

Chapter 547 – Taken – Read novel online for free

It was such a pity that a charming lady like her was already taken!

If only he had met her earlier!

Still, why was she with Gu Xingze now?

“Master Gu!”

This time, without the birthday girl reminding him, Li Chengze mindfully gave up his seat.

As a person who was part of the high society in the capital, a true nobility like him would naturally know of the superstar’s identity.

It was all because of this man’s older brother, Gu Jinglian. Even if one did not know of the capital’s mayor, they should know of that eminent figure.

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Practically everyone in the high society knew of the Gu family. Li Chengze had had some dealings with that family’s omnipotent head.

Therefore, for the sake of the older brother, he had to show Gu Xingze some respect.

He extended a warm hand to the superstar, who was staring at him from his peripheral view with no emotion. The man did reach out his hand to him, yet it only touched his for the briefest moment. His apathetic attitude had somewhat embarrassed Li Chengze.

He chided himself, yet he kept a proper smile on his face.

The superstar helped his companion to a seat. Wanting to satisfy his selfish desires, Li Chengze took the seat beside her.

He glanced at the lovely creature by his side. When her exposed fair arm accidentally rubbed against his elbow, he was barely able to contain himself!

Face to face with such a gorgeous lady, even her small and unintentional movement made him nearly unable to sit still.

The woman sitting beside Li Chengze could not refrain herself from eyeballing the superstar.

She was not a socialite of this class and was only a budding model. Having never attended a social event in high society before, her lowly position evidently did not qualify her to meet Gu Xingze in person. She only knew of his decade-long experience in the entertainment industry and his unreachable status as a superstar.

He was just a celebrity, yet he actually made Li Chengze voluntarily offer him his seat – he was definitely no simple character!

Hence, she lightly nudged Li Chengze's elbow and whispered a question to him. "Master Li, this Gu Xingze seems to be a person of importance?"

"Mm! His older brother, Master Gu, is a force to be reckoned with."

"Master Gu? Which Master Gu?"

All his attention was centered on Yun Shishi right now, so he had no patience for her queries. Flashing her with an annoyed look, he said, “How many Master Gu is there in the capital? He’s the one that I told you before – one of this capital’s four masters.”

“I only heard of one Gu family that can exert influence in the capital with their mighty legacy!”

“That’s them! Who else can Ye Minglan respectfully and fervently address as Master Gu? Obviously, it’s that Gu Jinglian from the Gu family!”

The face of the man beside Li Chengze unknowingly drained of all color. “Ah?! He’s... Master Gu’s younger brother?!”

He lowered his voice as soon as he said that. “I thought he’s just a celebrity! He looks really young. Is he in his early 20s?”

Sitting adjacent to them, Ye Minglan obviously overheard their little chit-chat and snorted haughtily. “Today, if it weren’t for me, you two wouldn’t even be qualified to sit with him over some drinks!”

Li Chengze hissed at her but did not refute her at all.

In his heart, he acknowledged Gu Jinglian as a powerful figure.

However, Gu Xingze was no more than an illegitimate child of the Gu family. Unacknowledged, he was, thus, inferior to his older brother. What was he being so cocky for, then?!

Chapter 548: There is no woman I cannot have!

Li Chengze scrutinized Yun Shishi with much interest. With a gleam in his eyes, he muttered to the birthday girl, “Minglan, what’s the name of the girl sitting beside Mr. Gu? If you can get her for me...”

She rolled her eyes and sneered. “Look at you! Why? Are you interested in another man’s woman now? Don’t be a Humbert lusting after a Lolita!”

“C’mon. Find a way to get a hold of this woman for me, will you? I’ll get you the Hermes limited edition bag that you’ve been eyeing!”

“Am I that cheap?!” Ye Minglan shoved him in annoyance while giving him a mocking look. “Please dream on! How dare you try to touch Xingze’s girl! Are you tired of living?!”

His eyes sparkled with excitement as he spoke in a hushed tone. “It’s only a woman, right? There’s no girl in the capital that I, Li Chengze, can’t have! He he! She looks so sweet! Wasn’t she with Master Mu before? She probably got dumped after he got sick of her!”

Hearing his words, she took a second look at her and then finally remembered their previous encounter with her. She was that woman having dinner with Master Mu!

No wonder she looks so familiar!

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She was still upset at the recollection of this woman chasing them away.

However, thinking that this lass ended up with Gu Xingze after getting dumped by Master Mu, she could not help but feel a little sorry for her.

He he! She's probably trying to get benefit from Gu Xingze now!

Her deduction made her feel better.

“I think that you'd be better off forgetting it. No matter what, she's Gu Xingze's companion now. I have to consider his feelings, too!”

The man creased his forehead nonchalantly. “It's just a girl, right? He can have any woman he wants with his status, can't he? All women want to have a piece of him. With so many girls waiting to crawl into his bed, do you think he will care about this one?”

She glared obliquely at him and muttered, “I have neither seen Xingze with other women nor witnessed him showering anyone with much care and attention before. You should've seen how he cut the steak for her earlier. He was really attentive!”

She initially thought her to be a missy from a rich family, but no matter how hard she tried, she could not recall which family that could be. She knew almost every rich individual in the capital, but she had no impression of this lady.

From what she could see now, this lady should be a rookie who was eager to advance her career in the show business; she was probably a fresh model or actress.

One thing was for sure; this woman was no rich lady.

Li Chengze was displeased when she reiterated, “My advice to you is to put a stop to your idea about that woman now!”

He simply gave a loud snort and ignored her.

Aren't all women the same?! If she can bed Mu Yazhe and then move on to Gu Xingze next, she can surely be with me in bed, right?

Well. I can always wait for the superstar to get tired of her after he has his fun, and then I'll take over from there!

She's such a sweetie; I don't mind if she's just a leftover of the two!

Yun Shishi sat quietly beside Gu Xingze. With her eyes looking down, only her luscious eyelashes were visible. She looked harried and helpless, just like a little lamb shuffled into a wolf's den, the way her left hand held onto the man's sleeve tightly.

Chapter 549: Warning

As if splashed by a bucket of cold water, the earlier excitement was completely extinguished by Gu Xingze's arrival at the VIP booth.

Everyone present was of the same age as him, and, in fact, some were older than him, but all acted like their typical rich selves – spoiled with all their vices.

Today, on Ye Minglan's birthday, they intended to party to their hearts' content in this nightspot. The night was just starting to get

wild when the superstar took his seat. Somehow, his presence here was out of place.

This handsome superstar was just in his early or late 20s, yet he exuded a palpable air of maturity and indifference that dissuaded others from getting close to him.

Even the hostess found her smile gradually frosting over.

Li Chengze, sensing the upbeat atmosphere turning gloomy, deftly directed everyone's attention to Yun Shishi.

“Hey. Who is this lady beside Xingze? She's such a looker!”

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Hearing that, Yun Shishi lifted her small face with a shy look. She traced the voice back to Li Chengze, who nearly lost himself in his lust upon meeting her doe eyes. If she were not the superstar's companion, he would truly take the liberty to ravage her tender lips.

Just as he finished his compliment, the rest started adding theirs.

The thing was that these rich men's praises were actually genuine. After all, her beauty was the kind that easily moved a man.

Pure, innocent, and pleasant. Which man could resist a woman like that?

Restraining his frivolous nature, he smiled gently at her and asked, “I'm called Li Chengze; you can address me as Chengze. What's yours?”

Frowning, she hesitated to answer his question.

She neither liked his pick-up line nor him as a person with his indecorous behavior.

This only piqued the man's interest as he thought, This girl is surely shy!

How would she behave in bed? Would she be wanton or be sweet and naïve just like her appearance?

He had bedded many innocent types before, but all of them was just pretending to mask their avaricious nature. None had the kind of authenticity she had.

He softened his tone further when she did not answer him.

“Don't be shy; I have no ulterior motive!”

He really sounded like he meant it.

Biting her lower lip, she replied neutrally, “I'm Yun Shishi.”

Her voice was soft and melodious, just like a clear spring, and it was simply music to his ears.

He revealed a row of white teeth with his smile, yet he failed to hide the lasciviousness in his eyes. “Ha ha! What a nice name! Can I be your friend?”

The superstar eyed the man from his peripheral view. Before she could form a reply, his lips flared up, and with a sudden jerk of his chin, he reached out to encircle her shoulders possessively with his

arm. She leaned headlong into his embrace as the others quickly got his signal.

The man was silently warning everyone at this booth not to touch her.

He was protecting her.

The mood was being energized anew by Ye Minglan, yet no one dared to talk to Gu Xingze still.

Chapter 550: A Song by Xingze

Never mind the man's haughtiness and aloofness, just his special family background made it difficult for everyone to get close to him. They could not even hold a candle to the man, so how could they attempt to befriend him? Simply put, they were worlds apart.

Hence, the group at the table soon segregated into two distinct parties. One group was the man and his companion; another group was the rest with their respective partners, playing finger-guessing games and throwing dices.

The superstar disliked this crowd from the get-go and found them to be distasteful.

As for Yun Shishi who was sitting next to him, she found the group to be too materialistic. She knew there and then that she did not belong to their world.

Ye Minglan nudged her toward Li Chengze's side as she squeezed herself beside Gu Xingze.

It was obvious that she was trying to create a chance for her friend.

The birthday girl poured a shot of Hennessy for the superstar while she gave his companion a spiteful look from the corner of her eye.

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Yun Shishi was sensitive enough to pick up the hint of hostility and could not help turning her head over her shoulder in shock.

What did she do to warrant such a contemptuous look from the birthday girl? She was just sitting next to the man!

As she was getting worked up, the woman assumed her fabulous smile again, as though she had just imagined her expression just then.

She could bear this environment no longer and wanted to leave as soon as possible. Turning her head to Gu Xingze, she saw him looking irate as he downed the Hennessy in one shot under Ye Minglan's pestering. She could imagine his boredom as well!

“Xingze, it's my birthday today; did you get me a present?” The birthday girl suddenly clung and leaned slightly on to the superstar's arm petulantly. She seemed to be in a daze from the few drinks she had had.

“It was too rushed for me to get you one,” he replied with a smile.

The rest started to clamor when they heard that.

“Punishment! Punishment! Punishment!”

“You ought to be punished with a drink for not preparing a present for Sister Minglan! It’s her birthday, yet you didn’t prepare a gift for her!”

The birthday girl raised her hand to signal peace before she turned to him. “You definitely have to take a shot as punishment, but a present from you is still possible, right?”

Just then, the singing on stage came to a halt.

After their song ended, the band thanked the audience and left the stage.

“Encore! Encore!”

The audience was in a frenzy and asked for more.

The woman suddenly had an idea. Turning to face the superstar with a smile, she asked coyly, “Xingze, didn’t you just release a new EP recently? Can you make an exception and sing a song for me tonight?”

Li Chengze whistled upon hearing that. “Wow! Xingze’s gonna sing a song!”

The man turned to look at Yun Shishi pensively, as if seeking her permission. The latter was startled before she smiled and signaled him to go ahead.

Thus, after taking the shot of Hennessy in one gulp amid the cheers, he turned to face Ye Minglan and said, “All right. I’ll sing a song for you.”

“Wow! Excellent!”

“Only Sister Minglan has such a great charm for a superstar to make an exception!”

The star walked up to the stage, and the band promptly assembled behind him. He conferred with the musicians for a while before he sat in a chair at the forefront and lifted the mike near his mouth.

The drum instantly started, followed by the guitar at a light tempo.

Chapter 551: Nation’ s God

He conferred with the musicians for a while before he sat in a chair at the forefront and lifted the mike near his mouth.

There was a stir below the stage once his handsome face was exposed on the stage.

“Gu Xingze?!”

“Oh, god! What is Superstar Gu doing here?!”

“I’m so excited! This is my first time seeing him in person! He’s so good-looking!”

...

On the stage, the superstar looked up suddenly. His eyes shot through the crowd toward a certain person nestled at the VIP booth. His lips revealed a little smile as tender affection enveloped his eyes.

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“Oh, god! Look, everyone! Gu Xingze is looking at me!” Ye Minglan was electrified as she saw him gazing in their direction. Her exclamation was full of pride and satisfaction.

Soon, a few of them started to echo. “That’s right! Superstar Gu is looking at Sister Minglan!”

“Does Superstar Gu have a liking for Sister Minglan?! Look at his eyes; oh, god. They look so tender! I’ll melt if he looks at me in that way!”

...

Amid the clamor, Yun Shishi looked at the superstar on the stage and seemed to sense his eyes on her as well. His deep and loving eyes were staring into hers across the space!

Feeling disconcerted, she sipped her lips and looked down.

The man, still smiling, saw her reaction and snapped his fingers.

The drum instantly started, followed by the guitar at a light tempo.

“You’re wearing a smile despite your anger...”

The audience turned subdued the moment he started his first note.

His lazy and magnetic voice boomed crisp and clear through the microphone. His beautiful and dreamy brassy voice was deeply touching and emotional!

He wrote the lyrics, composed the score, and even insisted on doing the music arrangement. Now, this song was recorded in his EP album.

This EP had yet to be released.

Hence, the public had not heard this song before. With his excellent stage presence that quickly captured people's attention, the noise died down instantly as everyone craned their necks to listen to him attentively.

“In the busy crowd

As the sky turns dark

I don't mind

My hand holding yours

As the sky lights up, I look at the scene outside the window

Your smiles are written into my diary

Over and over again

I study with care

Because of you

The world is so beautiful...”

He closed his eyes and immersed himself in his singing as he held the mike firmly. His vibrant and charming voice could make anyone go weak in their knees!

The crowd instantly burst into an uproar.

He was singing a love song with a light-hearted tempo that suited his crisp and magnetic voice.

The lyrics described a pair of lovers at the height of their relationship with their lovelorn feelings. Every minute and second of separation was torture to the two.

Seeing each other again after being apart was akin to having the sun back in the sky after the gloomy weather.

Everyone quieted down to enjoy his melodious singing.

“Why do I like you

The youth is gone

Yet I’m still here

Never apart. Oh...”

He closed his eyes lightly as he hit the climax note. His impeccable face enraptured the audience’s attention under the bright stage lights. Those who were close to the stage could even see his luscious eyelashes quivering with emotion as he knitted his brows. The women, with their girly desires, were swooned!

His stage presence was equally powerful and brought the audience into the song.

Indubitably, Gu Xingze was a superb singer. Based on this flawless impromptu performance of his, he truly deserved his platinum record.

Chapter 552: Join Me for A Drink

“The sun shines brighter because of you

I wanna be the warm breeze surrounding you

The chocolate that is white

The love that is saccharine

Take a deep breath

Because I only owe you an ‘I love you’

The clock keeps ticking by

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Yet the moon in the sky refuses to descend

Time drags on

And I’m not used to you being gone

I do miss you...

Oh, I do miss you...”

The sentimental lyrics touched the depths of their hearts to the extent that many of them were moved into tears.

“Gu Xingze’s singing is so emotional! My heart is almost broken!”

“He’s my idol; I’ve been his fan for 10 years now! Xingze! Xingze, I love you—”

...

Yun Shishi, who was entranced by his singing, felt someone grab her hand, then nuzzling it.

Such an intimate action prompted her shock, and subsequently she retracted her hand. She quickly lifted her gaze, only to see Li Chengze gesturing at her to remain silent by uttering a repressed ‘shh’!

“You... What are you doing?” She glared at him. In a state of shock, she was greatly perturbed by his invasive action.

She dropped her head and helplessly fidgeted with her hands as her red lips constantly came to a purse. She appeared to be avoiding him.

The man observed the beauty beside him. Sure enough, he could barely hold himself together.

“I must have scared you! It’s just that I saw you lost in your thoughts! I called you so many times, but you didn’t answer.”

How could he let go of this golden opportunity to get to know her better? He immediately closed in on her with a grin. “Good girl, don’t mind me! I simply want you to have a drink with me!”

She looked up at him with furrowed brows. Noticing a brazen desire in his eyes and his blatant gaze on her face, she shifted her eyes downward in discomfort.

Her lips became rosier and more moist due to her rubbing them against her pearly white teeth moments before. Seeing her looking more tempting in a forbidden way, he almost fell into a reverie.

He bit his teeth furtively. She was such a beauty, yet she was Gu Xingze's at present; it was too difficult to advance on her.

If she were another, he would definitely spare no method to capture her and shield her from others who were eyeing her.

Recalling the superstar's actions earlier, it could be said that the man was rather interested in this woman!

Although she was his for now, this might not be the case in the future.

It seemed that she had only aroused his interest, momentarily. Thus, for now, the man was playing with her. Once he got tired of her, he would surely toss her away, no?

Since the superstar would get rid of her sooner or later, why should he not leave a good impression of himself to her? Later, he would snatch her away from the man's grasp and let her become his entirely!

As for now, he could only tolerate and settle himself with eyeballing her. While he already had her in his mind, he would not be too daring; he was unwilling to offend that man because of a woman, after all!

She was completely unaware of his intention, however. She perceived his gentleness to her as not ill-intended, so her impression of him considerably improved. She simply thought that the man was

not as wretched as he seemed to be when they first met. On the contrary, he was rather friendly to her.

She let out a grin at that, causing her two adorable dimples to surface. “I don’t drink.”

That smile was akin to a pure lily and made him fall into a stupor. His heart was itching for her yet again.

Everyone else noted the rare opportunity to approach her. Since Gu Xingze was not present, they were all ready to make their moves on her.

Li Chengze spun his head around and flashed them a fierce glare. His stance was clear. He had taken a liking to this girl and had made the first move – the rest should not even think of hitting on her!

Chapter 553: How Much to Bed You for A Night?

The others could only sigh in regret at Li Chengze’s intimidation!

Since the Li family was considered to be rather influential, they held a bit of deference for this man! Naturally, they had to drop out of the competition to maintain a good rapport with him.

Returning his attention on to Yun Shishi, he realized that she had not budged even a bit. He proceeded to serve her a glass of red wine as he requested with a pleasant smile, “Why aren’t you drinking when you come to a bar?”

Gazing at the wine-filled glass, she swung her head back and forth in reluctance. “I really can’t drink!”

Putting aside this glass of wine, even a sip of alcohol was no good for her!

Her alcohol tolerance was extraordinarily low; she was taught the hard way of this before.

Back during Huanyu’s annual gala, she unwillingly gulped a few mouthfuls of red wine and was subsequently knocked out.

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Putting on an act of disappointment, he sighed. “Shishi, aren’t you going to give me face?”

She asserted her stance and politely declined his offer.

The man was regrettably unaware of her low alcohol tolerance; conversely, he thought that she was purposefully not showing him respect in front of so many others.

Everyone broke into laughter. “This is the first time I’ve seen Chengze being rejected by a woman. She clearly doesn’t want to give you face!”

Enraged by their provocation, he grabbed a hold of her shoulder and forcefully dragged her into his embrace to prevent her from resisting. He shoved the rim of the glass of wine to her lips and demanded, “Drink, or else you’ll be putting me in a tight spot!”

“I really can’t drink!” Once again, she insisted on her stance.

This man was clearly trying to force her to drink!

Absolute disgust was displayed on her face. Vigorously struggling out of his grasp, this caused the glass to fall to the ground and shatter.

In an instant, the entire venue descended into silence.

Everyone exchanged glances in consternation.

Bearing witness to her violent response, he flew into a rage out of sheer embarrassment. “Do you need to give such a big reaction?!”

Getting a little displeased at him, she tightly pursed her lips; she was rather unwilling to pay attention to him now.

Her defiance further agitated him.

When he spied her brows coming into a distressing knit and her face displaying the telltale sign of detest, he became a little annoyed.

This woman was clearly not interested in him!

He fleetingly touched her, yet she readily avoided him like the plague; it was as if his touch were poison to her!

Why could other men touch her? Why did she not resist violently when Gu Xingze put his hand around her shoulders? Why was he not allowed to have a drink with her?!

Everyone burst into another round of laughter at this sight.

With Gu Xingze’s absence, their words grew unscrupulous.

“So Gu Xingze has his eye on this woman?”

“As Gu Xingze’s female partner, she’s off limits. Chengze, it’s always first come, first served. Plus, she doesn’t seem to welcome your affection.”

Yun Shishi sheepishly studied their licentious and sinful faces, and her heart slightly shuddered with revulsion.

When the superstar was around, they treated her with modesty.

When he was away for a while, they started speaking discourteously; was this their true faces?

Her expression hardened and she tried to explain herself. “Xingze and I are just friends!”

“You’re called Yun Shishi, right?”

Li Chengze clutched her arm with a menacing and hideous look. “How much to bed you for a night? I like my price to be stated clearly. It’s just money; I can give you the amount you want. State your price!”

She was taken aback at his bold and outrageous request. With her eyes widening, she looked at him in disbelief.

Chapter 554: Have I Not Given You Enough Face?

“Ha! What’s with that look?” He smirked. “Can’t you tell that I want to bed you tonight? It’s going to be boring if you continue to act

all innocent! What do you want? Status? You're after Mu Yazhe's and Gu Xingze's resources so you hook up with them. If you follow me, I'll hook you up with a production and help boost your status. How does that sound?"

Hurt by his teasing and humiliating words, her face instantly turned ghastly.

She scanned her surroundings and noticed that everyone's faces were gradually turning hideous as they wreathed themselves in smoke.

The most salacious side of humanity was vividly portrayed before her eyes.

"Wow! This is the first time I've seen Chengze lose his patience, and it's actually because of a woman." Someone snickered jeeringly at him.

A woman beside the man latched herself on to him and gently whispered, "Master Li, today is Minglan's birthday. Seldom do we gather together; don't get mad over a woman!"

She tenderly handed him a glass of wine and shot Yun Shishi an ambiguous look before she dropped some suggestive remarks.

"Some women are born low-class and evil. They naturally and wholeheartedly desire to improve their status! Master Li, why should you concern yourself with such a woman?"

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With half-lidded eyes, he accepted the wine offered to him and took a sip of it, yet he kept his silence and observed the ambition in Yun Shishi's eyes.

She suddenly stood up without a word and wafted through the crowd and away from the booth.

The crowd teased, “Ha ha! She’s angry! When she’s angry, she looks kind of cute!”

“Master Li, do you have some problems with your charms? You shouldn’t treat a woman like her with your previous methods. Should I impart you with some of my ways?”

“Scram!” He took an annoyed gulp of his wine.

...

Leaving the stage, Gu Xingze was showered with a thunderous applause and cheers for an extended amount of time by the audience.

The moment he got back to the booth, he looked around and was startled not to find Yun Shishi. “Where is she?”

Everyone looked at one another; Li Chengze turned away with a sulky expression, while Ye Minglan glanced around before chuckling dryly. “She probably went to the washroom!”

“I’ll go find her.”

The birthday girl immediately wrapped herself around him and feigned annoyance. “I already told you that she’s in the washroom. Do you think we bullied her? Xingze, it’s not that I’m trying to nag at you, but you’re here for my birthday. I’m going to lose face if you act like this.”

“Face?” His expression turned slightly sour. “Haven’t I given you enough face?”

Her face transitioned to that of a slight embarrassment. “... Xingze, I don’t mean anything else; don’t misunderstand!”

“You should learn to know when to stop.” He pushed her away and turned to leave the booth.

The atmosphere instantly turned frigid.

Seeing that her eyes were red with indignation, someone came up to her right away. “Minglan, don’t get angry. It’s your birthday party tonight. Let’s drink!”

