ning Ran gave up, "I'm afraid that I need to sleep now. Take your time."

“I’m about to be done.”

After a few minutes, Nan Chen finally put down his phone, seemingly done with his work.

Ning Ran heaved a sigh of relief. I can finally see him out now.

“Okay, I will sleep after I bathe.”

Shocked, Ning Ran blurted out, “Aren’t you leaving?”

“I did not say I will leave.”

“But…”

“There are so many bedrooms in this house. I can sleep in the guest room.”

With that, he strode off to another room and came out with a set of pajamas in his hands.

Ning Ran was shocked beyond words, “Why are there men’s pajamas here?”

“They’re mine.”

“When did you sleep here?”

“I came earlier in the day and had someone delivered the pajamas to me. Don’t worry. I have my suit and shirt for tomorrow as well.”

Ning Ran took in a deep breath to calm herself down. I am not worried about you! Your arrangement is too comprehensive for my liking!

“Do you have the keys to my house since you have come earlier in the day?”

“Ms. Cheng gave me the keys,” replied Nan Chen honestly.

This Cheng Xiangyun is a traitor! How can she give the keys to a house which is occupied by only two women, to a man, even if that man is Nan Chen!

“I think you better go home. I feel that it is inappropriate for you to stay overnight here.”

Nan Chen turned around at her words, “Why is it inappropriate?”

“I’m a woman and you’re a man. That’s the reason,” replied Ning Ran bluntly.

“I did not say I want to sleep with you.”

Ning Ran blushed at his words. That's so crude. So Master Chen, who is usually gentlemanly, can be so frivolous at times.

"It's really inappropriate. Please go home now. Thanks for accompanying the kids for dinner."

"I'm not leaving," rejected Nan Chen outrightly.

After speaking, he turned around and headed to the bathroom in the guestroom with the set of pajamas in his hands.

"How can you behave in this way? Even if you have the keys, you should not enter the house at your whim, especially when the female owner of the house is not home."

"There won't be a next time."

Nan Chen softened his stance, hoping to appease Ning Ran.

"Don't mention about next time. Let's focus on this time. How embarrassing will it be if Cheng returns!"

"She will at the earliest, return ten days later."

Ning Ran asked, astounded, "Tell me, did you arrange for her business trip on purpose?"

Nan Chen did not reply to her question, but provided a more astonishing reply in return, "Let's spend some time with the kids these few days okay? They have missed out on too much in their life."

Spend some time with the kids? Does he mean he intends to stay here for more than one night?

"Sir Chen, you can't be thinking of staying here long-term?"

"Depends on the time. If my work ends too late, then I won't return for fear of disturbing you and the kids."

So conversely, he wants to return to my house if his work does not end too late?

"Sir Chen, I have no intention to let you stay here on a long-term basis. I'm glad you want to return the kids to me, but I..."

"I did not return the kids to you. They are yours, to begin with. You think too much." Nan Chen interrupted her.

Then without further ado, he went straight into the bathroom.

Ning Ran could not follow him in, so she had to let it go.

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Ning Ran retired to her bedroom after Nan Chen went into the bathroom. She lay awake, tossing and turning in her bed. What's worse, my mind is full of Poker Face! What's wrong with me? Why am I always thinking about him?

Suddenly, Ning Ran thought she heard something outside her room. Has Nan Chen left?

Ning Ran tip-toed to her door. The moment she opened her door, she was met with a towering figure standing right outside her room.

She was caught off guard and almost let out an alarmed shriek before he covered her mouth swiftly and pushed her back into her room. Her mind went blank for a moment in her panic.

What does he want? Could he be...?

"Don't scream. You'll wake the kids up," warned Nan Chen in a low voice. "Don't you dare to do anything to me! Otherwise, I will sue you for..."

"Dream on," said Nan Chen coldly. Hearing his reply, Ning Ran bristled with anger. What does he mean by asking me to dream on? It is evident you want to rape me, how dare you deny it?

By now, Nan Chen had let go of her and walked to another side. He was distracted by her scent, almost causing him to give in to his desires. Therefore, to be on the side of caution, he had walked away from her quickly.

"Then what do you want? Get out. This is my bedroom." "I know this is your bedroom." Nan Chen sat down on the tiny sofa in the bedroom. "Then why are you here?"

"Erbaos woke up twice. She said her friends' parents sleep together in one bedroom and asked me why we aren't in the same bedroom. I can't give her a proper explanation, so I have to come here."

Well, he seldom talks so much at one go. Now I get it. "Erbaos is just nosy," Ning Ran said. "Don't say that of her."