“Let’s drink!”

Someone else repeated this in agreement at once.

However, sitting at the host’s seat, her spirits were already dampened!

...

Yun Shishi, whose head was hurting due to the confounding heavy metal music playing in the bar, walked into the washroom with her ears ringing.

Li Chengze’s arrogant words echoed in her head, and she bit her lower lip firmly in absolute disgust for the man!

She should have held it in for a little longer! She endured with the thought that Gu Xingze might take his leave soon. She would then treat all of this as an experience in life!

Chapter 555: Mu Wanrou, you are really despicable.

She would not ever come to such places again.

“Yun Shishi?!” A familiar voice rang from behind her.

She looked past her shoulder and found Mu Wanrou haughtily standing there in a sexy long dress. The woman was staring at her with an icy glare.

“Mu Wanrou...” Her face turned pale in anger.

It's her?

How dare this woman appear before me now?

Both women faced off wordlessly. The two seemed to have been transported back to the welfare center a decade and a half ago when Mu Wanrou had arrogantly stood before Yun Shishi and accused the latter of thievery.

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Her past humiliations floated to her consciousness.

She bit her lower lip furiously as her hands balled up into fists at the thought of the slanderous charges she had to bear back then.

“I didn’t expect to see you here.” Mu Wanrou opened her mouth first as she slowly strode toward her. With a frosty glare, she spat, “Return to your ghetto; this isn’t a place for someone lowly like you!”

“Hmph. That’s rich coming from you. ‘Return to your ghetto’? How arrogant! Shouldn’t I be the one telling you that?” She looked at her with a face full of anger. “These words aren’t for you to tell me, right?”

Her opponent was taken aback by her strong rebuttal.

In the past, anyone could wallop the meek her, but now she was different!

The mockery and ridicule on her face tore away the aristocratic veil Mu Wanrou was wearing. The latter, who could no longer continue her masquerade, flushed with slight shame before her.

“You are the thief. You stole my jade 15 years ago, which got you adopted into the Mu family. Now, you still dare to show off in front of me after what you did. Mu Wanrou, you are more despicable than I think!”

With a frosty expression, she took one step toward her and reached out her hand. “Return it to me!”

“What do you want me to return to you?” Mu Wanrou sneered.

“Return the token that my mother left for me. Return my status, my innocence, and all that you have taken from me!” She resolutely declared this to her enemy.

“Return those to you?” The other snorted again and, as if she had just heard a funny joke, asked, “You call me a thief, but can I ask: who will believe you?”

Startled, the former’s face froze gradually.

“Tell me; who will believe you? Yazhe or... another Mu? Do you think any of them will believe the words of a woman who pops out of nowhere?” She mocked her naivety. Slowly drawing closer, she bore down on her. “Yun Shishi, don’t lay the blame on me for your stupidity. Why don’t you ask yourself why the children believed me instead of you 15 years ago?!”

“Do you really want me to spell out why they trusted you over me?” the other questioned expressionlessly.

The other was struck clueless by her question. “What do you mean?”

“Mu Wanrou, you are indeed cheap to use such underhanded means since young.” She gave her an utterly disgusted look. “Do you think I don’t know the nature of your cahoots with the director back then?”

Her words struck her opponent like lightning.

Chapter 556: Over a Decade of Ease

“Am I correct this time?”

“I-I d-don’t know what nonsense you are spouting!” Her enemy’s icy tone held a tinge of panic.

With a slight smile, she commented neutrally, “Do you dare deny the indecent proposition between you and the welfare center director?”

The other vehemently denied, “What indecent proposition?!”

“Do you really think that I have no clue of what happened then? I don’t want to spell out what you did with him; it’s so disgusting.” She might be unaware of what they were doing back then, but now that she was all grown-up, she wholly comprehended that scene she had mindlessly bumped into as a child.

Desperate to conceal her ugly past that the other was unreservedly exposing, Mu Wanrou, who had lost her cool, rushed up to Yun Shishi and pushed the latter against the wall with her hands on her throat. Her face was a mixture of fury and shame as she demanded, “What do you know, and what did you see?!”

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She almost drove her to suffocation with the strength she used.

Turning red from the constricting grip, Yun Shishi instinctively stomped on the other’s foot. That got the latter retreating in a hurry.

“Cough, cough, cough!” She halted her coughing fit and lifted her head to fix Mu Wanrou with her bloodshot eyes.

“Are you trying to kill me, just like 15 years ago, because I know too much?!”

The word 'kill' tumbled out of her mouth unconsciously, yet it produced a strong reaction from her enemy, and the latter shamefully jerked her head up.

Her eyes shot daggers in Yun Shishi's direction!

Has she found out?

Does that mean she knows I'm the one who sent those killers after her at the theme park that day?!

For a moment, she was at a loss on what the other was thinking.

Yun Shishi did not know what she was fretting about, however, and merely continued to speak. "The welfare center director was found guilty of pedophilia a few years ago and sent to prison. He was just a beast in disguise under his suit! How many children has he destroyed for good? As for you, Mu Wanrou, you are different! Others avoided him like the plague, yet you cuddled close to him because of the benefits you could gain!"

The bare truth came tumbling out of her mouth and subsequently turned the other's face as white as a blank sheet of paper.

She went on after a while. "I accidentally caught you two in the act, so you wanted to take revenge on me. You were afraid of me telling the others about that, which would destroy your impeccable image and status to them, weren't you? Thus, you instigated that night's incident to sic the others on me! I told them that you had taken my thing, yet no one believed me because you were perfect in their eyes. No one believed that you would steal my jade; they thought that I was trying to frame you!"

With her shoulders trembling, Mu Wanrou glared hatefully at the woman before her. “Yun Shishi, you shut up!”

The latter snorted and, with a tone filled with mockery, said, “You didn’t expect to be adopted by the Mu family because of that jade, but unfortunately for you, they happened to choose me for surrogacy. The one whom you stole that jade from a decade and a half ago ended up being their hired-for surrogate. That’s something outside of your expectation, right? You tried all means and ways to cover all that up, but, Mu Wanrou, have you forgotten? Everything you have now doesn’t belong to you in the first place. You have it easy for the past decade or so; isn’t that enough?!”

Chapter 557: The one unqualified to compete is you.

Mu Wanrou screamed at the top of her lungs, “Shut up, Yun Shishi! Shut up! Haven’t you said enough?!”

“Haven’t I said enough? Of course, not!” She cut her off mercilessly. With the corner of her lips arching into a bitter sneer, she asked, “Shouldn’t I be the one asking you that? For over a decade, you’ve been possessing what isn’t yours. Shouldn’t you return what you have to its rightful owner?!”

Mu Wanrou could not let go of her fists. In her fury, she broke into a sudden string of chilling laughter, which was complemented by her disdain-filled look. “Who would believe you? To everyone, I’m the real Young Mistress Mu now and even in the future! You want to fight with me? You are not qualified at all!”

Yun Shishi's eyes turned very frigid. "That's right. I have no rights to compete with you because everything belongs to me in the first place."

She strolled toward Mu Wanrou and stood right before her with eyes glinting. Sans a warning, she grabbed her by the collar and sent a vicious slap across her face!

"The one who isn't qualified to compete with me is you!"

Mu Wanrou did not expect herself to be slapped. Her eyes alarmingly burned with loathing and vengeance as she screeched, "You dared to hit me?!"

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"Why shouldn't I dare?!" Once more, she sent a hard slap to her face with a sneer.

This time around, Mu Wanrou managed to flip her hand and grab her sleeve.

However, somehow or another, despite the other's best effort to shake her away, the frail-looking woman stood her ground.

What she did not know was that Yun Shishi had learned a few judo techniques when she was a child. Equipped with her excellent skill in that sport, she could evidently tackle a weak woman like Mu Wanrou!

"Yun Shishi, how dare you hit me. You'll regret this!"

“Regret?! There’s no regret when it comes to punishing a b*tch!”
Looking severe, she raised her hand again.

“I dare you to do that! Try hitting my face again if you have the guts!” The other raised her voice and threatened, “I’m pregnant now! Can you bear the consequence of hitting me?!”

“What?” Yun Shishi stopped in her tracks.

“Didn’t you hear me clearly? I’m pregnant. Can you bear the consequence of hurting the child inside me with your hit?” The other gloated when she saw her stiff expression.

“Are you lying to me again? You are infertile.” She refused to believe Mu Wanrou’s words.

“Why do I need to lie to you? Didn’t you witness my morning sickness before? I only recently confirmed my pregnancy, too!”
Seeing Yun Shishi’s eyes shimmer with suspicion despite claiming that she would not take her words for real, Mu Wanrou knew for sure that the other had taken the bait.

“You don’t want to believe it, right?”

“Aren’t you diagnosed as infertile?” With an ashen face, Yun Shishi scrutinized her face in hopes of finding a loophole to the latter’s claim.

“Doctors can make mistakes, too.” She put on a false look of happiness to rub it in further. “I couldn’t believe it at first, too, but it’s the truth! Yun Shishi, I’m pregnant with Mu Yazhe’s child.”

Yun Shishi's face was suddenly awash with despondency as the news tore away her last shred of hope.

Mu Wanrou laughed at her grieving look. "Why, Yun Shishi? What did he tell you that you don't want to believe the truth now? Why should I lie to you? You know that I don't need to fake my pregnancy, right?"

Chapter 557: The one unqualified to compete is you.

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Mu Wanrou laughed at her grieving look. “Why, Yun Shishi? What did he tell you that you don’t want to believe the truth now? Why should I lie to you? You know that I don’t need to fake my pregnancy, right?”

Chapter 558: Who will believe you?

Yun Shishi could only stare straight at her with a face as pale as a white sheet of paper.

Watching the changing expressions on her face, Mu Wanrou laughed mockingly. “Oh, no, Yun Shishi, did you fall in love with him? Do you really think that he loves you? Do you think you have a place in his heart? He’s just playing with your feelings!”

“...”

Mu Wanrou savored first the despondency on Yun Shishi’s face due to the latter’s heart being broken before she continued with her speech haughtily. “A man’s love to a woman can be sweet, but when he doesn’t feel that way, he can unfeelingly stab her heart with a dagger! How can you be so naïve to take as truth the words of a man who already has me as his fiancée? You actually believed the empty promises of a man like that?”

Her sarcasm was like a needle pricking her heart until it bled ceaselessly.

She tried her best to ignore her instigation, but...

“If he’s truly serious with you, why didn’t he break off our engagement?” Mu Wanrou gave her a cruel laugh. “Why did he bed me when he was just intimate with you? Now, he got me pregnant. I am his future legal wife, while you are just his passing, secret fling!”

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He bedded her?

Didn’t he say that I’m the only woman in his life?

Is that a lie? Has he been lying to me all along?

She looked restless, and her eyes showed her inner struggles. She was still suspicious of Mu Wanrou’s claim and did not buy it as the whole truth.

“He went to you before because he thought that I am infertile. He’s interested in you only because you have a unique connection to him! Now that I am pregnant, do you think you can still usurp my position in the Mu family? Are you trying to take an advantage here? Dream on!”

“What you have today is mine in the first place. It’s you who has taken what is mine!” she uttered, her bloodshot eyes looking lifeless.

“Whether it’s yours or mine, is that important now? The most crucial thing now is that no one will believe your words!”

Just like how no one had believed her a decade and a half ago, no one would believe her now as well.

She bit her lower lip tightly as the nightmare from back then resurfaced in her mind.

“No one will believe me?”

“Yes! No one will believe your one-sided argument!” Mu Wanrou tried to hypnotize her with this cruel affirmation. “Everyone will think that you are a thief and a mistress – a third party in someone else’s marriage!”

With a bitter smile, her hands fell limply on her sides, and Mu Wanrou took this chance to push her roughly again.

As she took a tumble to the back, a pair of strong and warm arms caught hold of her in the nick of time.

Following this, a deep and firm voice verbalized above her head, “I believe you.”

She was shaken awake from her stupor by this voice, and her vacuous eyes regained their focus somewhat. Lifting her gaze up, she saw Gu Xingze’s gentle countenance staring back at her.

With loving indulgence, he spoke again to her ashen face. “I believe you.”

Even if the whole world were to doubt and not to trust this woman, he would believe her every word unconditionally.

His presence took Mu Wanrou by surprise. Looking at him anxiously, she wondered how much he had heard.

She was overcome with guilt momentarily.

Chapter 559: Complete Defeat

Gu Xingze eyed the woman across him fiercely and, in a cold and somber voice, he said, “Why are you still here? Scram!”

Mu Wanrou was utterly confounded by his attitude. Did he just yell at her because of Yun Shishi? Unable to contain her anger, she bitterly retorted, “Gu Xingze, you actually—”

“SCRAM!” His affixed her with an apathetic gaze. He had long lost his patience with her.

Unwilling to argue with him due to his special background, she suppressed the rage in her heart. She already achieved her goal anyway, so she needed not extend her stay. Thus, with a snort, she left with her high heels clicking against the floor.

Once the woman was gone, he lowered his gaze on to Yun Shishi. Unexpectedly finding her head sagging forward and her shoulders quaking, he called out to her a few times but garnered no response whatsoever.

“Shishi, what happened...” Feeling somewhat helpless at this situation, he cupped her face in his hands. As soon as his fingers brushed against her cheeks, they were met with something wet.

Shocked, he slightly bent forward to take a closer look at her. Instead, she turned her head away to avoid his touch. She tucked her face even deeper into her chest and showed him her back.

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A trembling yet numb voice traveled to his ears. “Gu Xingze, I’m fine. Don’t mind me. Go accompany your friends.”

She bit her lower lip with such force she nearly punctured her skin.

She held in the pain and shoved all her broken sobs down her throat. She did not want anyone to bear witness to her weak and sorry plight!

It was too shameful.

What was the point of crying now? She was clearly in the position to rebut, but the moment she learned of Mu Wanrou’s conception of Mu Yazhe’s progeny, all the energy seemed to depart from her body. In an instant, she had lost her will to fight back.

No matter how much she racked her brains, she could not form a stand. Anything else was unnecessary.

Even if she wanted to find fault in Mu Wanrou’s claim, she had no strength to do so, for she was afraid of receiving a devastating answer.

When humans had issues they feared facing, they would often than not cowardly choose avoidance.

She did not have the courage to consider anything; she was scared that her heart would be unable to take it if the other’s claim was proven to be the cold hard truth.

It was also then that she finally acknowledged her feelings.

Surprisingly, she had invested a lot of feelings in that man.

She was, therefore, instantly defeated by Mu Wanrou's earlier boasting of being pregnant.

She did not believe her words at first, but thinking about it carefully, she might truly be expecting.

She did witness her having morning sickness, after all. It looked very real and did not seem to be an act.

Having been pregnant once, she knew very well that certain things could not be faked.

That was definitely a sign of Mu Wanrou being in the early stages of her pregnancy. She should have thought of it sooner.

Since the woman was indeed pregnant, whose child could it be, if not Mu Yazhe's? After all, she was his fiancée.

She was his legitimate fiancée, so why could he not do anything to her?

He must have known about it for some time now.

Mu Wanrou probably told him as soon as she received that piece of good news.

Since he knew about it, why did he give her an abstruse vow?

Were her feelings that easily toyed with?

Recalling the man's whispers of his vows to her ears, fragments of laughter escaped her lips; she deemed them to be absolutely ridiculous.

She puckered her lips and cocked her brow. She wanted to laugh, but the moment the laughter escaped her lips, they morphed into quivering sobs instead.

Only knowing how to cry; only knowing how to cry! What am I crying for?!

She gnawed her lip and fiercely wiped off her tears.

She truly hated herself for being weak and for feeling upset.

She was truly not the third party.

All those things originally belonged to her. Mu Wanrou was the actual third party.

Chapter 560: Foolish beyond Hope

It had always been like this for the past decade and a half, anyway.

She was already used to it.

Mu Wanrou was pregnant? What of it? Did it matter whose child she was pregnant with?

It did not matter to her at all, and she was not the least bit concerned about it.

Ha. She was only toying with Mu Yazhe as well. Who had actual feelings for the other?

‘I’ll declare to the whole world that you are my woman!’

Honeyed words were nothing but lies. Had she actually believed them ?

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All were deceptions; all were deceptions...

All lies...

All lies...

Why did she believe them ?

Why did she trust him ? Why did she believe that he would give her a family ? Why did she believe that he would declare to the entire world that she was legitimately his woman ?

Promises were unreliable. They were so easily broken.

She knew from the start that a man like Mu Yazhe was dangerous – untouchable and unattainable to her. She should not have invested any feelings in him.

Nonetheless, despite knowing this, she still fell in love with him irrevocably.

Did he know of Mu Wanrou’s identity ?

He probably did!

Gu Xingze stood behind her. His eyes laid on her trembling shoulders. He could not view her expression right now, but it was likely one of sadness, right ?

He did not manage to listen in much on the two women's conversation moments before.

However, he did catch snippets of their talk, especially that one statement: 'Everyone will think that you are a thief and a mistress – a third party in someone else's marriage!'

It suddenly dawned on him that this woman was hopelessly in love with Mu Yazhe. She must have been very concerned about that man.

How much she cared for that man, this, he was unsure of; however, one thing was for sure, and that was her feelings had reached the depth of her getting mad with jealousy over that man.

When did it happen exactly ?

Gu Xingze was just starting to care for and to concern himself with this woman.

Qin Zhou once told him her story.

She was the surrogate carefully chosen by the Mu family six years ago. Meaning, she was Mu Yichen's biological mother.

As for her reasons in doing so—

'She agreed to be a surrogate because her adoptive family was in dire financial straits. She was coerced into signing that contract by her adoptive mother, but she was not fully opposed to it. After all, she did it out of gratitude.'

These were his then manager's words.

From the information gathered, the initial attempt of using in-vitro fertilization failed, so the Mu family could only resort to the most natural method of conceiving a child.

She set aside her pride to repay her adoptive father's kindness. She submitted herself entirely to a stranger and let him do whatever he pleased with her. This girl was truly foolish.

Foolish beyond hope.

Still, he did not expect her to be deeply in love with Mu Yazhe.

Squeezing his brows, he reached his hand out to her shoulder and spun her around forcibly. He forced himself not to look directly at her sorry state. Placing his hand on her nape a bit more firmly, he managed to press her forehead onto his shoulder.

He took his gaze away from her numb look and said simply, "Be good; I'm not looking at you."

"..." Her body stiffened. Only the sound of her breathing remained.

"If you want, go ahead and cry."

His voice was as gentle as a feather. His airy breath fanned her forehead gently and warmly.

"Crying doesn't mean that you're weak. You don't have to hold yourself back that much, hm?"

She struggled within his embrace at first, but his strength rendered her resistance futile.

She then buried herself into his chest as she let out nearly inaudible whimpers.

Her scalding tears almost soaked through his clothes.

Because of this, his heart ached fiercely as well.

Chapter 561: Could It Not be Me?

Because of this, his heart ached fiercely as well.

This girl was simply foolish beyond hope. She had actually reduced herself into such a sorry state.

All along, he was thinking that he had also turned this way. Although her eyes were never on him, he was still so concerned for her.

He had truly lost to her.

He had become foolish beyond hope too.

He lifted his gaze. The pounding of the heavy metal music in the bar pierced his left ear and the heartbreaking sobs of this fragile beauty before him filled his right ear.

For reasons unknown, a sense of powerlessness coursed through his body.

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He suddenly could not bear this anymore, so he cradled her face in his hands and stared at it.

“Couldn’t it be me?”

He posed that question in his sultry and magnetic voice, while he peered at her face with knitted brows.

“Must it be him? Couldn’t it be me, instead?” he emotionally reiterated.

She was startled and a little confused by his sudden queries.

“I am able to do whatever Mu Yazhe is able to do and can provide you with whatever he can provide. Anything he can’t give or promise, I can offer to you, too.” After spouting everything in nearly one breathing, he then closely monitored the changes in her facial expression.

“Let me ask you again; couldn’t it be me?”

Her eyes bulged momentarily in astonishment. Moisture could be found beading on her lashes.

The moment she comprehended his words, her expression froze entirely from shock.

His handsome face closed in on hers. In the next second, he touched his thin lips on the corner of her eye and gently dried it of tears with a kiss.

Her face hardened even more from this unprecedented kiss.

He did not stop there, though. His feathery kisses landed successively on her lashes and sucked the moisture away from there. His loving lips then arrived at the tip of her nose and proceeded to graze it like a dragonfly skimming the surface of the water.

However, before his lips could reach hers, she came back to her senses, and she shoved him away in a fluster thereafter.

“Don’t do this...” With bated breath, she turned her face away from him. She could hardly handle his sudden action. “I only... regard you as a senior in the industry. I don’t harbor other thoughts.”

In response to her shocking words, he only showed a smile before he said, “Mhm... I’m aware.”

He knew.

Still, he wanted to fight for her.

A sudden pang of loneliness hit him. She glanced at him, feeling uneasy and a little guilty.

She could sense his feelings for her, but she was unable to reciprocate them.

She held nothing but admiration and respect for him.

Since she had no feelings for him, she should neither get close to him nor give him false hope, lest she bring him bitter disappointment.

She could not bear to do that.

The look on her face somehow clued him in on her shock at his sudden kisses.

He stretched his hand out to gently scuffle her hair. “I’m sorry. I’ve gone too far in teasing you.”

“N-No worries.” She easily accepted his apology on the outside.

Meanwhile, on the inside, she was filled with fright by his out-of-character proposal.

With her back on him, agony fleeted across her eyes for a moment before she forced out a smile for him. “Le-Let’s go back.”

She proceeded to make her way back to the booth ahead of him.

He feebly displayed a grin as he trailed after her.

The two headed in the same direction while they bore different thoughts.

If she just looked behind her now, she would see the misery on his face.

This misery was like a needle deeply pricking his lung, causing pain to shoot through his bones with his every breath.

Chapter 562: I do not like to suppress myself.

She kept her head bowed as she headed back to their seats, causing her to bump into others occasionally.

One man had just left the dance floor when she walked right into him.

The man held her steady by the shoulders and, at the sight of her alluring beauty, thought that she had done it on purpose!

She promptly looked up at the realization that she had hit someone again and quickly offered an apology before walking past the person. The man halted her steps by gripping her wrist. “Why are you leaving after piquing my interest? You did that on purpose, so why play hard-to-get now?”

Gu Xingze was infuriated by this. He was upset that she had opted to walk far ahead in an evident effort to avoid him!

Why is she avoiding me?

Is it because of those words I blurted out earlier?

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He hastened to hug her by the shoulders. The man saw that and was about to pester her more, but the superstar lost his cool and told him off. “Get lost! Don’t get in the way!”

With that said and done, he expressionlessly grabbed her wrist and strode off.

She was, thus, led by him away from the man. Unknowingly, he exerted too much force in his grip, and that caused her to feel some pain from her wrist.

This made her look up at him. She opened her mouth to speak but closed it subsequently when she caught sight of his clamped shut jaws and deeply furrowed brows. There was also a somewhat perceptible anger boiling in the depths of his eyes.

She sensed his anger, but... why was he angry?! She did not remember doing anything to provoke him in the first place!

“Gu Xingze, are you mad at me—”

“You don’t have to avoid me deliberately!” The man suddenly stopped walking to cut her words off before he lowered his head to look at her. “Like and dislike are two distinct things. I don’t like to suppress my feelings.”

She was a little bewildered.

“I’m not forcing you to like me, so you need not avoid me like this, okay?”

“Okay...”

That was when he realized the folly in his behavior. Feeling vexed, he apologized with his brows knitted. “Sorry...”

...

She was almost carried by him back to their seats. Striding along fast to keep up with the pace of the man holding her wrist tightly, she thought that he wanted to snap her apart as she stumbled a little!

Back at the booth, she deliberately distanced herself from him by choosing to sit far from him.

He sensed her intention but did not comment on it; he knew that his earlier behavior had scared her off.

She doesn't hold any idea toward me.

From the start, she's been keeping me at a distance.

Most rookies would stick to him without needing persuasion because of his reputation and resources.

Only this woman preferred to stay away when he wanted to draw her near.

She could even make use of him for a while, yet she rejected him outright, and this made him feel... like he was a complete failure.

Women are really hard to comprehend.

The guests at the VIP booth were in the middle of having fun when the man returned to his seat with a frosty look. The atmosphere gradually turned frigid with his presence.

His eyes, which were dark and sullen, seemed to forewarn of an impending storm. Although he was sitting elegantly on one end, they could sense the animosity emanating from him. His mere presence could render anyone helpless!

Chapter 563: Can you stop bothering me?

His chilly attitude greatly disturbed the birthday girl. She wondered who on Earth had managed to antagonize this man whose self-control had always been intact.

Seeing his sullen look and how Yun Shishi was keeping her distance, she reckoned that the two had an argument.

It looks like it.

From the moment the two returned to the booth, not a word was spoken between them.

Even Li Chengze's high spirits could not survive for long in the company of the grim-faced and straitlaced man. What a spoilsport, indeed!

He anxiously sat on his seat as the star's oppressive aura overwhelmed everyone in the VIP booth.

The hostess sought the man's forgiveness to alleviate the tension in the air by serving him a glass of red wine. "Xingze, what's the matter?"

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Following her question, she said pacifyingly, "I was willful earlier. Can you let it pass? This is a toast to ask for your forgiveness."

She then downed the glass of wine at one go.

The man did the same without looking at her.

The wine glass almost cracked as it hit the table when he put it down.

Yun Shishi saw how agitated he looked and knew that he was angry. Deep down, she felt wronged and guilty, yet she did not know how to approach him about it.

Is it wrong for me to tell him not to waste his affections on me?

Li Chengze sought her. As he sat down next to her, she purposely shuffled away from him. The man smilingly bridged the gap between them again.

She glared at him. “What are you trying to do?”

“Sorry, sorry! I was in the wrong earlier! I said those words in a moment of anger; can you find it in your heart to forgive me? I am quick-tempered and often shoot my mouth off when upset. You can scold me if it helps lessen your anger on me!”

He acted like a poor chap before her as he served himself a glass of wine. “Let this toast be my way of seeking your forgiveness!”

He lifted the glass to his mouth and finished the wine at one go. He then presented the bottom of the glass to her to indicate that not one sip was left behind.

She turned her head away and ignored him.

He quickly pushed a glass of cocktail in her direction as he said with a smile, “Don’t be angry! I’ve ordered this beverage for you. It

contains only a small amount of red wine. This low-alcohol cocktail is the bar's specialty. Take this as my peace offering!"

He said a few more words when she continued to ignore him. "Dear missy, can you not be angry anymore? I'm a b*stard to say those things earlier; you can slap me—"

"All right." She sighed in resignation. "I'll drink this up, but stop bothering me, okay?"

What audacity!

"I won't bother you as long as you forgive me!"

"I forgive you."

She would agree to anything as long as he stopped pestering her.

Slowly, she lifted the cocktail to her mouth. The lemon-flavored liquid inside the glass swirled slightly with her movement, vividly reminding her of that previous horrific experience. This unbearable alcoholic drink was repulsive to her.

Seemingly like offering a prayer, she held her breath, closed her eyes, and solemnly drank the cocktail. The sweet fragrance of the cocktail woke her up instantly!

Chapter 564: Stupefied

She could not help but drink another mouthful of the liquor. As she licked her mouth with the tip of her tongue, she came to understand why so many people loved cocktails. They tasted good!

Although the alcohol content was low, her cheeks still flushed from the few mouthfuls she drank.

Li Chengze was really stunned by her beauty.

What he did not know was that someone was watching his every move like a hawk.

Observing the man's proceeding in his peripheral view, Gu Xingze's eyes darkened further. He held his wine glass lazily and sipped along its rim as he became engrossed in his thoughts.

Before long, it was one in the morning.

Influenced by the alcohol in their systems, these rich boys in the booth tried to make small talks with the superstar.

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Amid the loud music and smoggy air, he was assailed by their pretentious smiles and phony courtesies.

Who would not want to get into the good books of the Gu family?

There might be no such chance in the future. Since this well-known figure was sitting right before them, who would not be tempted to establish good rapport with him?

They were fearful at first but managed to pluck up their courage after drinking the night away.

The star, who was sitting expressionlessly on the couch, perceived their sycophantic displays to be rather sickening and hideous.

His eyes had lost their tinge of jest by then. He closed his orbs, which now glinted darkly, as he smiled mockingly.

He was not trying to be standoffish here. It was just that he saw no point in befriending these rich young masters and mistresses.

These boys did not know how to appreciate their resources and status. They had no interest in learning lifesaving skills. Instead, they got into all kinds of vices and splurged on every type of materialistic gain using their families' wealth.

If these folks were to step into showbiz, they would be taken as baits or be manipulated as pawns.

A wrong move would spell doom for them. Their fortune, no matter how copious it was, could be emptied overnight.

He lifted his wrist, drank the Hennessy at one go, and stood up to leave. Walking up to a corner where the little thing was curled up, he pulled her up by the arm and rapped his knuckles on her head lightly. "Let's go!"

Yun Shishi opened her sleepy eyes and, upon seeing him, revealed a naïve smile. She had drunk a little alcohol and then found a corner to lay down earlier.

Her crystal laughter chimed in his ears. He knitted his brows as he almost lost himself in it.

In her drunken state and with her guard down, her pure aura was gone. Now, she appeared alluring and captivating.

She stood up unsteadily. Her legs wobbled just then, and she tumbled headfirst into his arms.

“Urgh...” She groaned as she rubbed her nose where she hurt herself!

Is she drunk?

The man glared sharply at Li Chengze from the corner of his eye. The latter jumped at the former’s hostile look. It was simply terrifying!

“Master Gu, I didn’t make her drunk! She just had a mouthful of that low-alcohol cocktail. It seems she has poor alcohol tolerance!” he hastily explained.

Gu Xingze could not be bothered to argue with him.

Ye Minglan promptly stood up and asked with discontent, “Master Gu, are you leaving now?”

Chapter 565: He Is Just An Entertainer

The moment she asked that question, several drunks started flapping their jaws and wagging their tongues. “Master Gu, you’re already leaving? We’re still not done yet!”

“That’s right! Let’s do karaoke later, okay? We’d love to hear you sing!”

One of them reached out and caught hold of his shoulder. His giggles hinted to something suggestive. “Master Gu, are you planning to go home for some pleasurable time?!”

His eyes laid on the woman in his arms; in that instant, the meaning of his words was delivered clearly.

Discreetly, Ye Minglan was angered by his joke!

This thing that doesn’t know its place dares to tease Gu Xingze?!

In his intoxication, the man’s action became bolder. He amiably patted the superstar on his shoulder and continued with his teasing. “This woman doesn’t deserve so much of your effort, Master Gu! If you want, I can send some others your way – I’m sure you’ll like them more!”

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The superstar tilted his head with wrinkled brows and gave the hand on his shoulder an ill-disguised look of disgust. The apathetic eyes of his seemed to indicate that he was staring at something filthy.

The young man sobered up a little at his repulsed gaze. Hastily retracting his hand, he tucked his head under his chin in fright.

The birthday girl was seething, but fortunately, she managed to sustain the lovely smile on her face. “Master Gu, thank you for coming today!”

“No worries.”

He replied without sparing her a glance and proceeded to pull Yun Shishi more securely into his arms.

It was only when the two were gone from sight that her expression crumbled. She twirled around to eye all of them and sniggered with rage. “A bunch of disgraceful pr*cks!”

“What’s wrong, Minglan? Who made you angry again?”

“Precisely! How did we humiliate you this time?!”

She smirked. “You people think too highly of yourselves! You all dared spout those words yet still wished to befriend Master Gu with your lousy abilities? Between him and you all, what are the positions? Don’t you guys know to be more respectful to him?! Shame on you!”

These people were immensely displeased by her censure.

“What do you mean by that?! Isn’t he just an entertainer?”

“I bet you don’t know this! Gu Xingze is the youngest son of the Gu family’s previous head. He he! As a bastard, his position in the family is naturally inferior to his older brother’s! In any case, Minglan, your words are too harsh.”

“Exactly. Don’t be so vicious with your words! Today is your birthday. We came to celebrate it with you, but your fierceness just made some of us unhappy!”

Her smile became increasingly chilly. “What of that? You people are truly pr*cks. Where did your qualifications to tease Master Gu stem from? I’m totally humiliated by you all!”

Li Chengze, whose mood had also soured by her humiliating words, scoffed. “Should you treat us this way simply because of one Gu Xingze? I can’t stand the sight of him; he’s too arrogant. The head of the Gu family is still Gu Jinglian at the end of the day, and he doesn’t even pull a long face like this younger brother of his! What position of authority does he have to put on airs – to give us the attitude of someone standing high above the masses?”

Ye Minglan glared at him and snapped, “Li Chengze, what about you?! I sent you signals with my eyes earlier, but you just didn’t know how to show restraint! I warned you, time and again, not to lay a finger on Master Gu’s woman, yet you totally ignored my words! She’s just a woman – a commoner, yet just think of how you acted earlier. If I didn’t know better, I’d say you’ve never had a woman before!”

Chapter 566: Only Pretending to be Asleep

He was very much infuriated by her outrageous speech. He had repressed his anger and held in his resentment for Gu Xingze earlier; as such, with nowhere to air his frustrations, he was already at his breaking point.

Ye Minglan's censuring words severed the last thread of his patience and he vented all his grievances aloud at once. "D*mn it, Ye Minglan! What do you mean by that?! You kept fawning at him with your 'Master Gu'— how capable can he be?! The Gu family? Ha ha! What of him being a Gu?! I heard that he's a mongrel — a b*stard of Old Gu from his mistress! He acts like an emperor just because he's a member of the Gu family! Is he even capable of crushing the Li family under his feet?!"

A contemptuous glint flashed past her eyes.

Not only could Gu Xingze crush them under his feet, if he were in the mood, he could destroy them anytime.

Li Chengze smirked at the ridicule apparent on her face. With alcohol at work, he bluntly stated, "Ye Minglan, I'm of lowly birth while you're of a lofty status! Satisfied?"

Once he was done spouting that, he grabbed his outerwear and left without looking back at her!

"Enough. Let's stop arguing. What an unfortunate birthday. Everyone, scatter!"

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"Minglan is impossible to please. We're neither the prince of the Mus nor the young master of the Gus. She'll definitely not give us a thought!" Under the influence of alcohol, someone spoke this aloud with biting sarcasm.

"What do you all mean by that?"

“Nothing! We’re not interested as well. Let’s leave!”

The audience started to get up in succession; they were unwilling to be in her company any longer. This also meant that the party had come to a disappointing end.

Standing rooted to the spot, she watched the crowd leave the venue as she convulsed with fury.

...

Outside the bar, when Gu Xingze carried Yun Shishi into the vehicle, she was already on the verge of sleeping. She nestled in the corner of the car, shut her eyes, and huddled to herself.

The air within the vehicle was a little chilly.

He made a mental note to inform the driver about turning down the air conditioner.

The scenery outside continued to change as the car drove by.

The hustle-bustle of the city indicated the commencement of a teenager’s nightlife.

He reached out to position her body to lean on his chest.

He slightly bent his head forward to observe her tilted lashes. She seemed to be in deep sleep.

He lifted his fingers and gently tucked a few stray hair strands behind her ear. Under the faint glow of the moonlight, she appeared as radiant as a ceramic fashioned out of jade.

Although he was already physically close to her, he was still surrounded by a heavy cloud of loneliness.

Sometimes, he would feel this foreign emotion of his beloved being so close to him yet so far away.

He moved to caress her face, but when he recalled how she had shied away from him back at the bar, he abruptly halted his action.

Helplessly chuckling to himself, he unwillingly retracted his hand.

The moonlight cast dark shadows on her features.

Her eyes, which were hidden beneath her fringe, slowly fluttered open.

She was obviously awake yet she pretended to be asleep.

...

Pom, pom, pom!

A series of knocks on the door sounded clearly through the silent night.

Yun Tianyou woke up with a start and sat up from the sofa. Quickly shuffling to the door in his slippers, he opened it to find Gu Xingze and his mommy huddling together. His expression shifted into worry.

“Mommy... What happened to mommy?”

Gu Xingze, who was shocked to meet the little boy again, froze in place.

The youngster before him had features as beautiful as Yun Shishi's.

He is... her son, right?

Noticing the man's look of wonder, Youyou's eyes, with shades of distinct black and white, lightly flickered. He then exclaimed in amazement, "Whoa! Aren't you that big celebrity, Gu Xingze? I've just seen you on TV!"

Chapter 567: It Is A Promise

The boy directed the man's attention to the TV screen, which was flashing motion pictures of the latter in Lin Fengtian's teen movie, titled 'Bamboo Dragonfly'.

Gu Xingze stared blankly at the screen for a while before an upward hook tugged at a corner of his lips.

He had seen a similar-looking child once, and that was the young boy of the Mu family.

He supposed that this child was one of the twins and Yun Shishi's son.

He was a very witty child.

Calling back his thoughts, a grin blossomed on his face. "What a cute child. What's your name?"

“Yun Tianyou!” The little boy politely arranged his hands to his back. His eyes then anxiously darted on to his mother who was in the man’s grasp. Puzzled by this, he inquired, “What happened to mommy?”

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“She drank!”

The little boy’s lips convulsed, feeling rather irritated.

She drank again!

Dumb mommy. She’s aware of her poor alcohol tolerance, yet she still went ahead and drank.

Gu Xingze carried her all the way to the bedroom to put her down. When the man exited the room, he was approached by Youyou, whose hand was now holding an autograph notebook. With a sweet and elegant smile on his lips, he looked just like a handsome, young gentleman.

“Uncle Xingze, could you please give me your autograph? He he. I’m a big fan of yours!”

The man slowly crouched before him. Lightly poking at his straight nose bridge, he teased, “You’re my fan, hm? Do you know how to sing my songs?”

“... I do, but Youyou is tone deaf and sounds horrible!” The man could not help but be amused by his bashful countenance.

“What a little cutie. All right; I’ll sign for you!”

He pulled up a smile as he took the pen from the little boy. He then penned his signature elegantly on the notebook.

“Thank you, Uncle Xingze!”

The young lad inclined his head and asked with sparkling black orbs, “Uncle Xingze, are you filming a movie with my mommy now?”

“Mm. Yes. I’m your mommy’s colleague.”

“My mommy’s really dumb, so Uncle Xingze must take care of her! If she’s being bullied in the team, Youyou will be very upset!” The young boy clasped at his heart pitifully and wore an anxious look.

Gu Xingze was secretly in shock.

This kid was truly different from others!

Other children his age were still immature despite being fluent with their speeches.

This child, meanwhile, was no ordinary kid. He radiated wit and easily charmed people with his choice of words. What was more precious was that he loved his mommy dearly.

He was a sensible and lovely child.

He nodded in assurance. “Tianyou, don’t worry; I will take good care of your mommy and not let anyone bully her!”

“Really?”

“Really!”

“It’s a promise, then!” Yun Tianyou stretched his little finger out and the man quickly locked it with his to make a pinky promise.

“It’s a promise!”

“Why did mommy return home so late this night?” the young boy indirectly probed.

The man’s face was ridden with guilt. “Erm. We had a dinner gathering, so she came back a little late.”

The little boy heaved a sigh of relief upon knowing the reason for her delayed return. They had a dinner gathering; that was why she had arrived home late and her phone was turned off. His calls could not go through to her no matter what, and that made him worry about her a lot.

Once the superstar departed, Youyou dashed into the washroom and brought out a hot towel. As he entered the bedroom, he was startled to find his mommy wide awake in bed. “Mommy... you’re not drunk?!”

Chapter 568: Save a Dowry for Mommy

Her face looked wan and lifeless when she looked at him.

A little taken aback, he hurried over to his mother’s side and cupped her face with his two hands. “Mommy, you look bad. What happened? Did anyone bully you?”

“No one.”

“Mommy is lying!”

Her son looked at her angrily. “Someone must’ve bullied you. Mommy, tell Youyou who it is, and I’ll take revenge for you!”

She forced out a smile and opened her arms to him, saying in a broken voice, “Youyou, come over here and give mommy a hug.”

He looked at her face and saw that her fragile self was on the verge of collapsing. Instantly, his heart ached nearly to the point of suffocation.

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He immediately climbed into her embrace.

She buried her petite face in the crook of his neck as she hugged his warm and pliant body more tightly. Somehow, her frigid heart regained some heat from his warmth.

Youyou, who was burrowing deep into her arms, knew that she was depressed despite not seeing her face. The mother and son were connected in this way.

His little hand caressed her cheek as he muttered softly, “Mommy, if you aren’t happy, Youyou won’t be happy, too! Youyou is sad when you are sad! Tell Youyou who bullied you, and I’ll punish that person for you!”

“No one. No one bullied mommy! Youyou, you are so negative; mommy is just feeling tired.” Sniffing the aftershower freshness on his body as she held him tightly, the turmoil inside her eased somewhat. “Youyou smells so nice!”

“... Mommy, you are so bad, why are you back late? Youyou waited long for your return! Stupid mommy, you shouldn’t drink when you can’t hold your liquor. Didn’t you promise Youyou not to drink again?” The boy grumbled about this while looking up at her.

“I’m innocent! Mommy didn’t drink tonight. I only took a sip symbolically. I’m not drunk at all!” She defended herself and even puffed a breath for him to check.

The boy snuffled at her lips, and true enough, he could not sniff any strong alcohol smell. That was when he believed her. “Good mommy. You’re forbidden from drinking even a drop of alcohol in the future!”

“Understood, Master Youyou!”

She reached out with both hands to hold his face close to hers and affectionately rubbed her nose with his.

“Youyou, mommy wants to be with you her entire life. When I am old, will you desert me?”

“No! Mommy won’t grow old,” her son retorted sweetly.

“When mommy grows old, will Youyou despise me?”

“Even if I do despise you, it will just be a bit!” He pointed to the tip of his thumb for emphasis.

She looked at him with a mournful face.

“Mommy, you should be satisfied. Youyou won’t desert you even when you become old, infirm, and stupid. Even if there’s despise, it’s just a teeny-weeny bit. Youyou loves mommy the most!”

His honest declaration of love tickled her, and she burst into a sincere laughter.

“All right, mommy! Quickly go wash up and then head to bed. You still have work tomorrow morning!”

She made a sign of surrender. “Okay, Master Youyou! Mommy promises to work hard and earns money for your marriage.”

Youyou’s mouth twitched at its corners.

Inwardly, he was thinking, Who needs you to earn spare change? The dowry I’ve prepared for you is so much more!

If she knew how much her son had secretly set aside for her dowry, she would be too astounded for good.

You’re reading on Boxnovel.com Thanks!

The next day, Yun Shishi officially joined the production team.

The boot ceremony had become the next morning’s headline on several tabloids.

The upcoming movie quickly became a hot topic with its exceptional cast, top production team, and two main leads’ ambiguous relationship.

A few newspapers published photos, taken during the ceremony, of the two leads.

With the pairing of the striking Gu Xingze and the stunning Yun Shi`shi, the pictures quickly became the new crowd favorites.

‘The Green Apple’, via media publicity, became the much-anticipated movie of the year.

At the same time, the film’s photoshoots were released on Huanyu’s official website.

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This film’s pictures, compared to other movies’, were done very professionally that none could match them. Whereas other movies’ photoshoots tended to be sloppily done, this film’s photoshoots, whether the raw shots or the edited ones, were executed to perfection. Once they were released, they easily attracted the attention of the novel’s large fanbase. It even rose to become the hottest topic on Weibo.

Even the novelist praised the production on Weibo and expressed her high expectation for the movie.

In the beginning, a majority of the superstar’s fans populated the message board on the movie’s official website to slam Yun Shishi. This was simply because she was the chosen female lead this time. In the past, almost every female lead he was paired with suffered the same sort of attack from his fans.

Soon, the photoshoots attracted the faithful fans of the novel.

Whenever a novel was adapted into a movie or a TV series, fans of the original work would have their say.

It was easy for the readers to immerse themselves in a novel; however, once it was adapted into a TV series or a movie, many factors could bring disappointments to fans, and some of which were poor acting skills, inappropriate selection of cast, or poor screen adaptation.

Fans of the original work were hard to please.

Lin Fengtian, on the other hand, was known for his meticulousness and his attentiveness to every piece of detail in a show he was directing.

A few fans of the novel expressed their concerns over Gu Xingze being chosen for the main lead role when the cast were first announced.

In the novel, the character Yin Dongyu transitioned from being a teenager to a young adult. Since Gu Xingze was already 28, the novel's fans felt that he was too old for the role.

Their fears disappeared at once the moment his photoshoots came out, though.

This was because he had the looks indubitably.

He also looked unbelievably young. While he had been in the show business for over a decade, he did not seem to age for even a day after he had made his debut at the age of 18.

The only difference was that his naivety was long replaced by a mature and kingly disposition.

Yun Shishi's photoshoots equally attracted much praise and attention.

The original novel, 'The Green Apple', had millions of fanbase.

Many fans were initially worried over a newcomer being cast for the novel's film adaptation.

It was difficult to replicate the charisma of Yin Xiachun.

Good acting skills might move the character-portrayal along, but charisma was something an average actress did not possess.

During the film's open audition for the female lead, the novel's fans once had a poll for their most-preferred actress to portray the role.

Being the most popular young actress at present, Yang Mi expectedly had the highest vote.

Still, many cried foul following this poll. The fans deemed the actress to be too worldly and old to portray the innocent and pure protagonist properly. None of that schoolgirl's naivete could be found in her.

On the contrary, when Yun Shishi's photoshoots were released, the fans went wild in an instant!

This was clearly the character herself in the show!

She fit the character in the novel so much it was as if Yin Xiachun had walked out of the book itself!

Chapter 570: Blacklist Him

Many fans of the novel, ‘The Green Apple’, openly discussed the newcomer on Weibo, with some of them even asking for her name.

Meanwhile, others expressed their high expectations for the upcoming movie. The film’s desirability had significantly risen.

Quite a number of people showed support for the director and praised the hardworking production team for their stringent standards in role selection. They believed that the film would be a classic.

For select individuals, they made their desire for the director to stick to the original work as close as possible known.

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Inside the production set, Mu Xi opened Weibo on her phone. Within a few days, the verified account she got for Yun Shishi gained a following of two million.

Two million fans within a few days!

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Oh, god. This was nothing short of a miracle!

One must know that this was an incredible feat for a rookie!

This meant that her popularity was on the rise by the day!

It appeared that everyone had high expectations for her.