Wow, now he's favoring her. "Okay, fine. Then you just sit here for the whole night. Don't you dare to molest me while I'm sleeping!"

“Dream on!” That same darned sentence again. “You’re the one dreaming!” Ning Ran retorted. She turned away from him in a huff and lay on her bed. Feeling insecure, she wrapped herself up in her quilt.

Feeling a bit guilty towards Nan Chen for telling him to sit on the sofa the entire night, she threw a pillow to him.

Nan Chen caught it and lay down on the sofa, putting the pillow behind his head.

The sofa in the bedroom was too small and shaped like a crescent moon. One could only sit on it to read a book or the like, but it was absolutely not meant to be used for sleeping.

Furthermore, Nan Chen was so tall, with such long legs.

His legs extended far beyond the sofa once he lay on it.

After a while, it was too uncomfortable for him. He readjusted his position by placing his legs on the floor, but it was still uncomfortable.

In the end, he decided to get up and put his pillow on the bed.

Ning Ran heard him moving around in the pitch-black darkness and was on the alert immediately, “What do you want?”

“Sleep.”

“Aren’t you sleeping on the sofa?”

“Too short.” His answer was short and crisp.

He had already laid down on the bed. Fortunately for Ning Ran, the bed was big enough to accommodate him without invading her personal space.

Ning Ran initially wanted him to get up but eventually decided against it. It is impossible. Even if I throw a fit at him, he also will not get up obediently. Furthermore, it seems like he only wants to sleep. He appears to be tired, letting him sleep on the sofa maybe a little too hard on him. In this case, I can live with him sharing my bed for one night.

Ning Ran was dead tired and dozed off in an instant.

On the other hand, Nan Chen was having difficulty sleeping as he lay beside her, listening to the sound of her breathing. Her faint, sweet scent filled the air.

He was really tired, but he could not sleep.

I must calm down. I must calm down.

Repeating this over and over in his head, he seemed to have calmed down slightly, particularly after taking a few deep breaths. Soon, he fell asleep.

It was already 7am when Ning Ran woke up.

She looked at Nan Chen beside her. He's still sleeping.

His hair was slightly tousled, and he slept flat on his back. Even his sleeping face was so solemn.

It is getting late. Time to wake up.

Gently, Ning Ran got out of the bed, but despite her best efforts to keep quiet, she still made some noise.

The next second, Nan Chen had woken up and leapt out of bed after tidying his hair.

He doesn't even waste a minute getting out of bed. His movements are deft and quick as if he has received military training before.

Ning Ran looked at him, dumbfounded. His gaze was fixed on her too.

Her hair was tousled and fell loose on her shoulders, giving her an air of unpolished beauty.

Nan Chen had never seen this side of Ning Ran before.

Realizing he was staring at her, Ning Ran was about to flee out of the bedroom when she heard a knocking on the door. Erbao's voice drifted in from the other side of the door, "Mommy, Daddy!"

Ning Ran responded to her with a 'Hmm'.

"Wake up! The sun's up and shining!" Erbao shouted.

"Okay, stop shouting. We're getting up."

The door opened, and Erbao revealed to be standing at the doorway. She first looked at Ning Ran, then at Nan Chen.

A satisfied, happy grin spread over her face. A burst of warmth welled up in her.

Nan Chen scooped her up in his arms and walked towards the living room.

Ning Ran followed behind them. Erbao winked at her over Nan Chen's shoulder with a meaning grin.

Ning Ran rolled her eyes at her. This kid thinks too much!

After brushing her teeth, someone rang the doorbell.

Someone was here to deliver a sumptuous breakfast, which caused Erbao to scream out in joy.

"We usually prepare our own breakfast. Don't bother ordering breakfast next time."

"The kids are used to the breakfast in the Nan family, so I have specially ordered them to deliver it over. Dig in."

Ning Ran was stumped for words.

When I used to make breakfast for the kids, I would keep the costs to the minimal so long as the breakfast was sufficiently nutritious.

Ning Ran would definitely not be able to come up with the type of breakfast before her.

How can the kids be contented with the noodles and eggs I cook, now that they are used to such extravagant breakfast? Have they become accustomed to the lavish lifestyle in the Nan family and would not return to the times when we only have each other?

"Mommy's breakfast is yummy too! We also like it! We want to eat the breakfast Mommy makes tomorrow!" Dabao said on purpose to lift Ning Ran's mood, upon sensing that she was feeling down.

Ning Ran perked up immediately.

Dabao is such a good kid! Well, if I'm to be honest, this breakfast is sumptuous! If I'm the kids, I would choose the superb breakfast prepared by the Nan family too.