The female lead was finished with her make-up and came up to her assistant. Seeing her busily fiddling with her phone, she thought that the former was watching an interesting video clip. Upon a closer look, however, she realized that her assistant was reading the fans' messages on Weibo.

“What are you doing?” Yun Shishi whispered to her ear.

The assistant jumped with a start and patted her chest in relief when she saw that it was only her. “My gosh, you scared me! Shishi, you're finally here—wow...”

Mu Xi widened her eyes at her actress in awe. “Oh, god... Shishi, you look so gorgeous in your makeup!”

She was in a high-school uniform, a white short-sleeve shirt and a navy-blue pleated skirt, which showed off her pair of long, slender, and fair legs.

Her face wore nude makeup to project the image of a high-school student. There were hardly any traces of cosmetics on her face; in fact, despite wearing a thick layer of foundation, she appeared not to be wearing any makeup at all.

The stylist lightly lined her eye rims, which accentuated her orbs further. Her lashes were long and pretty. With the addition of her pink lips, white teeth, and rosy cheeks, she was freshly elegant and captivatingly beautiful at the same time!

She was really tickled by her assistant's reaction. “What do you mean? Are you trying to say that I look plain without makeup?”

“Of course, not! I’m just saying that you look even better with makeup on! Ahh, Shishi! I’ve decided that, from now on, you will be my goddess!” Her assistant was totally conquered by her beauty.

“Er,” she probed curiously, “who used to be your goddess, then?”

“Lin Zhi, ah!” the assistant replied with her eyes blinking.

“Lin Zhi?” She tried to conjure the image of the said actress in her mind.

“Are you really into showbiz? She’s the actress who shot to fame in ‘Rose Night’. She’s been around for three years now. With her superstar status, she’s currently worth tens of million yuan!” Her voice was full of admiration. “Shishi, work hard, aye? I see potential in you. Do well in this show, and you’ll be famous!”

Just then, her phone rang without warning.

Yun Shishi took out her phone. When she saw the name flickering on the screen, the expression on her face changed abruptly, and she cut it off sans a second thought.

“Who called?” her assistant asked, only to hear the phone ring again.

Her artiste cut it off without looking this time.

The assistant was stunned. “Shishi, why don’t you accept the call?”

“Don’t plan to do so.” Her face had turned frosty for unknown reason.

The phone rang again stubbornly.

After she cut off the call again, she put the number on her blacklist.

Her assistant was too astonished for words.

This usually happens when a couple quarrels, right?

Does she... have a boyfriend?

Chapter 571: No Explanation Needed to Blacklist You

!

At a presidential suite.

Mu Yazhe listened to the busy tone repeatedly play on his phone as he lay on a sofa. He made three consecutive calls, and all of them were rejected.

He was already filled with pent-up rage.

As for the fourth call he made, it unexpectedly failed to get through.

The fifth call...

The sixth call...

Every time he placed a call, he would hear a voicemail greeting, which was promptly followed by the disconnect tone.

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With his handsome features hardening, he stared fixedly at his phone screen and spoke in a solemn tone full of vexation. “What’s going on?! Is her phone dead?!”

Min Yu carefully observed his expression and contemplated for a bit before he offered an explanation. “Ehem! Boss, usually, in this situation, it means that your number has been blacklisted!”

“Blacklisted? What does ‘blacklisted’ mean?” He raised his sight on to him. The tone of his voice was already hinting at danger.

His subordinate peered at his complexion, which was as frosty as the temperature inside a house made of ice, and cautiously worded his explanation. “There’s a call blacklist on every phone. Normally, if someone places a number on this blacklist, the owner of that number can’t call that person again. As the very name suggests, getting blacklisted means that you are added on her call blacklist, and you can no longer get through to her number!”

BANG!

The crystalline glass on the table was smashed into pieces, causing droplets of water to splatter about!

Blacklisted?

That woman dared to blacklist me?!

“My phone’s wrecked! Give me yours!” Mu Yazhe tossed his phone to the table with a resounding clang and demanded his subordinate to hand over his. Receiving the phone, he then furiously entered her number and pressed ‘dial’.

Du—

The call actually went through.

The anger on his face was further overcast.

Min Yu, who was filled with consternation at the side, trembled as he held his breath in fear. He was quite worried for the safety of his phone.

A series of ringing ensued before the call was picked up and Yun Shishi's polite greeting was heard. "Hello—"

"Foolish woman! Why didn't you answer my call?!" the man thundered, feeling greatly displeased.

He finally accepted the fact that his number had been blacklisted by her!

How dared this woman blacklist my number?!

"Woman, what is wrong with you? Did you blacklist my number?"

After a prolonged silence, she gave a very casual answer. "Yes. I've blacklisted it."

The man's assistant held his breath for her. Gosh. Miss Yun Shishi is bold beyond belief; she even dared to provoke the chairman?

As he had expected, darkness instantly loomed over the man's face. He suddenly got up on his feet and landed a kick at the table. An exquisite antique vase on the tabletop fell to the floor and shattered as a corollary.

“Woman, provide me with a reasonable explanation!” he growled, clenching his subordinate’s phone with much strength its screen almost cracked.

“Explain? Why should I explain anything to you? I’m busy; I’m hanging up.” As soon as she ended her sentence, she hung up the phone without waiting for his retort.

“D*mn it!” He dialed the number again while simmering in rage. Instead, he received a message saying that his call could not get through.

Clearly, his subordinate’s number was mercilessly blacklisted as well.

An ominous and dark mass emerged on his face, and a wave of fury surged within his eyes. His number was blacklisted, yet he could not vent his pent-up rage; what an unpleasant feeling it was!

With a loud thud , he sent the phone crashing to the ground.

A shiver ran down Min Yu’s spine. Glancing at his phone, he could imagine his heart bleeding...

“Boss, please simmer down. A woman is always a little willful. They have to be properly handled!” He promptly approached his superior and did his best to calm the man down.

Chapter 572: Book the Tickets and Return!

“Get out!”

He reinforced his fist with all the frustrations he had inside him and sent it flying toward his subordinate's shoulder. The latter's arm was nearly dislocated by the brutal punch!

Min Yu promptly excused himself to the side while he cradled his injured shoulder. He ignored the immense pain radiating from it and remained standing perfectly still as he surveyed the livid man before him with trepidation.

From what he could remember, his boss seldom lost his temper.

Having a greater self-restraint than so many others, everything seemed to be under his control, and there was no exception to that.

Yun Shishi, however, appeared to be one.

Only that woman was outside of his superior's control.

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Balling up his hands into fists, the man emanated a chillingly terrifying aura one could feel it in his bones. The pressure from his aura was so grim and overwhelming it seemed capable of suffocating anyone.

Min Yu peered at the sharp look in the man's eyes and suddenly found it difficult to breathe.

The man before him was indubitably a terrifying man.

He could truly make others fear him from the bottom of their hearts.

“Find her location!”

Receiving his order, he speedily bowed his head and took his leave. Dispatching his men to find the woman's whereabouts, he got her set of coordinates and rushed to report it accurately to the man. "Boss, Miss Yun is filming today."

"Filming?!"

"Yes. The filming for that movie Lin Fengtian is directing and Gu Xingze is playing the male lead role officially begins today!" he informed.

Mu Yazhe furrowed his brows and demanded there and then, "Book the tickets and return!"

Stunned by his command, he tentatively asked, "Are we going back now?"

"Now. Book the tickets right away!"

The subordinate hesitantly reminded his superior. "Boss, about that follow-up for the acquisition tomorrow—"

"Didn't you hear my order?!" His boss spun around and lifted his eyes on to him. The anger in them threatened to spill in the next second. "Perhaps, you also dare to defy me?"

The assistant, who was greatly alarmed at the man's words, instantly bent his head in submission. He then answered his superior in a trembling voice, "I dare not!"

Mu Yazhe glared at him grimly. "Book the tickets now. Immediately. Right away!"

“Yes!”

...

In the affiliated middle school of Jinhua University.

It was the end of June, and midterms were over. The production team rushed to finish filming the scenes by the end of the school holidays.

For the shooting process, the production team would complete filming for all the scenes in this location. Once they were done, they would move to another filming location.

The scenes were arranged to be filmed by location to minimize the budget spent and reduce the manpower needed in setting up the movie’s backdrops. Simply put, following the timeline in the script would not work when filming as it would waste a lot of time, money, and effort.

The cast changed into different outfits and followed the storyboard to complete their scenes.

The filming progress was unexpectedly slow, however.

Lin Fengtian, with his attentiveness to even the littlest detail, sought for perfection when shooting.

Thus, as long as a gaze missed the mark, he would request for a retake.

There was even a time when the production team spent two entire days filming the scenes for just the school’s anniversary.

It was all due to Yang Mi frequently falling into a trance as she stood in the first row. She was not feeling quite herself in those days; her soulless eyes kept floating elsewhere. For several times, Director Lin had lashed out to her via his megaphone simply because she was in a daze.

The weather was sometimes dreadful in June; hitting 35 degrees Celsius, it felt extremely stuffy.

All the actors could not avoid getting exposed to the raging sun for a protracted time due to her mistakes.

First-rate actors who were out of the frame still managed to cool and hydrate themselves under the trees.

The extras, unfortunately, had to suffer along with Yang Mi under the heat. Some with weaker constitutions nearly passed out from the heat.

Chapter 573: A Heartthrob

Many grumbled to themselves about her, yet they did not dare to voice their complaints aloud.

Yang Mi was high up in the celebrity rankings; she was not someone to be trifled with.

Mu Xi magically got a hold of a small battery-operated fan and directed its wind at Yun Shishi's face. As for her, she was sweating all over from the sweltering heat.

Her artiste had to film under such stuffy weather with heavy makeup on her face. If she perspired so much that her makeup ended up smudging, she would have to wash away all traces of cosmetics on her face and re-apply them again.

As she would be given close-up shots for the scheduled few outdoor scenes, they could not afford for any flaws to be seen on her face.

If there were any bald spots in her foundation, resulting in an uneven complexion, the quality of the shots could not be guaranteed, and a retake had to be done.

Therefore, Mu Xi held up the small electric fan in one hand and kept fanning Yun Shishi with a folding fan in another.

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The actress was heartbroken to see her assistant’s face flush from being under the broiling sun. She pushed the fan to her. “Look at you; you’re heating up. Don’t just keep fanning me and mind yourself as well. Please don’t get a heat stroke.”

Her assistant was momentarily astonished. Touched by her thoughtful action, she expressed her feelings. “Shishi, I realize that you are a nice person.”

“Isn’t this normal?”

“How many artistes out there treat their assistants like real people?” she grumbled. “You haven’t seen everything yet. Many assistants are their artistes’ punching bags; they slap them over the slightest disagreements! As assistants, we must bear the blame and

inconvenience. It's really tiring! Yun Shishi, you're different in that you treat me well and are nice to me!"

"... It's that serious?" She was flabbergasted.

"Have you heard of Yan Bingqing?" Her assistant tattled in a hushed voice. "Her assistant stepped on her dress before by accident, and in a fit of anger, she splashed a cup of freshly brewed hot tea on her face. That poor assistant had blisters immediately surface on her skin."

"..." Yun Shishi was dumbfounded. "She's that vicious?"

"Otherwise, what do you think?" Her assistant chuckled. "I'm very fortunate to be following you; everyone is so envious of me!"

"Pfft!" She blurted out a giggle.

"What... What are you laughing at?" Mu Xi stared at her, unable to laugh or cry.

She frankly verbalized her thoughts. "Now that you mention it, it sounds just like an emperor's harem in the ancient times! An artiste is like a concubine, while an assistant is her maid. The concubines scheme and compete against each other. How interesting."

Mu Xi could not help but titter at that. "Ha ha, exactly! That's how this industry works!"

She displayed a smile, yet her face was veiled with frost.

Her face was so cold one's shoulders would instinctively shudder.

She turned around and was surprised to meet Gu Xingze, who was now standing near her. He offered her an ice pack which diffused cooling air. “Here.”

“Xingze, you’re done with your scenes?” She greeted him cheerily.

Gu Xingze was previously managed by Qin Zhou, and Mu Xi was under the latter’s wing as his assistant. Thus, she was familiar with the superstar.

The actor nodded to acknowledge the assistant’s presence. He twisted the cap of a bottle, and furiously consumed the cold water within.

He was dressed in a set of workout clothes and had makeup on his face. Unlike his usual image in front of the camera, right now, he resembled a teenager of 14 or 15 years of age. He had fair skin, translucent eyes, and a scholarly aura as warm as jade, yet none of these suppressed his vitality.

He looked exceedingly handsome.

Entranced by his side-profile when drinking water, Mu Xi’s heart fluttered wildly.

“So handsome...” The bewitched assistant suddenly shifted her gaze on to her artiste in envy, murmuring, “Shishi, I’m so jealous of you!”

Chapter 574: The First On-screen Kiss

“There’s nothing to be envious of...” Yun Shishi numbly replied.

“You can act alongside Brother Xingze! Oh, my! You two look so good together – absolutely compatible! The scenes produced are going to look great!” the assistant exclaimed enthusiastically, clasping her chest.

The actress could only smile at her. “Well, that’s enough silliness out of you.”

Just as she finished saying that, the field assistant hurried over to remind her. “Shishi, your scene is up next; please get ready!”

“Eh, understood. Thanks!” She nodded and tidied up before she went off.

At the side, Mu Xi saw the man absentmindedly watch her artiste, his forlorn gaze never leaving her back.

Catching sight of his miserable look, the assistant was lost in her thoughts momentarily.

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Frankly, those observing them at the site had difficulty telling if the two were acting.

As part of the production team working with artistes all year round, she could easily tell whether a person was acting or not; no matter how realistic the artiste’s acting was.

However, for the last few takes involving the two leads, she often got the impression that, while the lady was acting, the gentleman was certainly not.

She could see the turmoil in his eyes whenever he looked at her artiste; there were feelings of love and affection, which he seemed to be hiding, coming from him. It was hard to differentiate whether he was just acting or truly felt that way!

His every expression and eye contact revealed his adoration.

Not even a seasoned thespian talent could emote with such ardor.

When it came to the feel, it was either real or an act.

Hence, the scenes were mostly finished with a single cut. Even the perfectionist Lin Fengtian could not nitpick regarding their takes.

In this troubled and forbidden love, Yin Xiachun's fearlessness and courage and Yin Dongyu's buried adoration were wonderfully expressed by both artistes.

Everyone present was easily led into the plot by their acting. They secretly praised her excellent and believable acting and his sensitive portrayal of the character's emotional depth.

Mu Xi, however, felt that the man was not just acting.

Was he too engrossed in the show he took his feelings for real?

Is he interested in her?

...

Soon, it was nighttime.

Only one more scene remained between the couple.

The scene was set in the school's music room where the two were left by themselves.

According to the plot, this was when the two would reveal their affections for each other.

Yin Xiachun had dragged her brother over to the music room in the middle of the night so that he could teach her how to play a piece by Chopin.

Yin Dongyu would teach her the finger work while sitting next to her when she, in a momentary lapse of reason, suddenly drew close to kiss him on his lips.

He was taken aback. Abruptly, the music notes halted.

His sister was unable to control the affections welling within her as she clutched at his chest and put her lips on his.

The first kiss between the two protagonists happened in this scene; it was considered as one of the climaxes in the show. The original fans voted this as one of their most-anticipated scenes.

Lin Fengtian had high hopes for this scene, too.

Beforehand, Mu Yazhe laid down the ground rule that Yun Shishi was forbidden from having any kissing or hugging scenes. This put the director in a fix. This was because this scene could not be completed with a stand-in.

Chapter 575: Kissing Scene

It was necessary to take close-up shots for this climax. Their every expression – his shock and her nervousness – would need to be shown fully through these close-up shots.

Unless the stand-in looked identical to Yun Shishi, how would it be possible to complete this take?!

This was making things difficult for him without a doubt. It was akin to telling him to find two pieces of identical leaves. How was that even possible?

On top of that, a stand-in would remain as only a stand-in. This tactic might work for distant shots, but the audience could easily expose a stand-in close-up.

In the end, Lin Fengtian decided to take a risk. He would secretly complete this segment with the two leads behind Mu Yazhe's back.

The director's pursuit of his art had become a kind of obsession.

The backdrop was finally set up.

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Yun Shishi sat in front of the piano and tapped lightly on its keys.

Ding ding dong dong... A string of light-hearted piano melody flowed at the tapping of her fingers.

She was only using her right hand to play without the chord charts. Romance was in the air as the beautiful melody complemented the peaceful night.

Gu Xingze, who was standing behind her while drinking his coffee, blurted out, “The way you hit the notes isn’t right.”

She looked up at him with a little smile. “Eh! I only learned to play the piano much later, so I my basic foundation’s incomplete. That’s why I find it difficult to play the keys correctly now.”

When she was younger, her father had sent her to a few enrichment classes, but she was learning the violin then. Afterward, in university, she switched to piano specialty.

Foundation and finger work, which required a head start at a young age, were basics to playing good piano. As such, while her playing skills could fool any layman, to a professional like Gu Xingze, her standard was considered as average.

He sat beside her and demonstrated the finger work again. “You should play the piece this way. The song sounded patchy with the way you played it earlier.”

“Eh—”

He went ahead and corrected the way she held her hand as well. “When you play the piano, you need to curl your hand like you hold an egg in it...”

He then showed her the correct hand shape.

“Er... You seem so skilled.” She chuckled.

He gave her a wry smile. “Shishi, my protégé, I’ve been playing the piano for 24 years now. How can I not be skilled at it?”

“Wow. You’re amazing!” she complimented sincerely. “You are so alike with the male protagonist in the novel. You two are piano princes. I always feel that men who know how to play the piano are elegant.”

He showed a rare warm smile. “Oh, really?”

The two went into character before the actual filming, where the man was patiently imparting his knowledge of the piano to the woman.

The cameraman quickly recorded this loving scene, intending to post it as a movie teaser on Weibo sometime later.

Lin Fengtian, who was reading the script as he kept an eye on the two, heartily commented, “This is exactly the kind of feel I want for this scene!”

He was pleased and relieved with his choice!

Yun Shishi might be a rookie, but since they started filming, her bad takes were few and far between.

It might be due to her being closely attuned to her character or having a flair for acting. Still, her innate inclination to acting was one worthy of praise, even from someone as critical as him!

It was incredible to meet such a newcomer who had talent, presence, looks, and nice temperament!

He took the script and came up to the two. He then went through his requirements, such as the expression, eye contact, and other minute details, with them.

“All right. Everyone, back to your positions and be on standby!”

Chapter 576: Superb Acting Skills

“All right. Everyone, back to your positions and be on standby!”

A few makeup artists quickly went to the two and touched up their appearances.

A staff member brought over the slate and positioned it in front of the camera. “‘The Green Apple’, Scene 9, Take 1, and... action!”

The ninth scene was set in the music room.

Everything was consumed in darkness, and one could only gaze up on a starless sky.

Within the pitch-black classroom, a narrow slit suddenly appeared at the window; someone drew the curtains aside from the window edge to let the beautiful and luminous moonlight stream into the room.

Yin Dongyu, played by Gu Xingze, leaned against the windowsill and looked around with wary eyes.

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Yun Shishi, who quickly went into character as Yin Xiachun, huddled next to him. Carefully tugging at his sleeve, she asked, “Brother, are you sure about this?”

“Mm! The teacher on duty already made his rounds and left for the dorms to rest. There isn’t anyone left in the music department.” Yin Dongyu spoke faintly. Quickly after, he signaled his sister with his eyes. “Wait for me outside, hm?”

“Okay. Be careful.” Yin Xiachun wiggled her head in understanding, a cheeky smile emerging on her face.

He grappled on to the ledge of the window and, with an agile leap, he landed on the windowsill and into the room next.

She hurriedly made her way to the entrance of the room just as the door was unlocked from the inside. Her brother’s bright and satisfied look subsequently entered her sight.

“Brother is the best!” She let out a soft yet excited squeal before stepping in.

“Shh! Quiet!” Worried that her squeal would alert the security making the rounds, he lifted his hand and sent a finger flick to her forehead.

“Ouch. It hurts...”

She placed her hands over her forehead and threw him an indignant glare.

Exchanging glances, they drew all the curtains in the music room shut. After ensuring that they were firmly closed, one of the lights was then turned on.

A warm spot of light cast down on to an exquisitely designed Yamaha grand piano.

“Wow... What a beautiful piano!”

She hovered a hand over her lips to cover her awe. Her breath was almost taken away. She circled around the piano and surveyed it a couple of times. Joy overflowed from her features.

All the romantic, music fantasies of a teenage girl bloomed on her face.

She loved to sit next to him whenever his younger self practiced playing the piano, and she became besotted with observing him try a monotonous piece of music repeatedly.

She was infatuated with that pair of long and slender hands pressing on the piano keys. In addition, his fingertips, which were smooth like ceramic, looked absolutely stunning as they danced around the black and white keys of the instrument.

The moonlight outside poured in and projected its brilliance onto his handsome side-profile.

With his back turned against its rays, his silhouette formed a silent yet lovely scene.

She did not come to like the piano at first; her fascination and love for it stemmed from her brother's infatuation with it.

He helplessly glanced at her repeatedly going around the piano. With his hands tucked in his pockets, he pulled his lips upward to form a gentle yet loving arch.

“Brother, how much does this piano cost?”

She inquired earnestly and stroked the piano longingly, her movement akin to a devout praying.

“It’s very expensive.”

“How expensive is expensive?”

“Erm... about 200,000 yuan.” He thought it over before telling her.

She was completely flabbergasted at the price; her eyes bulged to the size of bronze bells in her disbelief.

“It must sound great then!”

“Yes. It’s a piano strictly for concert use!”

Lin Fengtian examined the scene through the monitor as he stroked his chin lightly.

The story was progressing in an unbelievably smooth pace.

Be it of the superstar or the newbie, every movement and detail of their characters was executed to the point.

Chapter 577: A Definite Launch to Fame

The care and vigilance Yin Dongyu expressed and the uneasiness and anxiety Yin Xiachun displayed when they trespassed into the music room, as well as the amazement the latter had for the grand piano – all these expressions and emotions were vividly conveyed by the two leads.

She completely portrayed a teenage girl's innocence and love for romance.

Sitting before the camera, the director held his breath until the last moment of the scene and then he shouted, “OK!” The take was actually completed sans him having to shout ‘cut’.

Yun Shishi quickly got out of character and made her way to the monitor where Lin Fengtian was. She observed the shots the camera had last captured and analyzed the director's stern expression. He was looking at the screen solemnly as he went over the take from the start again.

She felt a little jittery, afraid that he would disapprove of her performance.

“Director Lin...”

“Shh!”

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He interrupted her words and, thereafter, pointed to a close-up shot of her in the camera. He hit pause and said, “Look at the close-up here.”

She bent down next to him and watched him replay the take for her from the beginning.

When the camera panned to this close-up shot of hers, he paused the take and turned to look at her.

She easily understood his intention. “My expression isn’t good enough.”

“Mm.” He thought that she had a rather keen awareness. “Your eyes lacked expressiveness. The adoration Yin Xiachun holds for Yin Dongyu isn’t completely shown. The long-shot is perfect, but the close-up is lacking a lot.”

She went through the description the author had written for the scene in her head repeatedly. “Director, I understand.”

“Do a makeup scene for this part!”