Gradually, Ning Ran started to tuck into the breakfast too.

Of course, I must enjoy the sumptuous breakfast.

Suddenly, she realized Nan Chen was staring at her as she wolfed down the food. But it was too late.

Ning Ran wiped her mouth with a piece of tissue, "I ate too little for dinner last night, so I am particularly famished this morning."

“Mommy ate a lot last night too,” Erbao chipped in happily, hitting Ning Ran’s sore spot. However, she regretted immediately once she realized her words might cause Ning Ran embarrassment. Lowering her head guiltily, she muttered, “Actually, the amount I eat is similar to Mommy’s.”

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The chauffeur was already waiting for them by the time they were done with breakfast.

Nan Chen needed to rush for a meeting, so he had no time to send Ning Ran and the kids to school. Thus he had tasked his chauffeur who doubled up as his bodyguard to send them instead.

The chauffeur was a sharp-looking fellow with slightly tanned skin and surprisingly white teeth when he smiled.

“Third Madam.”

This was the first time Ning Ran was being greeted this way. *Third Madam?*

“How did you just address me?”

“Sir Chen is the Third Young Master, so naturally you must be Third Madam. I should greet you as Young Mistress, but I have no choice but to greet you as Third Madam to distinguish you from the other madams,” explained the chauffeur politely.

Well, it sounds logical. Ning Ran knew Nan Chen was used to being greeted as Third Young Master. Even Zheng Lunlun greeted him as his Third Uncle.

But both ‘Third Uncle’ or ‘Third Young Master’ sound fine. Why does ‘Third Madam’ make me sound like his mistress?

“Third Madam, what have I done wrong?” The chauffeur asked warily, detecting a shift in Ning Ran’s mood.

“Oh, you have done nothing wrong. Actually, you don’t need to be so polite. Just greet me as Ding.”

“No, I can’t. I cannot flout the rules. The Nan family places much emphasis on house rules and discipline. One would be in a mess without discipline.”

Ning Ran was impressed with his inspiring speech. *This boy speaks well. It is a pity he is only a chauffeur.*

“How long have you worked in the Nan family?”

“Over a year. I am a poor student sponsored by Sir Chen. Since I graduated from university, I’ve been working in one of the subsidiary companies under Nanshi Corporation as a sales personnel.”

So he is a university graduate! No wonder he speaks so well. But why is he working as a chauffeur if he is a university graduate?

Guessing her thoughts, he continued, “Actually, I am only Sir Chen’s trainee personal assistant only. He sets very high expectations for his assistant, who is required to understand his lifestyle very well. So, I’m still learning.”

Ning Ran did not really understand his role, but she surmised that he was someone Nan Chen trusted.

A sudden thought struck her, “Then do you know Luo Fei?”

“I know. She is Sir Chen’s ex-girlfriend.”

“Then did you refer her as Third Madam too?”

Even she was abashed, asking the question.

Why did I ask that? What do I want by asking the question?

He smiled, “No. The Nan family does not have much contact with Ms. Luo.”

“Is she not your Third Young Master’s girlfriend? Why didn’t you have much contact with her?”

“By right, we should not comment too much on Sir Chen’s matters. But Luo Fei is merely Sir Chen’s girlfriend in name. They don’t have much contact.”

“Okay, never mind. I’m just curious. It’s only a casual question.”

The young man only smiled and did not comment further.

“What is your name?”

“I am Wang Cheng.”

“Okay, shall we be friends from now on?”

Wang Cheng was a trainee personal assistant and knew a lot about the Nan family’s affairs. Ning Ran believed she could befriend him.

At least, I can find out more about the Nan family from him. It doesn't hurt to have more friends.

"Thank you, Third Madam. I will be glad to."

"Great. I'll treat you to a meal one day."

"Thank you, Third Madam."

"Oh yes, doesn't Sir Chen have a girlfriend now?"

"I think no. Why do you say that?"

"I saw him with a beautiful lady once when we went for dinner. He is such a busy man, and seldom accompanies a woman for dinner, I guess she must be his new girlfriend."

Wang Cheng smiled, "I don't know who the lady is, but I'm sure Sir Chen does not have a new girlfriend. Sir Chen is different from Fourth Young Master, and is not particularly interested in the beautiful ladies even if they throw themselves at him."

Ning Ran wanted to pry further, but she was worried about being deemed as a nosy parker if she continued asking. Thus she decided against it.

Ning Ran dropped off the two kids in front of the school. Erbao kissed her on the cheek sweetly to bid farewell, "Goodbye Mommy, see you later."

"Bye darlings."

Ning Ran waved her hands, and only returned to the car after seeing them enter the school safely.

After reaching the film set, Ning Ran thanked Wang Cheng and started on her hectic filming schedule. Other than her lunchtime, she had no other time to rest at all.

Finally, her scenes were completed at 6 pm. She heaved a long sigh of relief. *Finally! I'm dead beat!*

Outside the film set, the car Nan Chen had sent for her had arrived.

This time, it was Qiao Zhan instead of Wang Cheng.

"Hello, Ms. Ding."

Qiao Zhan was savvier and greeted her as Ms. Ding instead of other various fanciful titles such as 'Young Mistress' or 'Third Madam' because he knew Ning Ran did not like them.

“Thank you for fetching me, Captain Qiao. I could have taken a cab myself and claim the fare from Sir Chen,” Ning Ran joked.

Qiao Zhan smiled too, “Protecting Ms. Ding, Little Master and Little Miss is the main priority of the Security team.”

“Thank you, Captain Qiao. I’m flattered as I haven’t enjoyed such privileged treatment before.”

“You will get used to it soon. Please contact me directly in the future if you have any requirement. There are a lot of matters that I can settle on my own without alarming Sir Chen and that little eunuch.”

“Little eunuch?”

“Haha, I’m referring to Jiang Zhe.”

Ning Ran’s curiosity was piqued, “Why do you refer to him as a little eunuch?”

“I’m just joking.”

“I’m sure there is a reason. Come on, tell me since we have nothing to do now.”

“I feel that Assistant Jiang is akin to the eunuch serving the emperor in the olden times, as Sir Chen trusts him very much. So, I’m only joking by referring to him as a little eunuch.”

“Sir Chen also places a lot of trust in you. You and Assistant Jiang are the most trustworthy people around him.”

“I cannot match up to that little eunuch. He is too good at talking and reading others’ minds. I am nothing but a boor who can only perform my duty quietly.”

Qiao Zhan curled his lip at the mention of Jiang Zhe.

Actually, Ning Ran also felt that Jiang Zhe was too glib and unlikable. *Furthermore, he will be Nan Chen’s main accomplice, if I am to deal with Nan Chen in the future.*

Maybe winning over Qiao Zhan will be a good strategy.

“Assistant Jiang is brilliant at work, as he is smooth and slick. But Captain Qiao is loyal and will die to protect one at the most critical moment. You deserve more respect.” Ning Ran declared her support to him.

Her compliments puffed up his ego.

“Thank you for your compliments, Ms. Ding. Your problems are mine in the future. I shall kill whoever offends Ms. Ding!”

Celebrity Girl Is My Wife Chapter 270

It seems like my relationship with this boorish guy is improving after all the chit-chatting. This was exactly the outcome Ning Ran was hoping for.

Nan Chen is so powerful; he can almost control my life. His strength comes with its pros and cons. If I am in his good books, he will be my backing, ensuring that I live a worry-free life. Conversely, if I defy him, I will face mounting pressure from him.

Ning Ran was well aware that given her temper, there would be a time when she defied his wishes. Therefore, she was planning to reduce the resources that Nan Chen could use against her so that ready support would be available when she quarreled with Nan Chen. “We’ve reached, Ms. Ding.”

Upon hearing Qian Zhan’s voice, Ning Ran was jolted back from her thoughts. Raising her head, Ning Ran realized she was back at the same supermarket she had visited yesterday.

“I came here yesterday. There’s no need to shop here today.” “Sir Chen asked me to send you here. My task is accomplished. He is waiting for you inside.” “What is he up to again?”

Ning Ran alighted from the car and entered the supermarket. Walking around the supermarket, she finally found Nan Chen in the seafood area and was astounded to notice that he was pushing a trolley full of groceries and snacks.

He is shopping alone, without anyone following behind him! What’s more shocking is that the items in his trolley, in particular, the food ingredients are the same as the ones we bought yesterday!

“Done. Let’s go,” said Nan Chen to Ning Ran.

“Sir Chen, we bought these items yesterday,” reminded Ning Ran.

“Oh.”

“There’s no need to buy them today if we bought them yesterday. Why do you want to buy the same items?” Ning Ran asked, puzzled.

Nan Chen did not answer her.

When they reached their turn at the cashier, she swiped Nan Chen’s card just like yesterday.

However, when she wanted to return the card back to Nan Chen, he declined, saying, "You can keep it."

"Oh, are you giving me a credit card? How much is the card limit?"

Ning Ran analyzed the black credit card in her hand with interest. Is this the legendary rich man's card?

"Enough for you to spend."

"So if I overspend, will this card be suspended?"

"It won't be, so long as you don't buy over the entire planet."