She motioned her head in comprehension and returned to her position right away.

The director gulped down a mouthful of water. He could hardly contain the astonishment in his heart.

He was especially strict with filming, and he seldom praised anyone on set.

Those involved in his production, from first-tier actors to nameless extras, were treated equally by him. Nearly everyone had received his tongue lashing at least once.

On the first day of filming, the inexperienced Yun Shishi could not find the camera often and committed big errors with her positioning; she frequently moved out of frame, too.

Because of this, she had her fair share of criticisms from him.

He chastised her harshly, disregarding that it was her first time acting or that she was an inexperienced newbie.

Many gloated over this. Yan Bingqing and Yang Mi, in particular, were taking great pleasure from her receiving reprimand.

She was usually shunned in the production team for two reasons.

One reason was that she was the newbie Huanyu was pushing for recently. Being relatively young, she had the looks and the talent in acting as well. Everyone was aware that she could shoot to fame, and all she lacked was the opportunity.

Now, this movie was her chance. All of them believed that as long as she put her all into this production, it was not an exaggeration to say that she would catapult to fame.

This newbie would surely become famous.

Therefore, the two veteran actresses eyed her menacingly.

They were afraid that, after she shot to fame, the company would provide her with more resources instead, and she, in turn, would rise in status.

There was too much competition and stress in the entertainment industry.

It was not simple for artistes to make names for themselves.

Yan Bingqing became well-known with the help of an investor and the efforts of her team in planning for and packaging her. Her increment in status was largely dependent on scandals and intentional hypes.

She was unskilled in acting, but she always appeared in the news, and this was due to her stunning looks and her team's effort to create hype for her.

Chapter 578: First On-screen Kiss 1

Yang Mi was different, however.

She debuted as a child actress and stepped foot in the entertainment industry at a young age. At the age of five, she starred as a young princess in a drama about an imperial harem.

As a child actress who had successfully transitioned into a full-fledged actress, she had many experiences in shooting for productions. Unfortunately, her acting skill was just up to par, and this was her biggest weakness in her career as an artiste.

Appearances could be improved with plastic surgery and fame could be increased by creating a buzz to attract attention. However, her lack of skill in acting remained as her Achilles heel!

Given Yun Shishi's superior aptitude to hers, she would naturally eye her with hostility.

Another reason was none other than her becoming the female lead despite being a rookie actress. The competition for this role was originally between Yan Bingqing and Yang Mi, but when Yun Shishi parachuted into the team, the two past rivals instantly became present allies.

It was indeed as the saying went: ‘The enemy of my enemy is my friend.’

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As such, after being criticized by Lin Fengtian, the two banded together and went to ridicule her.

Unfortunately for them, Yun Shishi was someone who remained indifferent to honor or disgrace.

She did not take their taunts to heart.

Throughout the night, she carefully analyzed the issue with her positioning.

On the next day of filming, her positioning improved tremendously, and there appeared to be no major issues. Even if there were, they were only minor flaws, and her takes were quickly compensated for under Lin Fengtian’s instructions.

He was extremely shocked by this, yet he did not compliment her before the others.

He wanted to praise her badly, but he could not do that.

He rarely did commend someone. If he were to do so before everyone else, they would definitely be envious of her.

Thus, regardless of her excellent performance, he never did let his happiness surface.

In reality, he was absolutely satisfied with her performance, which was better than what he had expected; she was even better than Gu Xingze in acting.

He landed a slap to his thigh. Once he thought of the upcoming kissing scene, he was simply blushing in excitement.

He looked forward to her performance!

The following take was also quickly done.

Soon, they were about to film the tenth scene.

Thrilled, he ran over to where the pair was to explain the scene.

There were a few kissing scenes in the entire novel, and there were only five throughout the movie.

According to the script, the first kiss occurred between Yin Dongyu and Yin Xiachun in this particular scene.

Yun Shishi had mentally prepared herself for the kiss in advance. Only a few words described it in the novel, so when she heard that the director had requested for a close-up shot for this scene, her face immediately turned a few shades of crimson.

“When you act out the kiss, you need to immerse yourself fully in it. Yin Xiachun’s innocence, nervousness, and thunderous heartbeats, as well as Yin Dongyu’s unrest and helplessness, must be properly portrayed!”

For some reason, she was suddenly a little out of sorts during his instructions.

Mu Yazhe’s charming yet refined voice rang in her ears.

‘Kiss me.’

He was the first person she had kissed.

Before that, she had no experience in it whatsoever.

She vividly recalled him gracefully stretching himself in front of her. His pair of deep-set eyes laid on her body as his lips formed a sinister yet provocative upward curve.

He whispered to her, ‘Please me.’

As he solicited a kiss from her, he kept hold of her floundering hands and pulled her into his chest. He then pressed her body against a wall and domineeringly deepened the kiss to the point of oxygen-depletion.

With their fingers locked together, they experienced a kiss so intense they seemed to melt into each other’s blood and bones.

However, at the thought of him doing that while he affectionately entangled his body with another woman’s, an ill feeling uncontrollably rose from her chest.

Chapter 579 – First On-screen Kiss (2) – Read novel online for free

Chapter 579: First On-screen Kiss (2)

Was it jealousy that turned into rage?

...

“Yun Shishi!?”

The director raised his voice to redirect her attention back to him.

She immediately recollected her thoughts and retorted, “Why? Director Lin—”

“You lost your concentration!” Lin Fengtian was slightly displeased and knocked her head with the rolled-up script.

She stuck out her tongue ruefully. “Sorry...”

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“Is there anything else you don’t understand?” he asked.

She and Gu Xingze exchanged fleeting glances as the director’s voice was heard again. “Shishi, I’ll be using Recorder B to do the close-up for you in this kissing scene. Remember to stick to your position later, and don’t move away from the recorder.”

She glanced up at the few recorders around them and nodded.

Lin Fengtian returned to his seat before the monitor.

“Everyone, be on standby!”

The log-keeper, with the clapperboard, took his position at the front and shouted, “‘The Green Apple’, Scene 10, Take 1... Action!”

At the snapping sound of the clapperboard, both artistes immersed themselves into their respective roles.

This was a simple scene.

As Yin Dongyu was coaching his sister for the play of the piano piece, ‘Serenade’, Yin Xiachun, unable to suppress her overwhelming adoration, embraced and kissed her brother.

The critical point in this scene was the emotional development between the two protagonists in their first ever kiss.

The girl’s brave initiative and the boy’s cowardly avoidance.

This scene embodied the essence of this film.

The two were biological siblings that were inappropriately intimate with each other since they were small. The sister always relied on her brother, and he meant the world to her.

There was a passage in the novel, which went:

‘At the end of the day, kinship is a really strange thing.

It is the fetters that tie two people together in tight bonds.

At the same time, it also carves a cruel chasm, which is impossible to cross, between the two.

When I was young, I used to feel fortunate to have such a dotting elder brother who treated me as the apple of his eye. I thought I was the most blessed girl in the whole world.

Now that I've grown up, I hate the fact that the blood flowing within me is also in the man whom I love with my whole being.

We walk the same way, we love on the same path, and we commit the same wrong.

From ignorant affection and girly adoration to a strong desire for us to be together always, the secular decorum just had to barge in and heartlessly pull us apart.

How far is forever?

In a thought is eternity.

Even a lapse of judgment can result in shame.

Brother, do you know that, even though the world is big, there is no place for me, and there is none whom I can depend on?

Can anyone, even God, tell me what love is? If no one can properly explain that to me, then why can't I love Yin Dongyu?

Yin Dongyu, he was born in one bitter cold winter 1 .

As for Yin Xiachun, she was born on the hottest day in summer 2 .

Both siblings were polar opposites, just like winter and summer.

The first word that the girl uttered was ‘brother’.

The first name she learned from blabbering along was also his name, Yin Dongyu.

He was older than her by five years. During their childhood, their parents were busy with work, and the four of them hardly spent time together. Thus, to the young girl, her brother was her most reliable and faithful partner.

Yin Dongyu had sharp features and was smart-looking. Hence, many girls had liked him since he was small.

However, he was rather aloof and preferred to keep to himself. He stayed away from other children – even from his parents. This might have to do with the cold season that he was born in.

Chapter 580: First On-screen Kiss (3)

Yin Dong's aloofness became more apparent when he entered his rebellious phase. The only one who could get close to him was his sister.

To him, she was someone precious; this might have to do with the kinship that he had with her.

Even his parents could not match the love he had for her.

The young him did not realize that the nature of their relationship had changed. It was at a crossroads.

His sister's dependency on him had gradually turned into possessiveness.

The two were so close that they slept on the same bed until junior high school.

When she entered high school, her body hit puberty.

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The boy was a freshman then. After his biology class, he came to understand sexuality; hence, he slowly distanced himself from his sister's intimacy.

The difference between him and Yin Xiachun was that, when the latter entered puberty, she was quick to discover that her love for him had gone beyond the norm.

She also realized, with much uneasiness, that she was destined to stay apart from her brother. She wanted to maintain this conflicting relationship with him forever – one that seemed close yet actually distant.

She knew that, one day, a third-party would appear between them. The thought of this person would uninhibitedly possess his arms, chest, and loving tenderness drove her into a panic she had never experienced before. She could not imagine him holding someone else as more important than her and a time when his love and care would not just be for her.

She was horrified at how much she resisted this possibility and hated the idea of a third party.

There was once when she caught sight of him walking home with a female classmate; that triggered her jealousy tremendously.

Nonetheless, she knew very well that her love for him was abnormal.

It was incestuous.

Still, admittedly, he was the first one to love her and dote on her the most in this life.

He made her heart throb with delight, and just the thought of him filled her with happiness; alas, she could not love him.

She had tried very hard to suppress her feelings for him until that segment in the music room where she could no longer hold back her affections.

This was how the kissing scene came about.

She wanted to enter a talent show and chose to play the piano.

She was an amateur when it came to this musical instrument as she did not pick it up when she was much younger.

When she was a small girl, she was satisfied with sitting beside him as he practiced the piano.

Her brother deliberately took her to the music room to reinforce her foundation overnight.

Ding ding dong dong—

Chopin's serenade gently flowed from his fingertips.

All along, he was focusing on her fingering the keyboard and, seeing her incorrect hand positioning, patiently guided and instructed her. As for her, she was distracted from the task at hand by his side-profile.

“What’s the matter?” Looking up, he was startled to see her staring gently at him from the side.

“Nothing.”

“Eh, then, let’s continue...”

He took her hand and held it to the keyboard.

His sister suddenly hooked onto his hand tightly and refused to let go.

She held his hand with such force he could sense her knuckles trembling slightly against his.

In fact, his shock increased when he found her hand releasing cold sweat as her knuckles turned white.

“Brother, can we stay together always, can’t we?” she asked hesitantly at point-blank and almost pleadingly.

Alarm flashed across his eyes, and he did not say a word in response.

Chapter 581: First On-screen Kiss (4)

Yin Xiachun was stabbed in the heart when her brother maintained his silence. In a suffocated tone, she implored, “Brother, I hate to see you with other girls. Can we keep to our childhood promise to be together always? Let’s be together for a hundred years and forever!”

Her naïve plea was accompanied by a frantic and desperate look; she was hoping to have her brother embrace her and tell her, “Yes, let’s be together forever.”

He did none of these, however.

Tremblingly, he pried open her clutching fingers one by one. His ashen face was full of resignation as he looked at her and said, “Be good. Don’t spout nonsense, yeah?”

“I’m not talking nonsense! I mean it!” She inched closer to him and urged solemnly, “I really want to be with you always, brother. This has always been our promise to each other, right?”

“Xiachun, we are siblings. There will come a day when I’ll have a girl whom I love to be my wife. That girl will be with me forever and not you. Understand?”

“Why?” Her face turned as white as a sheet of paper with his words.

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These cruel words drove a wedge deep into her heart. Her eyes rimmed with tears immediately.

She clenched her fists tightly. Despondency, which could be seen in her eyes, almost swallowed her whole. “What kind of promise did you give me in the past? Was it a lie? You clearly promise me...”

His eyes, filled with haze, turned to stare at the black and white keyboard, instead. “I did promise you that we’ll always be together and never be apart, but it’s not in this manner; do you understand?”

There was silence on her side now.

He furrowed his brows and was about to open his mouth as he looked up at her when she suddenly pounced on him. With her little face inching close to his, her hand looped around his neck.

Before he could regain his composure, her face closed in on his. Copying the actions of those characters depicted in a shōjo manga she had read, she flapped her eyes close and gently plastered her lips onto his cool, thin ones.

This was Yin Xiachun’s first kiss, as well as Yun Shishi’s first on-screen kiss.

Just like the protagonist she was portraying, her kissing skill was bad. As her upper torso leaned on Gu Xingze, she almost felt the warmth from his chest and the strong beating of his heart through the flimsy fabric.

He gave off an inexplicable fresh scent that was different from Mu Yazhe’s cologne.

It smelled of natural freshness.

Just as she placed her lips onto his, that domineering man's handsome but angry face flashed across her mind.

“Woman, how dare you betray me?!”

Betray?

Who's betraying who now?

She closed her eyes lightly and forcefully wiped that face off her mind.

As per the script, she hugged his shoulders as she leaned further and deeper into his arms. Her greedy lips wanted more of him as her kiss wallowed further in his fresh breath.

Yin Dongyu was supposed to struggle free from her embrace at this moment. He would push her away harshly and rein in this situation that was getting out of control.

However, Gu Xingze hesitated.

With his eyes wide open, he saw with clarity Yun Shishi's sweet face before him. Her eyes were shut lightly as she drew close and her shoulders were tense and withdrawn.

She seemed to think that kissing was a very sacred action.

Chapter 582: First On-screen Kiss (5)

She approached him while she trembled in trepidation; her anxiety was to the extent that even her eyelashes were vibrating. Tears welled up in her eyes and wetted her lashes as they seeped down the corners, leaving a streak of watery path on her cheeks.

This kiss was a despondent cry for him.

Yun Shishi was totally into her character. Her every facial feature, down to her every strand of lashes, expressed the dramatic emotions of the protagonist.

Gu Xingze struggled inside his heart as he watched her throw herself fully into the act. He was moved by her desperate kiss!

His heart ached for her. At the same time, inkling of love and reluctance to let go rose from within him.

The male protagonist was supposed to reject her advances and avoid the kiss at this juncture!

However, he could not shake off his real desire; he wanted this woman's kiss so much he could not find the strength to push her away.

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Without knowing what he was doing, he stretched out his arm to hold the restless and desperate girl in front of him.

The assistant director, who was sitting next to the monitor, swiftly stood up with disapproval on face.

The superstar had lost control of himself.

According to the script, his next action should be to push her away forcefully and not to embrace her!

He was about to interrupt their acting when, without warning, Lin Fengtian pulled him back to his seat by his sleeve.

“Director Lin?” he whispered, curious on why the director had stopped him.

“Shh! Don’t talk!” Obviously, the director was pleasantly surprised by their improvised acting.

This was a blessing in disguise, actually. While the star did step out of his role, he astounded the director with his realistic performance.

“This is the feeling I’m looking for.”

Because, to Yin Dongyu, he actually longed for this kiss.

He, too, loved Yin Xiachun, but unlike his sister, he lacked the courage. He was the rational type that would not let himself commit any action against the acceptable norm.

Hence, when he found himself having romantic desires for his sister, he quickly reined himself in and even got a female classmate to return home with him.

Although he constantly kept his distance from her, his heart would still not stop desiring her and her kiss.

How the star was developing the plot right now was actually the best way to portray the inner conflict of the male protagonist.

His hesitation very well displayed the struggle between love and rationality of the character.

Feelings were something that could not be controlled in the first place, right?

This way, the character would be more three-dimensional and feel more real!

“Do a close-up for Yin Dongyu!” Lin Fengtian hurriedly pulled in another recorder for this unexpected turn of events.

The original intention was to do a close-up of only Yin Xiachun to show her helplessness and hopelessness.

Now, the director wanted to do the same with the male protagonist, and his intention was to capture every change in the man’s facial expression clearly!

From the camera lens, his facial expression had transformed into one of shock.

It was as if he had returned to reality all of a sudden and realized that they were merely acting a scene.

His arms held suspended in the air for a while before he hastily pushed her away. He stood up without warning and turned his body away from her, looking pale with alarm and ridicule.

She hit the piano at his push. Her elbows hit the black and white keys and they emitted dissonant basses, sounding shrill and heavy.

These discordant sounds reflected the two’s emotional states very well.

She looked embarrassed and hapless as she stood up. With a dry laugh, she retorted with shaking lips, “Brother, why... did you push me away?”

“Don’t you find this ridiculous?” He touched his lip flaps where her warmth lingered still, and his eyes dulled as he asked this question.

“How is this ridiculous? Tell me why it is ridiculous?”

She choked as she straightened her body from the piano stool. Walking toward him from behind, she tugged at his sleeve just like what she used to do when she was much younger. “Why can’t I kiss you?”

Chapter 583: A Belated Rage (1)

“Why can’t I kiss you?”

“You can’t!” Gu Xingze, who was fully engrossed in his role by then, replied in a heavy tone. “And neither can I.” He roughly pulled his sleeve away from her hand, walked toward the window, and stood in front of it.

“Why can’t we?” Yin Xiachun stared at his back miserably. “I like you, and you like me. Isn’t that good enough?!”

She howled her last sentence and almost broke her voice.

Lin Fengtian sat at the monitor screen; his body was almost shaking with hyped emotions.

“It’s just too good—the tension is overwhelming! Oh, my god...”

This Yun Shishi is really exceptional!

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Indeed, he had good foresight!

In the screen, Yin Dongyu was seen turning to face his sister abruptly. He, with his bloodshot eyes, held her shoulders painfully tight and screamed back, “You are my sister, and I’m your brother! Do you understand? This is why we can’t be together, and we shouldn’t be together; understand?!”

“Why can’t we be together?” The young and naïve Yin Xiachun, who could not fathom his rationale, persisted. “I can’t do without you, brother.”

“We share the same blood. We are siblings. It’s incest! Incest! Do you understand now?” He held her gaze tightly, as if trying to wake her up from this dream.

She broke out into a cold and bitter laugh. Claspng his hands with hers, she stacked them together. “Is this the reason?” Her wet eyes looked at him mournfully as she said, “If this is the reason, then let me cut it open with a knife. I’ll let the blood in my body run clean. Is that enough—”

“Shut up! Are you a fool or are you threatening me?”

He clasped her lips tightly as his heart thumped with fear over her angry words.

She broke down without warning. Plunging headlong into his arms, she sobbed weakly and helplessly. “I really don’t want to see you with another girl! It makes my heart ache and causes me to feel pain. Brother, I really like you. There’s nothing I can do about it. I wish I can control my feelings, but I can’t.”

He seemed to lose his will and power as well. His arms hung loosely at his flanks as he ceaselessly muttered, “We can’t be together... This isn’t allowed...”

“Bro...” Tears rolled down her cheeks and slipped into the side of her lips. She opened her mouth a few times, but no words came forth.

He hugged her, full of heartache. Sorrow and pain lined his eyes as his brows knitted helplessly at their plight.

This scene was supposed to end at this hug.

However, strangely, the director did not stop them with a bellow of ‘cut’. The filming set fell into a deafening silence.

Without further instructions from the director, Yun Shishi did not know how to proceed.

Why is the director not giving instructions even though the scene has come to an end?

Gu Xingze looked up and his eyes froze.

She noted his startled expression. Quizzical, she also turned to look at Lin Fengtian, who was in front of the monitor.

With a look of trepidation and fear, the director stood with his back ramrod straight as he stared in the direction of the door.

Bewildered, she followed the direction of his gaze to her back and the music room entrance.

The door was wide open.

From the outside, the night was dark and heavy.

A tall and lean figure was standing high at the door. The man wore a black shirt that seemed to blend into the black skyline.

Chapter 584: A Belated Rage (2)

The man wore a black shirt that seemed to blend into the black skyline. His overpowering presence hung heavily and eerily over the production set. Everyone nearly suffocated from this.

Mu Yazhe...

She was totally paralyzed.

Immediately, she could sense a dreadful horror robbing her breath and pushing her to the brink.

The man stood brilliantly at the door with his hands in his pockets.

His wind-blown raven fringe might cover his eyes, but it failed to hide the menace breaking through his chilling glare.

There was not one bit of expression on his handsome, frosty face.

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However, she could sense daggers shooting at her, fierce and sharp, from his ominous eyes in the dark and cold night.

Her body instantly shook uncontrollably, and she stumbled a few steps back.

The man's level of gaze rose slightly as he lifted his chin, his cold lips angling in a disdainful arc.

“Why aren't you continuing?”

“...” She felt stifled, not knowing how much and how far he had seen.

She desperately tried to calm herself down. She was an actress, and this was acting only. Why should she feel guilty about it?

Acting should not be taken as real, right?

Besides, he was the one who betrayed her first, right?

He was also having an indiscriminate relationship with Mu Wanrou, was he not?

His so-called fiancée even flaunted about their good times openly before her!

What is he posturing before me now?

Is he angry?

I haven't flared up yet! Shouldn't he be the one to reflect on his action, instead?

Why is he looking at me now as if I'm the one in the wrong?

Still, under his icy glare, her strong argument did not seem to hold weight.

She was the one looking guilty now!

Her feet grew cold as she stood stiffly on the spot.

“Isn't it exciting. Why did you stop?” The frosty voice boomed again, reducing the temperature in the entire production set into sub-zero level.

Everyone shivered at the sight of this angry man, and their shoulders retracted fearfully.

This was especially so for Lin Fengtian, with the look of horror on his face.

Why... is he here of all places?

From what he knew, the man should be in London for a long stretch due to an important acquisition. He should not be back so soon, right?

In the dead and quiet night, he slowly strode into the room.

As he took a step forward, she retreated one. The more he moved in, the further she backed away.

His icy eyes looked foreign and scary to her.

Seeing her cowering behind Gu Xingze, he let out a sharp burst of angry laughter. His eyes then glinted with threat. “Come over.”

His voice, ever so light, was encased with frost.

She stood rooted to the ground, unable to move at his command.

Her tarrying only infuriated him further!

“Come over. This is the second time I’m telling you that!” He glared at her now.

If looks could kill, she would die a million times!

What a woman!

He was only gone for a few days, and she dared to block his number. Not knowing what had happened, he hurriedly flew back to check on her.

Instead, what is she doing?

She is here hugging and kissing a man?!

Chapter 585: I’ m Giving You Three Seconds to Come Here!

Lin Fengtian looked on in horror as he contemplated on how he could cool them down. The priority was to extinguish Mu Yazhe's flaming rage.

Seeing the man lose his temper and direct his incense on her, Yun Shishi steadily retreated from fright. Her hands and feet were now clammy.

Gu Zingxe perceived the man's murderous intent and pulled her back in composure to protect her while he cautiously inspected his every movement.

The director thought that everything was about to take a turn for the worse and rubbed his hands nervously. He stepped in immediately and got between them to prevent things from spiraling out of control. "Mr. Mu!"

The man halted in his steps and peered at the director from the corner of his eye as he cast his unfeeling eyes downward.

"Mr. Mu, don't take their kiss as real! The scene is shot using forced perspective!"

Before the director could finish his words, Mu Yazhe grasped a fistful of his collar and dragged his body before him.

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"You think I'm easy to deceive like a child? Forced perspective? Who are you trying to fool?!"

His chilly dark orbs instantly contracted. “Haven’t I told you that she’s not allowed to have any kissing scenes? Have you turned a deaf ear to my orders?!”

Lin Fengtian crashed to the floor with a dull thud due to the great amount of inertia as Mu Yazhe furiously swung his hand.

The assistant director and several staff on set were taken aback. They made their way over to their executive director in panic and helped him up.

Yun Shishi witnessed this in horror. “Director Lin...”

Concerned with the severity of his fall, she wanted to rush to his side but was firmly pulled by Gu Xingze behind her again.

Enraged and annoyed, she shot Mu Yazhe a glare, only to be mocked by the latter. “You still have the heart to be concerned with others? Very well!”

Wonderful. What a wonderful turn of events.

He had warned Lin Fengtian that she was off limits for intimate contact with any male actors.

However, as a subordinate, he actually dared to defy his orders.

What about his woman?

What was she doing while he was out of the country?

Flirting with other male actors and being in love?

He saw this for himself today.

What about the other times? What was she doing behind his back?

Mu Yazhe's cutting gaze slowly panned toward Gu Xingze's hand, which held Yun Shishi's arm tightly, and a chilling arch came to the corner of his lips.

Yun Shishi glanced over at Lin Fengtian, who was wearing a pained expression. Fear, frustration, and reproach all came to her at once, and she felt a false sense of suffocation.

This was unavoidable. Still, she thought that her conscience was clear.

Kissing scenes were the most common parts of a production.

Everything she did in front of the camera was according to the script. Other than that, she always maintained a safe distance from the male lead.

She really had a clear conscience.

Yun Shishi gritted her teeth and raised her voice. "Mu Yazhe, what are you doing?! Why are you directing your rage at others?!"

His eyes immediately shrank, and he cast her a piercing gaze. "You, too, are aware that I'm fuming now?"

She stared back at him with hurried breaths.

He demanded once more, "Come here! I'm giving you three seconds!"

Go over to him? Fine! She had not committed anything wrong, right?

Inhaling a deep chilling breath, she took a small step forward, only to be stopped by Gu Xingze again.

“Shishi, don’t go over.” He did not fear Mu Yazhe. He lifted his chin and met the man’s apathetic stare. “Mu Yazhe, so you resort to these despicable means to force Shishi into doing your bidding.”

Shishi?

A smirk of disdain tugged at his lips.

What an affectionate form of address!

“Gu Xingze, you sure know how to pester her,” the man countered.

The two men stood face to face.

It was a battle between ice and fire.

The invisible clash between the two auras spread to every corner of the set.

Chapter 586: No, Mu Yazhe!

The invisible clash between the two’s aura spread to every corner of the film set.

It was akin to the fierce collision of countless spears in midair.

The man's piercingly cold gaze laid on the hand gripping her, and he demanded in a solemn voice, "Remove your hand from her!"

The superstar's emotionless eyes met his. He did not fear his threat at all. Holding her hand even tighter, he even locked his fingers with hers.

She scrutinized Mu Yazhe's sinking expression, and she writhed about to dislodge her hand from the superstar's.

The superstar steadfastly clung onto her hand, however, and even turned to assure her. "I'm here. Don't be afraid."

His comforting words could not, unfortunately, calm her nerves.

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Undoubtedly, his protection only served to fuel the man's rage.

She did not wish to infuriate this man, nor did she wish to implicate the innocent.

The director propped himself up using his staff's shoulder and speculated that the field of the fight, which was currently charged full of volatile energy. Something clicked in his mind at that moment while he observed his superior, whose fury made all the muscles in his body tighten.

Could Yun Shishi be his woman?

Was it because of this that he issued the injunction order and forbade her from having any kissing scenes during the filming of this

production or from having any intimate contact with people of the opposite gender?

Was this because of his possessiveness toward her?

Then... What about Gu Xingze?!

Why was he going up against their boss?

What exactly was he thinking of?

Lin Fengtian, who was suddenly stressed out, felt a slight headache coming on. He absolutely did not expect for the situation to get out of hand.

“Let her go!” Mu Yazhe issued his ultimatum. He could certainly not hold in his temper any longer.

Who did this superstar think he was to have the audacity to fight him?

Yun Shishi trembled from head to toe from the immense fear she was feeling right now.

The superstar sensed her fingers' iciness and ceaseless shivering. Clasp ing her palm more securely to his, he pulled her back even further behind him in a bid to protect her instead of letting her go.

“Very well!” The man dragged his lips into a murderous concave arc as he marched toward the two.

Lin Fengtian realized that things were about to blow up and get more out of hand. He quickly bit his teeth and stepped forward to stop his superior.

He spared him no attention, though, and, in the moment's heat, sent him flying to the side with his kick.

The elderly man collided against the prop container, and his head and vision subsequently spun.

Her complexion instantly paled ghastly. She was about to stop the man when she noticed him tramping toward the superstar!

“No, Mu Yazhe!” she exclaimed. The superstar quickly shoved her out of his and the man's area of confrontation.

She lost her balance as a corollary, and her body hit the wall. When she recovered from this, she saw the man already running amok. He fisted the superstar's collar and sent a punch to his face.

The superstar, who was unprepared, received his sturdy blow straight on. His face twisted to the side from the impact, and a constant streak of blood quickly flowed from a cut to the corner of his lips.

She trembled from fright at this sight. With bated breath, she tried to intervene in the two's fight, but she was dragged to the side by a crew member.

“Shishi, don't go over. It's too dangerous!”

Blood having rushed to their heads in a fit of anger, the two men fought with equal ferociousness.

If they were just a bit careless with their moves and hurt her, her bones would surely shatter from the blow!

Slowly straightening his posture, the superstar's long fingers went over to his lips as he tasted blood when his tongue glided over it. Mu Yazhe's fist was certainly out to kill.

At a very young age, the man was thrown into a special military boot camp by Mu Sheng to undergo hellish training. It was by no means a child's play to taste blood at gunpoint!

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Chapter 587: She Did Not Wish for Both Sides to Suffer

He did not execute any techniques despite going through a ten-year long intensive training, but each move he made was fatal and carried a horrifying amount of power.

However, Gu Xingze was no simple character as well.

On-screen, he portrayed himself as a dignified scholar, but off-screen, having the blood of the most influential Gu family in the underworld running in his veins, which was something unknown to the masses, he was actually a skilled fighter too.

Lifting his emotionless eyes, his features were currently encased in a veil of frost.

After he unbuttoned his sleeves with a hand, he thrust his foot in the air with tremendous force to deliver a devastating kick straight to his opponent's face.

Mu Yazhe swiftly dodged this kick and firmly held the latter's leg. Still, he was forced a few steps back by the attack's huge impact.

Taking advantage of the situation, the superstar subsequently landed a fierce uppercut to his face.

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Yun Shishi was seriously dumbfounded and watched the horror unfold with a troubled look.

She had never seen such a frightening scene before.

Thus, the two men, equally matched in strength, started a fight against each other.

They executed no fancy techniques, but every attack they delivered against their each other was backed by firm strength and lightning-fast speed. Each move of theirs was life-threatening!

The props at the set that unfortunately suffered the brunt of their combat were crushed into a pile of debris.

Fast. They were too fast.

The man skilfully defended against the superstar's punch and, with his eyes glinting, sent a sword-like chop to his opponent's inner elbow, hearing a satisfying low groan thereafter.

The superstar refused to admit defeat and went all out with his counterattack.

The two men's moves were swift and left bruises on each other's body upon contact. The sound of their fight resounded throughout the set, and in the blink of an eye, they had already exchanged more than ten moves.

Their attacks were truly as fast as lightning!

Everyone was stunned speechless and, for a moment, stood rooted to their respective spots. No one saw how these two attacked and defended themselves.

Nonetheless, they seemed to notice the weariness on the superstar's face.

Bang—

Mu Yazhe punched the air with his foot in the direction of the superstar's abdomen. The latter agilely avoided the attack, and it landed a heavy blow on a camera crane. The equipment, which was made of steel, toppled over with a resounding crack !

Its crash to the ground echoed out deafeningly.

She looked on, shuddering in fear, and dared not imagine anything; if Gu Xingze had failed to dodge that kick, his ribs would have certainly been broken!

“Stop fighting! Gu Xingze, Mu Yazhe, stop fighting!”

She ruffled her hair in distress as she watched the ensuing fight of the two with worry-filled eyes. She was so nervous for them she was about to burst into tears.

Lin Fengtian and the others were already struck dumb just by spectating the fight.

The man's reflexes were quick and deadly, and within a few seconds, the superstar already appeared to be at a disadvantage.

The scene had everyone instinctively shuddering in fright.

At present, the large music room had become a complete mess.

Undoubtedly, at the end of the battle, both sides would suffer.

This was not what she wanted...

This was absolutely not what she wanted to witness!

She could no longer look on and do nothing; otherwise, something bad might really happen!

This time, Mu Yazhe executed a sudden roundhouse kick, which hit Gu Xingze's abdomen. The latter collided against the blackboard with a thud. He watched the man clench his fist and aim a heavy blow at his nose bridge—

In a flash, she desperately rushed forward and threw herself in front of the superstar. She hugged his shoulders firmly and yelled, “STOP FIGHTING!”

Her scream was nearly ear-piercing.

Mu Yazhe’s heart tightened. He noticed that he was about to land a blow on her shoulder and thought of the monstrous power contained behind his fist. She might be crippled by its impact if it were to hit her!

Chapter 588: You Dare Compete with Me?

He gritted his teeth. Unable to retract his fist in time, he sharply veered its force to the side!

The punch barely brushed past Gu Xingze’s ear and landed on the blackboard with a heavy thud .

Ka-cha .

The blackboard was holed by the punch’s impact.

A deafening silence pervaded the entire room in an instant.

The superstar opened his eyes. He was already drenched in cold sweat.

His vision laid on Mu Yazhe’s fist; splinters on the blackboard had pierced and bloodied it.

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He then transferred his gaze onto Yun Shishi, who had thrown herself into his chest. Her sudden act of shielding him from harm's way with her body with her eyes firmly shut bewildered him.

Grappling her shoulders, he yelled in a frenzy, “Shishi, are you out of your mind?!”

Mu Yazhe took back his fist with a stern expression.

Droplets of fresh blood trickled down from his fingertips and dyed the ground red.

When such a scene met his eyes, his heart seemed to be penetrated by a sharp blade.

This woman came dashing in without hesitation and used her body to shield another man instead of him.

What was the meaning of this?!

This irked him. This truly irked him.

There was a moment when he considered sending the superstar to his death.

He ignored the injury in his hand and ferociously dragged her out of the superstar's embrace to face him. Seething with rage, he demanded through his teeth, “Woman, are you seeking death?!”

His low yet furious growl nearly deafened her ears.

He was glaring at her with his handsome yet nearly bloodshot eyes.

Was she going to take that punch for Gu Xingze ?!

She would die; did she not know ?!

Yun Shishi pried her eyes apart and gazed in shock at the man, who was almost boiling mad with fury before her. Having a fit of hysterics, rage seemed to spurt out of his eyes in an attempt to devour her!

She was suddenly really afraid.

She was truly afraid of this man, from the bottom of her heart.

“Stop fighting, all right ?”

She shielded the superstar with her body despite her exhaustion and promptly lowered her stance. “Don’t hurt him anymore !”

Don’t hurt him anymore ?

Clenching both his fists tightly, the flames of wrath that appeared in his eyes seemed to be capable of burning her!

The superstar was not hurt alone in this fight.

He was hurt too.

Did she not see ?

Why did she only go on about the superstar’s wellbeing ?

Did she only have her eye on another man ?

He was on the brink of losing his control out of jealousy.

Seeing her hold up her hands protectively before the superstar, he roared a warning at her. “Don’t touch him!”

Her movement stiffened immediately, and she retracted her hands instinctively.

“Yun Shishi, I’m warning you; if you dare touch him again, I’ll let him die without a burial!”

His threat brooked no room for discussion; he could definitely kill the superstar!

Sure enough, she heeded his warning and steered away from him.

She did not doubt that he would break the superstar’s fingers if she were to touch him at all!

“Don’t be mad anymore!”

With fuming eyes in rage, Mu Yazhe pinched her chin at once.

“Don’t be mad? Don’t you think that it’s a bit too late for you to say that now?!”

Gu Xingze achingly held his arm and straightened himself up. He then said, infuriatingly, “You’re not allowed to touch her!”

“Get out!”

The man dealt a kick to his abdomen once more, and groaning in pain, the superstar fell to the ground in exhaustion.

She shuddered and dared not spout another word again!

The man pulled her into his arms at once and sized up the superstar emotionlessly. His thin lips mercilessly formed a slight smirk. “Gu Xingze, you dare compete with me? You’re still a tad too green!”

“Mu Yazhe, what is up with you trying to make things difficult for a lady?!”

Chapter 589: I am her only man.

Gu Xingze was unwilling to succumb to the man’s threat. He got back on his feet using his remaining strength, only to be sent crashing to the floor again by Mu Yazhe’s kick. The latter was now eyeing him coldly and cuttingly.

“Did you try to abduct my woman while I’m away? Gu Xingze, how dare you!” The man stepped onto his abdomen with merciless, bloodshot eyes.

The superstar sniggered. “What rights do you have... to say that she’s your woman?!”

“My rights?”

The man turned to look at the woman beside him. Yanking her chin up, his evil yet seductive voice sounded. “You tell him; who do you belong to, hm?”

Yun Shishi’s ruddy lips were trembling in fear.

Her every second of hesitation infuriated him without a doubt.

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“Tell him!”

He clenched her shoulders with such force that she yelped in pain.

The young man on the floor saw how still and frightened she was and gave a heart-wrenching scream like a mad man. “Mu Yazhe, you’re not entitled to touch her! Let go! Let her go! What gave you the rights to force her?!”

“Shut up!”

The man grabbed him by the collar and sneered. “Entitlement?”

With a face void of expression, he plastered close to the superstar’s ear and icily mouthed, “I am her only man. Is this entitlement sufficient?”

Instantly, the latter’s face drained of all colors. “Despicable...”

“You have overestimated yourself!”

The man jerked him away.

Looking at the man lying on the floor, she saw blood seep at the corner of his lips and the bruises on his arms. Greatly alarmed, she clung onto Mu Yazhe’s waist and muttered with her trembling lips, “I’m... I’m...”

The man bowed his head and looked at her intensely.

Her will broke as she looked at him dully and uttered despondently, “I’m your woman; isn’t that enough?! That is enough, right?! Don’t be angry anymore! I’ll be obedient from now on, all right?”

Take it out on me!

Don’t hurt others anymore.

This is all my fault!

Don’t hurt others anymore. I’m scared...

Gu Xingze could only stare at her stricken face. His heart ached beyond words. “Shishi...”

“Enough! Don’t speak anymore!” She told him through clenched teeth. “Please don’t say anything else!”

“Don’t you beg him!” The man grabbed her wrist in one sweep at which she tried to bear the suffocating pain in silence.

Seeing her silently wince in pain at his rough behavior, the superstar felt the pain from his injuries doubling up.

The man simply forcibly gathered the woman into his embrace and turned to walk away.

Lin Fengtian watched the departing back of the menacing man, and his heart went out to the pitiful woman. He was about to follow them when he saw from his periphery the superstar struggle to his feet and chase after the pair.

He gave a hard slap on his thigh before he followed suit.

At the gate, there was a row of black limousines parked at the junction road.

The man had almost carried her all the way to the sports car parked at the front row.

His steps were long and brisk, and she awkwardly let him carry her without struggle.

She could vividly sense that he was trying to suppress his fury. His handsome face looked stiff and rigid with his eyes burning.

This man was looking very, very angry now.

In fact, she could not tell what fate awaited her after this!

“Mu Yazhe!”

The man halted his steps without turning; only his smoldering eyes shone with enough frost to cut.

Behind him, Gu Xingze’s wan voice rang out. “If you are really a man, then make sure you protect her well! If you are only toying with her, then I won’t give up! We’ll have a fair competition!”

Chapter 589: I am her only man.

Gu Xingze was unwilling to succumb to the man’s threat. He got back on his feet using his remaining strength, only to be sent crashing to the floor again by Mu Yazhe’s kick. The latter was now eyeing him coldly and cuttingly.

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Behind him, Gu Xingze’s wan voice rang out. “If you are really a man, then make sure you protect her well! If you are only toying with her, then I won’t give up! We’ll have a fair competition!”

Chapter 590: Are you worried about me?

Mu Yazhe slowly turned to face him.

Gu Xingze stood at the entrance without approaching them.

Fair competition?

The man smiled mockingly. “Fair competition with your mediocre capability?”

The superstar stared with distress at the lady caged in the man’s arms, robbed of her power and will to fight for herself, and said, “If you are just toying with her, then let her go! I don’t trust that you can protect her and keep her safe!”

The man only arched his lips coldly. Ignoring him, he opened the door to the passenger seat and pushed the weak and helpless woman in.

She sat paralyzed in the car seat without lifting her head; the skin on the side of her lower lip almost got torn from her brutal bites.

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Once he secured the seatbelt on her torso, he got into the driver’s seat without any expression. Flooring the accelerator, the sports car raced off into the distance with a thunderous roar.

The superstar stared at the shadow of the departing car breathlessly before his knees gave way and he kneelingly dropped to the ground.

So angry.

If, in the first place, he had not given up his rights to be the head of the Gu household, then he at least would have the capability to fight with the man toe to toe now!

How can I lose to him?

Mu Yazhe!

D*mn it!

Lin Fengtian, who was hot on his heels, caught up to him just in time to see him collapse and quickly ordered fearfully, “Get the ambulance quickly!

“Xingze, Xingze, are you okay?!”

...

The coupe sped on the road without stopping, beating dozens of red lights in the process.

Soon, they were out of the city and on a long, winding suburban mountain.

The man did not relent on the accelerator as his hands locked on the steering wheel. With her heart pounding and her breathing stifled, she focused on the accelerating tachometer. The car drifted at every bend with its incredible speed, and this nearly wrecked her nerves. Despite her best efforts to compose herself, she eventually still let out a shrill scream.

She could even see sparks flying from the rearview mirror as the car boot scratched against the railing and produced a bit of sparks.

Without a doubt, any misjudgment from him, and this car would go past the barrier and straight into the valley below!

The man was on the verge of losing control over his emotions!

“Mu Yazhe, are you mad?!” Her scream was lost in the raging wind.

“Shut up!”

His handsome face was stiff as his frigid eyes stared straight ahead. The frighteningly, chilly aura emanating from him constantly reminded her of the extent of his anger!

The wind was howling and lashing against her face as they sped along the mountainous road. The strong gust of wind gripped her nostrils and gagged her throat, threatening to suffocate her!

The speed was so fast that the steep cliffs outside the car seemed to flash by her eyes.

The city neon lights were already a thousand of miles away.

The speed limit signage flashed before their eyes and was soon left far behind.

The valley below the road fence plunged deep and endless. If the car were to drop from here, both of them would definitely be crashed together with it!

Has he gone mad ?!

She turned to look at him with horrified eyes. The alarming speed he was driving had brought her to the end of her wits.

180 yards...

190 yards...

...

My god, this is a mountain road!

The '30' speed limit signages they constantly passed by reminded her of the perilous situation she was in now.

“Are you done... Have you gone mad? Something will happen... if we go on like this!”

“Are you worried about me?” The man continued to stare forward without sparing her a glance. At a sharp bend straight ahead, he slammed the steering wheel!

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“Are you worried about me?” The man continued to stare forward without sparing her a glance. At a sharp bend straight ahead, he slammed the steering wheel!

Chapter 591: Do not try to antagonize me.

The man continued to stare forward without sparing her a glance. At a sharp bend straight ahead, he slammed the steering wheel and pulled the handbrake without warning! The heavy tires jammed hard against the ground with so much friction a puff of smoke rose in the air.

Following this, the burned smell of rubber constricted her nostrils.

Cough—cough, cough—

When she saw puffs of white smoke rise from behind the car through the rearview mirror, her heart pounded loud and fast. Thinking of the car possibly catching on fire, she cried out fearfully, “Stop! Stop the car!”

“Are you worried about me?” The man persisted with his question.

Instead of stopping, he slammed the accelerator without reservation, and the car immediately doubled up its terrifying speed.

“Stop! I beg you!”

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Her stiff body had broken out into a cold sweat by now.

After experiencing a few drifts around the bends, her face now had a worrying shade of white. Gripping the seatbelt across her for dear life, she closed her eyes tightly for fear of what she might see!

“Speak! Are you worried about me?” His face was taut as he pressed her for an answer.

He did another car drift, and this time, the friction of the tires emitted a loud shrill.

The car continued to dash for the cliff and looked to fly into the valley below anytime!

“I’m worried about you! ENOUGH! STOP—”

She let out a scream at the top of her lungs.

He pressed hard on the brake emotionlessly.

The car slammed against the railing with the forceful braking and came to a heart-stopping halt just in time.

The coupe sank and wobbled.

Terrified, she opened her eyes to a view of vast and deep mountainous range.

From her periphery, half of the car's bonnet hung suspended in midair on the cliff's edge. Before them lay the bottomless valley.

If he had not braked in time, the vehicle would have smashed through the barrier and flung into the valley below.

What's this? Is he trying to scare me?

Was his reckless driving his scare tactic?

Breathless and on the brink of a mental meltdown, she covered her ashen face with her hands.

“Mu Yazhe, I hate you...” She covered her eyes in a desperate attempt to rein in her emotions so that the man would not see her most vulnerable self.

He loosened his seatbelt and pulled her toward him with a stern order. “I command you to take back your words!”

She looked at him unbelievably. Sometimes, this man could be so heartless that he made one shiver!

“Yun Shishi, let me advise you: don’t antagonize me!”

He lowered his eyes on her fearful face, frostily ordering, “Take back what you’ve just said!”

“A-All right... I-I take it back...” she stammered hoarsely.

His icy glare fell on her soft, pinkish lips, which reminded him of the kissing scene he had witnessed earlier.

His eyes narrowed dangerously. That scene was an eyesore that consumed him with rage he had nowhere to vent.

She struggled to take a gulp and carefully inched away from him.

He reached out his arm and yanked her over to his side again. Pinching her chin with his hand, he stared icily and penetratingly at her face, his index finger rubbing her lip flaps repeatedly.

It was as if he were trying to erase something on them. Gradually, his blunt action caused her lips to bruise.

“Did he kiss here?”

Stunned, her lips trembled as she nodded slowly.

He used his fingertips to rub the spot roughly, attempting to remove all traces of Gu Xingze on her lips!

This action did not seem to be sufficient for him, though, as he suddenly leaned over and covered her mouth with his thin lips.

Chapter 592: Do not touch me anymore.

He suddenly leaned over and covered her mouth with his thin lips. His tongue hooked and suckled on hers seriously and carefully. He then took another rough bite at her lips, asking, “Why? You seem to like him?”

She hurriedly shook her head.

She had never entertained any ideas about Gu Xingze.

The man gave her an eerie laugh before he aimed a bite at her lip corner. She retracted in pain but was pulled even closer to him by his arm.

“Don’t let him touch you again, then!” Gloom exuded from him and from his every word.

Her lashes flickered in fear as he continued frostily. “You had better remember that you are my woman. I don’t like anyone touching my woman! This is not allowed even if it’s for your job!”