Ning Ran was amused, "So you can tell jokes too? This is such a rare sight. That's the way to go. Why do you put on such a stern face all the time?"

Nan Chen gazed at her coldly, "I'm not joking."

"Hahaha, is this also a joke? Are you sure I can buy the whole planet with this card?"

Nan Chen kept quiet and pushed the trolley in the direction of the supermarket's exit.

Ning Ran followed him at his heels, noticing the envious looks from the female customers surrounding them.

I should not go out with this fellow so often. Otherwise, I will suffer from the other women's jealous wrath.

When they reached the carpark entrance, employees dressed in formal suits took over the trolley from Nan Chen.

Nan Chen then led Ning Ran towards a blue sports car.

"Don't you want the groceries?"

"They will deliver the groceries to the house."

Ning Ran circled the sports car. Does Poker Face drive such a flashy car? Doesn't he always drive the ever-serious Rolls-Royce? So he's into sports cars now?

"Not to your liking? Nan Chen asked.

"No, no. I like it. It's such an expensive car. Of course, I like it." Ning Ran waved her hands frantically.

“Then do you want to test drive it?” Nan Chen threw a car key over to her.

“No, no. I’m not testing it.”

My driving skills are not the best, to begin with. This car is so expensive. I won’t be able to afford the compensation if I damage it! I’m knee-deep in debts already. How can I live on if my debts pile on!

“Test it.”

Amused at the sight of Ning Ran having cold feet, Nan Chen insisted on her testing the car.

“No!”

“Test it!”

“I really don’t want to test it!”

“Just test it!”

Just like this, the attractive couple circled the car while quarrelling, all for the sake of a silly point – Did Ning Ran want to test drive the car?

“Fine, I will test it.” Ning Ran gave up in resignation.

Fine, I’ll test it then. What’s the big deal?

The last time Ning Ran test-drove the car, she had driven it at the speed of a snail.

Sitting in the driver’s seat, she started the engine after putting on her seat belt. The car roared to life, causing Ning Ran to almost jump out of her skin.

Just like the last time, Ning Ran stepped lightly on the accelerator, and the car jumped forward like a ferocious leopard.

Seeing that she was almost about to bang into the car in front of her, she stepped hard on the brakes frantically. The car screeched to an abrupt stop.

Guiltily, Ning Ran looked at Nan Chen who was standing aside. Nan Chen appeared to be nonchalant with his typical indifferent expression.

Let me see if you will be so calm if I crash into a lamp pole!

“Continue,” ordered Nan Chen calmly.

“Master Chen, I guess the level of my driving skills is apparent to you. Must I really continue?” Ning Ran pulled a long face.

“Continue,” Nan Chen repeated.

Thus, Ning Ran started the engine again.

With the lesson learnt from her previous experience, Ning Ran was more careful now.

She slowly drove the car out of the carpark and merged into the bustling traffic on the road.

Ning Ran held on to the steering wheel tightly, her eyes staring intently on the road before her, fearing she might make a mistake.

Looking at her, the corners of Nan Chen’s mouth curved slightly upwards.

This woman is so stupid. She gets this nervous while driving a car. Wouldn’t she pass out if I asked her to drive a plane?

The cars behind her could not stand her anymore and honked their horns at her continuously.

When they overtook her, they made it a point to look at the driver of this magnificent sports car. Who is the person who can drive at such a slow speed? What an insult to this car!

The second they saw her beautiful face and the gorgeous, albeit cold man beside her, the words of curses choked in their throats.

So pretty. Forget it. I can forgive her even if she drives at an even slower speed. Furthermore, the man beside her doesn’t look like a pushover. I will get into trouble if I scold her.

In this snobbish society, one could easily identify who they could bully or vice versa.

Luckily for Ning Ran, she did not knock into any car nor lamp pole along the way to Red Maple City.

Of course, it was not due to her driving skills, but rather because she simply drove too slowly.

Have anyone seen a snail knocking into any objects? Of course not.

Ning Ran had driven as fast as a snail. Of course, she would not get into an accident along the way.

“Oh yeah!” Ning Ran yelled out in triumph.

Upon reaching her destination, Ning Ran swelled up with pride, thinking she had accomplished a major feat in her life again!

On the other hand, disdain was spelt all over Nan Chen’s face. She really is shameless. How can she celebrate when she has driven so horrendously?

The men delivering the groceries from the supermarket had arrived long ago and were waiting anxiously in front of the door.

Wang Cheng had fetched the kids from school a while ago, and he left after Ning Ran returned home.

No helper is allowed in this villa. That was Nan Chen’s principle.