“I... I understand. There won’t be a next time!” Her voice was quaking.

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“There won’t be a next time!” He barked another warning.

He looked over his shoulder and put the car in reverse with a strong jerk.

Her heart, which was hanging in suspension, seemed to ‘return’ to safety on the road together with the car.

Once the vehicle hit the safe zone, she quickly unbuckled her seatbelt, opened the car door to get out, and fell sitting on the ground. Her knees then propped her chest as her legs gave way.

Her tummy had churned upside down with the crazy speeding.

It felt terrible. She clapped her chest to regurgitate, but she only felt gastric juice climb up to her throat each time.

Along with the acidic juice in her throat, tears flooded her eyes without hesitation. She was in a really bad shape.

The man pushed open the car door and walked out slowly. He turned to look at her and then walked over in her direction!

She heard the footsteps behind her and quickly flung up from the ground. Her eyes watched him guardingly as she backed away from him.

The cold mountain wind ruffled and messed her hair.

He stood before her with his long and lean body, his black shirt almost integrating with the darkness of the night.

The foggy light from the coupe was especially glaring.

Against the lights of the car and the moonlight, the man's distinct silhouette cast a dense shadow on the ground. His icy eyes, which were directed on her, shone through his tousled fringe.

Although it was still in June, the wind in the hinterland was cold and biting at night.

Still, the wind was not as cold as the icy glint in his eyes.

The hilly roads were barricaded, and except for them, no one else allowed to enter.

Here, he was the ruler.

He walked over to her, bowed slightly, and tried to grip her wrist.

Due to her subconscious fear, she abruptly avoided his action and slapped off his hand the moment his cool fingertips touched her skin.

SMACK!

His hand was slapped to one side.

It was as if her submission earlier was just an act to defuse his anger.

Looking at the man's cold and menacing face, she kept retreating from him. Thoughts of his despicable behavior and Mu Wanrou's taunting flashed across her mind. Her heart hurt as her hatred for him intensified.

His face changed instantly. "What?"

"Don't touch me."

She put a distance between them, thinking of making a clean break with him once and for all!

Pursing his lips tightly, he ignored her words and moved closer to her.

“Don’t come near me!”

She backed a few more steps and broke down in distress, screaming,
“Don’t touch me, Mu Yazhe! I don’t want you!”

Chapter 593: Believe it or not, I will tear him apart.

His face turned ugly at her words and malevolence glinted across his eyes.

“You want to say that again?” It was a warning in disguise.

This was to warn her not to antagonize him further.

She slowly backed onto the guardrail when the neglected railing gave off a crunching sound.

She watched his every move guardedly and said coolly, “I don’t want you to touch me!”

‘I am pregnant with Mu Yazhe’s child.

‘He went to you before because he thought that I am infertile. He’s interested in you only because you have a unique connection to him! Now that I am pregnant, do you think you can still usurp my position in the Mu family? Are you trying to take an advantage here? Dream on!

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‘If he’s truly serious with you, why didn’t he break off our engagement?’

‘Why did he bed me when he was just intimate with you? Now, he got me pregnant. I am his future legal wife, while you are just his passing, secret fling!’

She clenched her fists tightly as her eyes looked dead with despondency.

The man glared at her again, his pretty eyes flaring red, and commanded icily, “You don’t want me to touch you? Yun Shishi, I’ll give you one more chance; take back your words and walk toward me.”

Infuriated by her continued backward shift, he lambasted, “If you don’t want me to touch you, then who do you want to touch you? Gu Xingze?”

“What has this got to do with Gu Xingze?!” She found him as ridiculous.

“How dare you talk about him again?!” He once more flared up uncontrollably when he heard her mention his name.

He recalled how he had ordered the air ticket to fly back overnight from London and saw the two of them hugging and kissing in the production set.

Although he knew very well that it was only acting, he was still insanely jealous!

She widened her eyes in disbelief; this man was really ridiculous!

He was the one to mention Gu Xingze first.

With bloodshot eyes, he uttered through clenched teeth, “If you mention his name again, believe it or not, I’ll make him disappear!”

Angry and alarmed, she said, “I dare you!”

He stared sullenly at her. Seeing the way she defended the man only made his blood boil faster!

“You just watched!”

The fury in his eyes shocked the woman.

She spotted that his fist, which had been bleeding profusely due to the wooden splinters that punctured it when he had sent a punch through the blackboard, was now swollen and mangled, but he did not seem to feel the pain as he glared coldly at her like a predator looking at its prey.

She unconsciously backed away again, and then she heard the guardrail behind her creaking precariously.

These railings, on this winding hilly road, were attacked by torrential rain and then exposed to the sweltering sun time and again. As the guardrail was already lacking in repair for some time, a cracking sound was soon heard from a hidden spot from the barrier.

She did not notice that, though, as she was caught in a great panic.

The man, meanwhile, was able to observe the danger behind her clearly. Terror flashed across his eyes as he howled, “Stupid woman, are you seeking death?! Come over here!”

She was scared by his furious roar into shakily taking a few more steps backward, which sent loose rocks beneath her feet tumbling off the cliff.

Crack—

SHIT!

The man stared angrily at her. “Don’t move!”

Chapter 594: Let me go.

Suddenly realizing her perilous situation, she glanced behind her to check. What she saw was a bottomless pit below the cliff and heard was the cracking sound of the teetering guardrail she was slightly leaning her weight on. Her heart jumped instantly.

She had acrophobia to begin with, so her legs quickly went soft from fear.

The man fixed his eyes on her, afraid that any wrong move from her would result into her falling off the cliff with the dislodged railing.

His heart went cold the moment he thought of that possibility.

He was confident of his driving skills, so the car’s speed earlier as it raced up this hilly road did not faze him.

In contrast, right now, there was only panic in his mind.

Chill coursed through his spine. This panic was something he had never felt before.

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He watched her nervously and reached out his hand to her. "Come over! Don't back off anymore!"

If she fell over, she would surely be smashed!

She retorted quickly, "Don't you come over! Unless you calm down, I won't go over!"

Eyeing her chillingly, he demanded, "Stupid woman, are you threatening me?!"

"I'm not threatening you! You just look at yourself now; I'm afraid I'll be squashed by you first before I fall off the cliff!"

He angrily mumbled through clenched teeth, "If I could, I'd wish to squash you now!"

Shaking, she sneered. "I'd rather jump off this cliff than be squashed by you!"

"How dare you?!" he howled furiously.

She gnashed her teeth and replied, "Just you watch!"

His fists were clenched so tightly that his knuckles turned white with cracking sounds. He struggled to keep himself under control for a while, and when he finally succeeded with much difficulty, he said, "All right! I'm calm now."

He did that despite knowing full well that she was threatening him.

She watched the flaring flame finally recede from his eyes. Biting her lower lip, she forced herself to calm down as well before she negotiated with him peacefully. “Mu Yazhe, you must agree to my one condition.”

“What condition?” he asked. His eyes never left her legs or even their slightest action.

He mentally calculated the distance between the two of them in case of her falling off the cliff.

“Let’s stop seeing each other.” She clenched teeth as she fought the pain and misery welling up inside her. “Let me go, will you?”

“Let you go?” He stifled a breath as his eyes grew sullen. “What do you mean?”

“Return my freedom to me, and I’ll do the same for you. We don’t interfere in each other’s life; isn’t that better?” She laughed bitterly. “This is my condition: let me go.”

His possessive, tyrannical, and controlling behavior were overwhelming and suffocating for her; furthermore, he could not give her a sense of security.

Perhaps, a relationship was burdensome to begin with. It was something she did not want to bear anymore.

He fixed his eyes on her and asked, “What’s the reason?”

“No reason; I simply hate you!” Looking calm, she said, “I hate your arrogance, your dominance, your despotism, and your self-assertion even more! I haven’t had a peace of mind since I’ve met you. Isn’t all that enough reason?”

He only continued to stare at her with tumultuous yet pensive eyes.

He then spouted two words forcefully. “I agree.”

His reply was so calm that it stabbed through her heart, but she felt a sense of relief when she realized that she would get peace of mind once more.

Chapter 595: I am your world.

She slowly straightened her body and walked toward him. As soon as she reached midway, the man pounced on her by grabbing her wrist and roughly pulling her into his arms.

His strength was reckless. She could see that his face was tautly fraught . He looked terrified for once.

Is he worried about me?

Is he worried that I would fall off the cliff?

Before she could react, both of them tumbled onto the coupe’s hood.

She moaned softly from the pain. By the time she opened her eyes, he had already flipped over and pressed on top of her. His overarching body nearly obscured the moonlight.

His handsome face, which was fuming and wry, loomed before her eyes.

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She was back in his reach again, and the anger he was suppressing could explode now sans reservation!

He furiously pinched her chin and buried his face in the crook of her neck before he bit hard enough to penetrate her flesh.

She felt numbness, which was followed by pain that spread to her four limbs.

She furrowed her brows when she heard the guttural sound of his sullen voice as he mouthed, "Stop interfering in each other's life? Yun Shishi, who gave you the rights to make this decision? Let me tell you that that is impossible!"

Amid her shock, she saw him lift his eyes to look at her. With his palm propping her nape, he forced her to look at his face. "You'd better listen now. It's your business if you don't want me, but whether I want you or not, it's my business. You have no right to interfere!"

"You..." She was speechless with anger.

"I want you for good!" He glared at her. "Don't tell me that we belong to two different worlds. Yun Shishi, you listen carefully; I, Mu Yazhe, is your world. Understand?"

She wants me to let her go?!

That won't happen in this lifetime.

At this moment, the hostility he felt was even worse than before. The strength he used to pinch her chin was so strong it could crush her bone any time!

Without giving her a chance to look away, he stared penetratingly into her eyes.

“Now, it's your turn to answer my question!”

He probed coldly, “Where else has he touched you?”

She was startled. “What?”

His gaze fell on her lip flaps, and he rubbed it repeatedly with his fingertip. “Besides here, where else did he touch you? Speak!”

This was when it dawned on her that he was talking about Gu Xingze.

“You don't let me touch you, but you let him to touch you.”

What is he talking about?!

She flared up. “He didn't touch me!”

“I saw it! There's no use lying to me!” He looked at her delicate lips, which had turned red and bloody as a result of his ravishing, and fury burned in his eyes again. “He touched you here!”

“That's work, all right?”

“Don’t use work as an excuse! Speak; where else did he touch you?”

He held up a bunch of her sweet-smelling hair strands and questioned, “Did he touch you here?”

She shook her head; her startled eyes failed to conceal the terror she felt toward this man’s near-paranoid possessiveness.

“How about here?” His fingertips brushed against her small waist.

She continued to shake her head.

“Mu Yazhe, that’s enough!”

“Not enough!”

He reached his hand under her skirt hemline; his fingertips’ cold touch sent shivers down her spine.

“Yun Shishi, do you know...”

Just the thought that his woman had been touched by another man sent him into a bout of insane jealousy!

Chapter 596: Since she wants, he will give her a home.

Indubitably, he was an arrogant man who did not allow anyone to touch his property.

He definitely saw her as his property.

That was the reason he gave Lin Fengtian the ultimatum.

Yun Shishi was never to have any physical contact with the opposite sex during the production despite it being required by the job.

He was not joking about this matter.

Regarding that earlier trip to London, where he had to be outside the country for half a month due to a company acquisition, he did think of bringing her along.

However, based on her temperament, he knew that she would not leave Youyou alone to follow him.

(vit(function()){“})

Thus, he did not speak to her about this.

He did his utmost to respect her wishes.

When he was away in the last ten days or so, besides busying himself with the acquisition affairs, he was thinking of her the whole time.

He missed her like crazy.

It felt like madness.

All along, he was the high and haughty ruler that did not let himself compromise with anyone or to concede defeat to anyone.

He also would not allow himself to be bound in any way.

Alas, this time around, he failed.

Who knew that a woman could actually make him miss her?

This was simply incredible.

He even wondered if she had cast a spell on him. If not, why would he only want her and no one else?

He used to dismiss the notion of marriage.

Was marriage the death of a relationship? He did not think so.

Marriage, to him, was something dispensable. It was just a benefit tied to fame and fortune.

The Mu was an elite family that had no need for marriage to gain benefits or connections.

Still, his marriage was not for him to decide in the first place.

He had to marry whoever his grandfather took a fancy.

It did not matter to him who his wife was; that piece of paper held no water to him.

It seemed that she wanted a home, though.

He carefully thought through this matter when he was in London.

Since she longed for a stable family, he would give her a home.

In this way, she needed not be dislocated or be defenseless.

He neither cared for his liking nor her wanting.

He just wanted to have his name, Mu Yazhe, etched in her life.

He had always been an obstinate man from the very start up to now.

It was either all or nothing.

As for her, he wanted her for their entire lives.

Once he set his eyes on a woman, no man or thing could wipe the idea off his mind.

What did she do, instead?

She blacklisted his number.

Wondering about her situation, he took a straight flight back from London, only for him to bump into that scene in the production set.

He saw her embracing and kissing another man with the kind of love and tenderness he himself was never a recipient of!

From where he stood, he could see the unconcealed love and adoration on her face!

His fury burned rapidly in that instant.

Although he knew that the two were merely acting, he could not stop his raging jealousy; he wanted to tear Gu Xingze into pieces there and then!

However, this woman tried to shield the man time and again.

In fact, she had jumped to that superstar's defense by blocking his attack at her peril!

Meanwhile, her attitude toward him was cold, unwilling, and guarded. She even told him not to touch her in near hysteria!

This is all good.

He looked fixedly at her face, a cold gleam flashing across his eyes.

She looked at him with a start. She could feel the heat of his intense fury, much like the heat emitting on her back from the sweltering engine hood.

The coupe speedily turned into Yun Shan Shi Yi.

Chapter 597: Cleaning Her Body

Appearing emotionless, Mu Yazhe carried Yun Shishi into the villa. She tried to squirm out of his arms, but he was not having any of it.

His arms held her with such strength and steadiness.

A punch from him could puncture a hole through a blackboard; from this alone, one could tell that he possessed quite the prowess.

She lifted her gaze and was met with his arrogant jawline, which was taut and chilly.

As he walked toward the master's bedroom, along the way, the maids astutely gave way for him in fright.

They were experienced enough to read one's speech and behavior.

When they noted that their young master's expression was not looking good, they gave him a wide berth, for fear of incurring his wrath.

(vit(function(){“})

He hoisted her into the bathroom in the master's bedroom and placed her in the bathtub; her body then quickly sank in the warm water.

Measuring a meter deep, three meters wide, and five meters long, the bathtub's capacity was shockingly huge.

She was dropped into the bathtub only moments ago, yet the water level had already reached the top of her head. As moisture seeped into her body, the lukewarm water flowed into her nostrils and the crevices between her lips and teeth.

Caught by surprise, she choked on a mouthful of water. The man impassively watched her struggle for air before the bathtub as he sized her up from head to toe.

She was still wearing her clothes on set; it was a student uniform, consisting of a clean white blouse and an aquamarine pleated shirt. All her clothes, which were now dripping wet, hugged her in all the right places, accentuating her dainty figure.

Since her white blouse was soaked, the lingerie underneath could faintly be seen.

Her impressive inner beauty was then exposed.

Right now, she appeared to be in quite a discomposure.

At a loss on what she should do, she stood there looking infuriated and embarrassed. Staring at him with raging humiliation, her eyes became shrouded in mist.

His heart ached at the sight.

Somehow, he could not resist the urge to hug her.

His handsome orbs scanned her entire body before they landed on her two collarbones, which seemed to be chiseled pieces of jades. As his vision caught hold of that milky white expanse and the smooth-as-jade pair of legs, his eyes burned with affection.

However, once his mind rewound to that glaring scene, once he thought of her lips, wrist, and body having been touched by Gu Xingze, and once he considered other men having a share of her...

He could not control his temper. His piercing gaze was akin to a sharp blade, which appeared to be about to penetrate through her body.

He imparted her with some words. "Clean yourself! Completely clean up where that man has touched you!"

Upon finishing his sentence, he slammed the door and made his way out.

Watching him slam the door, she heard a loud thud from its immense impact that seemed capable of shaking the very foundation of this entire bathroom.

That cold gaze of his just then had, undoubtedly, hurt her.

Did he dislike her filth?

Did he dislike that she had been touched by another?

Nothing happened between her and Gu Xingze at all!

He demanded her to clean herself, but what about him?!

Could he clean every inch of his body that had been touched by Mu Wanrou?

He wanted her to be squeaky clean, right? Fine. She would grant his wish!

Mu Yazhe headed toward the bar and popped a bottle of Lafite. He took a sip of it, and a rich aroma entered his mouth.

He forced himself not to think about her, but he could not control his emotions.

CLANG! He smashed the glass on to the ground, as if this could help relieve his rage.

Alas, despite this, his fury seemed to still be present. With a whoosh of his hand, the entire row of red wine on the table was swept to the ground; a total mess was made.

A trembling maid astutely came to him and quickly freed the floor of any shard of glass.

He rested on the sofa for a full hour, yet he did not see her exit the bathroom.

A thought suddenly came to mind and his heart thumped wildly. Abruptly springing up from the sofa, he dashed toward the bathroom.

Chapter 598: You Are Squeamish about Cleanliness, and I Am Too!

When he pushed the door ajar, he spotted her entire body submerged in the bathtub. It was hidden away by the soap bubbles and a thick layer of foam filling the bathtub from prying eyes.

A wave of relief washed over him, followed by the tightening of his chin. He went over to her with a sullen face.

“Are you done cleaning yourself?”

She only concerned herself with tucking her head to her chest and furiously scrubbing her body. Her face looked apathetic. No one knew for how long she had been scrubbing her body, but the way she exerted all her strength into doing the task made it seem as if she was hell-bent on exfoliating a layer of her skin!

As for his question, she acted as if she did not hear it at all.

This woman was clearly furious with him.

Her heart had clearly gone cold toward him.

(vit(function()){“})

He bent down with a solemn expression and brushed aside a layer of soap bubbles; his eyes then instantly contracted chillingly.

The skin, which was originally flawless as white jade, was now raw.

Nonetheless, she continued to rub and clean her skin, as if she were numb to the pain. Some parts of her body, which were especially delicate, already had streaks of blood present, owing to her furious scrubbing!

D*mn it!

What was she doing?!

What was she rubbing so hard for? Did she not feel pain?

Her skin was extremely delicate; normally, a lasting red mark would form with a light pinch from him!

Even he could not bear to trample her skin; what exactly was she doing?

Abusing herself?

Was she using this to infuriate him – to get her revenge on him?

His heart ached painfully. He stepped forward to her and moved to take away the towel in her hands at once.

He flew into a rage. “Are you crazy?!”

She jerked away from him abruptly and turned to face him frostily as she tugged at her lips to form a distant arch. “What wrong have I done this time?”

His brows creased as he watched her furiously toss the towel, which was soaked in soap bubbles, at him.

The soap bubbles splashed into the air and spattered onto his taut and gloomy face.

The eyes she used to look at him were now bloodshot. “Didn’t you want me to clean myself?! What wrong have I done? I know that you detest my filthy body. I’m washing it; I’m washing it with all my might already!”

“Get your facts straight!” He clasped her wrist at once and reproved in a hushed voice. “I never asked you to mistreat yourself like this!”

She chuckled sternly at him in response. “I’m not mistreating myself. It’s just that, how will I become clean if I don’t wash myself like this?”

Each word she spouted increasingly induced his rage.

He warned her not to infuriate him.

What about him? Was his every word simply not frustrating, hurtful, or embarrassing to her?

Those places in his body Mu Wanrou had touched that she found to be detestable, would he clean them, too?

She proceeded to lather some body wash onto her flesh. The bottle of liquid soap, which was previously filled to the brim, was now completely empty. Since he wanted her to wash herself clean, she would then make herself spick and span.

Completely angered by her words, his brows came to a knit. At this moment, he had to hold his temper in. He picked up the towel and attempted to help her wipe her body.

However, she forcibly pushed him away in return. “Don’t touch me!”

His expression sank as his eyes were met with her fuming ones. Every look she cast on him was filled with contempt. “Don’t touch me!”

“...”

“You dislike that I’ve become dirty from other people’s touches, right? I, on the other hand, detest that you’ve become filthy from another woman’s touch!”

She snatched back her towel from his hands at once and told him with derision, “Please ensure that your body has been cleaned properly before touching me. You’re squeamish about cleanliness, so why won’t I be squeamish about it, too?!”

“What do you mean?!” The mask over the fury on his face was now unveiled.

“Nothing!”

Chapter 599: I find you dirty, too.

Her face looked equally ugly; she would do the same to him.

With his long arms, he flipped her shoulders so that she would look at his frosty face. “Speak! What do you mean by the words you’ve just said?”

“There’s no other meaning except that I find you dirty!” She glared at him with frost. “I’m not done yet, so please get out!”

“Aren’t you speaking?”

She continued to rub her body while she ignored his presence.

He lost his patience finally. Gathering her in his arms, he drained the foam in the bathtub, turned on the showerhead, and began to scrub her body.

She pushed him away, and amid the struggle, he got drenched.

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He was not one to let her get away with her tantrum, so locking both her wrists with one arm, he pinned her down heavily inside the bathtub with the other. In this way, she totally lost her ability to fight him.

The water in the tub soon overflowed, and it was refilled with fresh warm water.

Knowing full well that she could not fight against him, she finally gave up her resistance and let the man patiently cleaned the foam off her body.

He lowered his head and saw the stubborn and far-off look on her face. Her eyes were misty while her ruddy lips were pursed into a thin line. He was rough at times when he cleaned her, but she did not utter a sound despite the pain.

Forcibly suppressing herself, she was like a stubborn wounded little beast.

However, in all honesty, she needed to consider on whose territory she was in currently.

Her apathy made him unhappy.

Pinching her chin, he asked, “Are you angry?”

Taking him as air, she clenched her lips tightly and refused to speak a word to him no matter how many times he asked questions.

Is she ignoring me?

He sneered, wanted to see how long she could persist with his offensive.

Her eyes were shut when she suddenly sensed a sensation from a certain area in her body. Her eyes opened with a start and her body contracted involuntarily.

He would not allow her to escape and easily imprisoned her in his embrace.

Her eyes flamed red as she glared at him with anger.

He forced himself on top of her with one arm pinning her shoulders. She was nailed to the spot, unable to resist due to the difference between their physiques.

She could only watch him remove his shirt with his other hand and pressed his hot and heavy body onto hers. His thin lips sealed her clenched lips. No matter how much she tried to avoid him, he had a way of overcoming her.

The warm water continued to spray from the showerhead, submerging both of them in the tub.

Covering her lips with his, he recklessly laid her.

She tried to resist initially. Biting hard her lower lip to rebel against his efforts, not even a muffled hum came out.

He was out to torture her, though.

Soon, she could not contain the surge climaxing within her as she let loose a moan in the middle.

“Mu Yazhe...” She broke down and called his name in a keening voice, making a last attempt of weak resistance.

She reached out to push his shoulders, which he easily caught with one hand. Bowing his head low, he suckled on her fair and slender fingertips.

Gradually, his action was no longer reckless and became gentle, instead.

...

Chapter 600: Have you said these words to Mu Wanrou as well?

He carried her out of the bathroom. The spacious bedroom, where he was now standing, was his kingdom.

It was a night of wild lovemaking. He could not recall when he had last touched her; all he could remember was that he had been missing her and suppressing his urge all this while.

Drifting in and out of her consciousness, she could not remember how many times he had laid her.

His tyranny was, once again, evident in their lovemaking.

As he kissed her brows, lips, and then her clavicle, he said, “Over here, this is mine.”

Following this, the kisses traveled to her scapula, fingertips, waist, and abdomen. “These are mine.”

He consumed her explosively as he declared, “And here, it can only belong to me.”

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It was as if he wanted to brand his name and presence on her physically.

“Yun Shishi, your every inch belongs to me!”

She broke down out of the blue. “What about you, then? Do you belong to me?”

His action fell short upon hearing that and looked quizzically at the teary-eyed woman lying below him.

“Does this belong to me?” She brushed his lips.

“And does this belong to me?” She touched his chest.

“Have you said those words to Mu Wanrou as well?”

“Did you kiss and want her the way you kiss and want me?”

“If I belong to you, then what about Mu Wanrou?”

...

Honestly, what made him think that only he could get jealous here? Was she not the same, too?

He was insanely jealous, and so was she.

She was stuck in an unfair relationship with him now. On what grounds could he demand that she was to belong to him entirely?

...

At dawn.

He went to take a shower in the bathroom. After he put on his bathrobe, he slowly walked and stood before the floor-to-ceiling window. Expressionlessly, he lit up a cigarette with a click of his

lighter and then a whiff of tobacco smell slowly permeated the air in the room.

A wisp of smoke puffed and dispersed between his lips.

From the window reflection, he could see the woman curling up into a fetal position in her sleep in the bed.

He walked toward the bed and sat by its edge. Lowering his gaze on to her sleeping profile, he observed her incredible beauty. Her furrowed sweet brows and her messy raven hair complemented her fair skin.

He did it with her several times, so now her face showed exhaustion, which pointed to his high vitality.

He reached out, grasped a bunch of her hair in his hand and sniffed its sweet fragrance.

Taking a deep breath, he opened his eyes again as her words rang in his head.

‘You say that I belong to you, then do you belong to me?’

‘If I belong to you, then what about Mu Wanrou? Does she belong to you, too?’

‘Do you belong to her?’

...

Based on his sharp intuition, he figured that something had happened while he was not around.

Mu Wanrou?

Could it be that she has said something to her?

This was only a guess.

Before he left the country, he specifically arranged a team of bodyguards to follow and protect her wherever she went.

The report he received was that she had been filming at the production set all this time and had not come into contact with anyone else during his period of absence.

...

When she woke up, it was already late in the afternoon.

The curtains were tightly drawn across the windows, casting oppressive and nearly suffocating shadows over the bedroom.

There was no one beside her in the bed.

She held her dizzy and heavy head and sat up. Flipping away the quilt, she saw that her body was now clean and dry with a bathrobe covering it.

There was a stack of fresh and new clothes laid neatly next to the bed. Every item, from the lingerie to the overcoat, was according to her exact size.

Chapter 601: Not Allowed into Mu Family

She heaved a long sigh of relief and tried to move her body with some difficulty. This was when she noticed the swelling around her inner thighs and close to her pelvis.

Why is it so painful?

She started to recall hazily their wanton night, and this made her face turn beet red.

Frowning, she unfolded the quilt and tried to get out of the bed with her wobbling thighs.

Her whole body ached terribly, and she could hardly hold herself up.

Holding onto the side table for support, she took a deep breath to calm her pounding heart before she entered the bathroom to wash up.

From the mirror and her periphery, she caught sight of a bright red mark on the side of her nape. She lifted her bathrobe neckline and shockingly discovered an intersperse of bruises and hickeys all over her body.

(vit(function(){“})

That man had been aggressive in bed more than usual.

Once she finished washing up, she put on a fresh set of clothes and stepped out of the bedroom.

There was a row of servants waiting for her respectfully outside the door.

“Miss Yun, good morning!”

Their synchronized greeting startled her.

Stunned for a moment, she proceeded to survey the area and noted a line of politely smiling servants in uniforms standing next to the door.

“You are...” She subconsciously straightened her collar and hastily put her hands behind her back to cover his hickeys as much as possible.

“Master has left the house; lunch has been prepared for you.”

At the dining table, she eyed the delectable spread before her without any appetite. She found the food to be tasteless as she munched on it mechanically.

...

The Mu residence.

When Mu Yazhe stepped into the house, he could see his grandfather sitting at his usual seat with his walking stick next to him. Mu Wanrou, who was beside the elderly man, was gently kneading his shoulders.

Mu Sheng’s face sank the moment he saw his grandson. His terrifying, hawk-like eyes fixated on the young man angrily.

The man’s lips hooked into a smile. “Grandpa.”

His grandfather, meanwhile, fumed. Knocking the cane against the floor several times, he lambasted, “You still dared to regard me as

your grandpa?!” A ferocious gust of violent anger blasted on the young chap’s face.

Standing at the doorway, a gleam zapped across his eyes when his periphery fell onto Mu Wanrou.

His sharp gaze terrified her so much her shoulders cowered timidly.

The old man continued while he tried to keep his anger in check. “I heard that you’ve been back to the country since last night, but you didn’t come home. Where did you go?”

His gaze falling on the old man again, he said with much composure, “Grandpa, I’m back here to announce something.”

“You answer me first!”

It was apparent that the old man’s anger had not subsided yet. Without waiting to hear another word from his grandson, he threw a magazine at him.

He did not attempt to catch the flying object.

The magazine hit the floor with its cover facing up. It was a picture the media had shot at Huanyu’s annual gala.

In this image, a splendid Yun Shishi was seen turning her head with a smile. It was just a side-profile, but it captured all her stunning glamor.

“Who is this woman?!”

He swept the picture with a cold glance, retracted his eyes, and then kept his silence.

Mu Wanrou quickly leaned over and coaxed the old man. “Grandpa, don’t be angry! This is just a starlet from the show business. Is there a need for you to flare up over an ordinary actress?”

“Wanrou, I’m feeling sorry for you!” Mu Sheng sighed and covered her hand with his wrinkled hand. “What’s so good about that woman? She’s just an actress! As the saying goes, nothing good ever comes out from prostitutes and actresses. These actresses from the entertainment field are only looking at us for fame and fortune! This kind of woman won’t be allowed into the Mu family!”

Chapter 602: Youyou may be unimpressed with a mere Mu family.

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

“This kind of woman won’t be allowed into the Mu family!”

“Grandpa, don’t make things difficult for him! In any case, he is never interested in me, and I’m used to it by now...”

She put on a grieving face as she pretended to speak up for him even though she was gloating inwardly.

Hmph. With Mu Sheng sticking up for me, what can Yun Shishi do?

As long as this old man was around, Mu Yazhe would be unable to marry that woman into this household.

Regarding this man, her heart had totally given up.

His heart was never hers in the first place.

(vit(function()){“})

She was nothing to him.

Their engagement six years ago was a sham that he had unwillingly agreed on to please his grandfather.

He delayed the wedding time and again simply because she did not matter to him.

He had never touched her. A man avoiding touching a woman, not even her finger, just went to show that she had no place in his heart.

It was not that she had not tried. She did her best to arouse him. Stripping herself bare in front of him, she only invited his disgusted look. He did not even spare her a glance.

She was only Young Mistress Mu in name – a mere title that she carried with her.

Thus, the most important thing to her now was to make this title official by tying the knot with him as soon as possible.

What of the man not loving her?

She still had her fame and fortune even though she could not capture his heart. This did not matter to her anymore.

This was a sad thing about marrying an elite.

The thought was actually a relief to her.

The old man could not read her mind, of course. Mistaking her lonely countenance for forbearance, his heart went out to her. He turned to stare at the young man's face with fury and indignance.

“Yazhe, look at what Wanrou does for you despite how you treat her! Grandpa doesn't care if you are toying with that woman or not! As someone who's been through the same thing, I'll give you a piece of advice: There's no good apple in that acting industry. The actresses may look innocent, but all are in fact rotten to the core. I don't care for anything except that no one should replace Wanrou as your official wife!”

The man smiled mockingly. “Official?”

Mu Sheng did not catch the sarcasm that fled across the young man's eyes. At Mu Wanrou's cajoling, the old man had calmed down somewhat. “If you like another woman, you can very well marry that girl as your second wife. I have no objection if that girl comes from a respectable family, but you tell me which woman from that entertainment field is not after our fame and fortune?! I will never agree to having an actress marry into this household – not even as your mistress!”

After our fame and fortune?

Does Yun Shishi need to go after our fame and fortune?

The man even suspected her precious son of being unimpressed with a mere Mu family; this was assuming that she married him.

That boy, at the tender age of seven, already had a toy empire under his control. As the little lad had once told him, he was not as simple as he looked.

The Mu household might not even hold the boy's interest.

Yun Tianyou's arrogant demand echoed in his mind again.

'Mu Yazhe, let me tell you this; my mommy is a treasure to me. If you want to care for my mommy, you should be legitimate!'

The boy only wanted a legitimate title for his mother; that was all.

Chapter 603: She is the woman I want.

As for Yun Shishi, she wanted a home.

Thus, he would give them a home.

A home for the four of them – him, her, and the twins.

Moreover, his youngest son was even more outstanding than him. With a fortune worth hundreds of millions at such a young age, he might be uninterested in the Mu family in the first place.

His thin lips parted to impart chilling words. "Grandpa, I think you are mistaken."

Mu Sheng could not get what he meant. His hawk-like eyes narrowed quizzically. "What do you mean? Where am I mistaken?!"

“This woman, she will be my wife. The woman whom I have set my eyes on will be the future young mistress of the Mu family!”

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“What?!”

The old man flared up instantly. Actually, more than anything else, he was bewildered by his declaration!

Having watched over his grandson as he grew up, he knew him better than anyone else.

Mu Yazhe was a fine gentleman from a young age with his strict upbringing.

Unlike those young chaps from the filthy rich who spent their time merrymaking with countless gals clinging to them, his grandson was detached and aloof toward the opposite sex.

He reckoned that his precious grandson was only toying around with that woman. It would not last.

Once he got sick of that woman, he would quickly settle down.

He truly did not expect his grandson to come home telling him that he was serious!

In fact, the chap was so serious about making that woman his wife he even declared her to be the woman he had set his eyes on. How unbelievable!

If that woman were from a well-fitting and wealthy family, he would accept that!

However, an actress from the entertainment industry had no place in the Mu family!

His face turned livid. Looking coldly at his grandson, he ranted at the top of his lungs. “Audacious! Are you not going to listen to me?! I warned you that this kind of woman won’t be permitted into the Mu family; have you taken my words to heart at all?!”

Mu Wanrou cut in hastily. “Grandpa, don’t be angry! As you know, all women from the entertainment industry are calculative! They are cunning and can easily mesmerize a man like a vixen. Ah Zhe is just fooling around for now. If he really wants her, she can be his second wife. I don’t mind!”

That only antagonized the old man even more. “What do you mean by you don’t mind? Wanrou, I must chastise you; why are you so magnanimous?! That woman will fight with you for status if she marries into our family! You are innocent as always. I can’t bear to see you engage in a mind game with another woman, you know? I’m in pain even if you’re not!”

She smiled coyly and muttered, “Ah Zhe likes that woman, right? This can’t be helped. Of course, I wish he can love me more, but feelings can’t be forced.”

The young man’s eyes narrowed dangerously as his gaze dropped onto her. She was born with a sweet mouth. Spouting words sweeter than honey, she had the old man eating out of the palm of her hand. Expectedly, the latter’s temper was completely appeased by her constant cajoling.

It was no wonder Mu Sheng doted on her so much right down to the bone.

She spent considerable efforts on this old man every day.

In his old age, Mu Sheng no longer possessed a youthful vitality. Just like other old folks, he yearned for love and companionship.

Chapter 604: I want to cancel my engagement with her.

Just like other old folks, he yearned for love and companionship.

His grandson, who was often preoccupied with matters in the office, was hardly at home to keep him company.

As for his great grandson, Little Yichen, was not affectionate to him for one reason or another.

Thus, Mu Wanrou was the person who was always there for him.

This woman had invested considerable time and energy in the old man.

He arranged for her to become the director of the Human Resource Department at Disheng Financial Group and one of the core decision-makers in the board of directors. In fact, she was considered as the second-in-command in the Mu empire.

Still, despite how busy her schedule was, she would make sure to finish her work early to keep the old man company at home.

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Mu Sheng was very reliant on her as well.

Perhaps, he missed Mu Qingcheng terribly that he was subconsciously projecting his desires for her onto Mu Wanrou. What he had for her was a twisted form of attachment.

Due to his failing health, the old man had several prescriptions to consume every day, and this distressed him greatly. On a bad day when his poor health bothered him, his short temper was explosive and he refused to take his medications.

Only she could coax and cajole him into taking his medications in the end.

He could not resist her sweet petulance, and she used that well to her advantage.

Mu Yazhe looked ahead pensively, the aloof smile never leaving his face.

The old man, who failed to see through her act and take her magnanimity for real, exploded furiously, “Liking? What does this chap know about liking someone? Can a marriage depend on love alone? Don’t you worry, Wanrou; as long as grandpa is around, I won’t let him bring this woman into this house! I support you all the way and will make sure you are justly treated!”

She looked at him with a resigned smile and sighed. “Grandpa, but...”

“Grandpa, I’m back to announce something to you, too.”

Mu Sheng was in no mood to hear anything more from the young man. “What is it?!”

The man slowly walked toward the couch and sat down. His body sank slightly onto the soft seat as he maintained his cool and aloof persona.

With his slender legs gracefully overlapping, he announced resolutely, “I want to cancel my engagement with Wanrou.”

“What?!” The old man jumped in shock and disbelief at the news and screamed, “What did you just say?!”

“My words are clear; I want to cancel my engagement with her.” The young man was unperturbed by his grandfather’s angry outburst and just calmly reiterated his statement.

“I don’t agree!” Mu Sheng rejected without second thought. His anger had reached the boiling point by now. “I don’t know what curse has gotten into you to consider breaking off the engagement! You are a b*stard!”

His grandson only sniggered. “Grandpa, since you like her so much, you can keep her as your mistress, then.”

That only antagonized him further. “Shut up! Good riddance!”

Mu Yazhe sneered at the remark. In the past, the argument would have stopped here; after all, he would never go against his grandfather’s wishes. However, it was different today.

The young man said in return, “Grandpa, the truth is, forcing me to marry a woman I don’t like is good riddance!”

“You! This is absolutely unacceptable and disrespectful!” The old man gawked at his grandson’s audacity with livid gaze. His eyes were nearly spurting razor-sharp daggers. “You are unfilial, indeed! You are going against my orders! Are you rebelling against me now?!”

Chapter 605: Mu Sheng’s Morbid Obsession (1)

This rascal is rebelling against me now! He no longer takes my wishes to heart! How dare he talk about breaking off the engagement?!

Mu Sheng held onto the table for support, his eyes shooting daggers at his grandson. The wedding was his personal wish, and nobody would be allowed to cancel it – not even his beloved grandson!

The young man stared right into his grandfather’s eyes expressionlessly. When he saw how defensive his grandfather was toward Mu Wanrou and how furious he was at the thought of breaking off their engagement, Mu Yazhe was surer than ever on his suspicion over the attachment the elderly man had for that woman.

It was not a simple case of elderly love for a young family relation but rather a morbid obsession!

Mu Qingcheng—

The old man could not forget that woman, after all.

Grandmaster Mu missed his daughter so much he carried her pendant with him all the time. Photos of her younger self lined his side table at the bed.

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Those were tell-tale signs of his attachment to her.

The young man did not know what kind of woman Mu Qingcheng was to make his father and even his grandfather pine for her in such a crazy way.

Rumors had it that his father, Mu Liancheng, was also madly in love with her.

His father had desperately courted this top songstress in the capital for quite some time, but his grandfather had coldly cut off his desires without mercy.

The missy from the wealthy Jiang family in the capital was already betrothed to his father, and this marriage was critical to the Mu family at that time.

More importantly, his grandfather was old-fashioned and biased against all singers in general. He was, thus, irreconcilable to the idea of his son marrying a singer.

His son had to compromise in the end, but with a condition, and that was for Mu Sheng to adopt Mu Qingcheng.

The old man agreed to that request.

Thus, she officially became the adopted daughter of the Mu family.

At that time, plenty of elites coveted the woman, which was a testament to her beauty and talent.

Mu Sheng was harsh on this woman at first and treated her badly.

She, on the other hand, recognized the great favor and generosity of the Mu family in her time of need.

She was sincerely grateful to them, so she served him to the utmost of her ability.

Gradually, he developed romantic feelings for her, too.

He was truly delighted with this sweet and pretty woman and soon became morbidly enamored with her.

He would flare up whenever a man got close to her.

Toward the end, he made a willful decision to make her his fourth wife. This shocked everyone, including her, in the Mu family.

She only had gratitude and respect for him and nothing more.

He wanted to keep her by his side forever in a distorted way, however.

Mu Liancheng was the first one to voice his opposition. In the end, the father and son became enemies over this matter.

This was when she confessed to Mu Sheng that she was seeing someone. She and the man were in love. In fact, she was pregnant with his child.

The old man could not accept this reality. Livid, he ordered her to abort the child.

She refused and left the family without a word. Since then, she was gone without a trace.

Mu Yazhe eventually learned that the accident that had snuffed out Mu Qingcheng's life was actually orchestrated by the mafia.

Chapter 606: Mu Sheng' s Morbid Obsession (2)

In fact, that was not the truth.

He had unearthed something else in his investigation. Mu Sheng, who had gone to great lengths to find her after she had walked out of his life, even mobilized the army. He was hell-bent on tracing the whereabouts of his adopted daughter.

His order was: I want to see Mu Qingcheng alive, but kill off her children. They are b*stards that must be eradicated.

The Mu family would not acknowledge illegitimate offspring.

She was trying to escape from his men when she met that fatal accident.

There was an old belief: Beautiful women did not have long lives.

As for her two children, they were lost without a trace; their bodies could not even be found at the site of the accident.

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When the old man came to know of her untimely death, he was utterly heartbroken from devastation. Her death was a big blow to him, and he was sickly for the next five years. He was bedridden and often lost in a maudlin trance.

The moment he recovered from all that, he realized that he could find her two kids to make amends for the loss of her.

That led into Mu Wanrou being mistakenly adopted by him a decade and a half ago. He held a special delight for this girl and poured his love and attention on to her the way he wanted to do so for Mu Qingcheng.

His love for her was not that straightforward, though.

When Mu Yazhe was still a young boy, he passed by the hall once and chanced upon the scene of Mu Wanrou taking a siesta on the couch and his grandfather sitting beside her with eyes condensed on her face. Occasionally, he would brush aside her out-of-place fringe, and his wrinkly hand would caress her cheeks.

It was as if he had caught a glimpse of Mu Qingcheng in Mu Wanrou.

The tender emotion on his face was accompanied by a twisted sense of love.

Lowering his head, the old man kissed the young girl on the lips...

Mu Yazhe knew, deep down, that his grandfather created this marriage arrangement because he was projecting his obsession and lovesickness for Mu Qingcheng onto Mu Wanrou.

He was not particular about his marriage arrangement in the past. It was a mere formality to him that he needed to go through, so any woman would do for him.

He had his thoughts and fixation now, however.

He was adamant about breaking off this engagement.

The young man refused to look at his grandfather's angry face as he slowly got off his seat. With his long and lean frame, he snorted smilingly. "Grandpa, I don't care about what you think. I've made up my mind, anyway; I'll find a date for a family meeting to make this announcement."

"How dare you?!" Mu Sheng hobbled on his walking stick and stood up. The wrinkled hand that held the cane shook as he stared furiously at his grandson. "As long as I am around, your marriage arrangement remains valid! I will never agree to breaking off this engagement! I order you to take back your words now!"

The man only replied, "I'm unable to obey your order this time. Sorry."

With that, he walked toward the stairs.

Mu Sheng was enraged beyond words.

This fellow was out to resist his will until the very end!

For a woman from the entertainment circle, he actually dared to defy his order. In a moment of extreme anger and shock, he vehemently threw the walking cane in his hand at his grandson's back.

There was a popping sound.

The incense wooden cane landed heavily on Mu Yazhe's back.

The man stopped in his tracks and slowly turned to face his grandfather; his eyes were full of disdain and chill.

The alarmed Mu Wanrou saw the tense face-off between the pair and hastily went up to support the angry old man who could not stop shaking.

The old man pushed her aside and chased up to his grandson. Pointing at his nose, he berated, “Unfilial! I tell you this; if you dare to cancel the engagement, you’ll lose your inheritance in the Mu family!”

His magnificent and powerful words reverberated through the huge main hall.

Even Mu Wanrou was too shocked to respond.

The old man actually used the inheritance to the Mu family to threaten his grandson.

Despite her shock, she was actually gloating inside still. Now, more than ever, she knew that she could lean on his blindsided love for her to get what she wanted.

Mu Yazhe's eyes narrowed the instant he heard this threat.

Oh, yes. How could he overlook this matter?

When Mu Sheng first announced this marriage arrangement, he also announced his intention to make him the next heir. How could he

have forgotten that he had gotten the inheritance not because of his outstanding performance but because of this engagement with his grandfather's pet, instead?

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The reason he had agreed to this engagement with Mu Wanrou in the first place was that his grandfather had openly promised to bequeath him the Mu inheritance.

This was an attractive offer indubitably.

The intricacies of the extended Mu family were too abundant, and the existing conflicts of interests were too copious.

It would not be exaggerating to compare the Mu family to the imperial court in ancient times.

Setting aside the distant relations and those children born out of wedlock under Mu Sheng, the old man himself already had three wives. These three women were fertile and bore him five sons and three daughters.

Of these five sons, he was most impressed with the child of his third wife, Mu Lianjue.

This son was the most savvy, capable, and charismatic of them all;

Unfortunately, no matter how exceptional this son was, the old man did not think that he was suitable to be the next heir as he was born to his third wife. According to tradition, all elite families had the first sons to inherit the family fortune. Thus, he did not think Mu Lianjue's status would be appropriate to take after him.

As Mu Liancheng was born to his first wife, he was acknowledged inwardly by Mu Sheng as his next in line despite not matching up to his half-brother.

However, before the time came for Mu Liancheng to take over the household, he passed away at a young age. Since then, the matter of succession was put aside.

The old man was holding onto his power all this time. As he grew older, internal strife started a rift within the household.

This was akin to the imperial household of Emperor Kangxi where, out of his 24 sons, nine fought for control of the throne.

In the case of the elite families, it was not uncommon to see brothers turn into bitter enemies for the sake of succession.

Hence, the old man was eager to get the next heir in place to create order within the family and reduce any unnecessary conflict.

He was looking at the next suitable candidate.

Mu Yazhe turned out to be the most satisfactory.

The young chap, at the tender age of 14, already garnered his approval. In fact, the old man believed that this grandson's ability was truly remarkable among the younger offspring.

The young Mu Yazhe was also eager to secure his position in the Mu family with this inheritance.

After his father's passing when he was 14, he and his mother were left to fend for themselves in this big household. They would be defenseless and bullied without any power.

If it were not for his maternal family being equally influential, he would probably be sacrificed in this struggle for power.

Chapter 608: The Mu family will be nothing without me.

Because of the mounting pressure from all sides, Mu Yazhe consented to the marriage arrangement and became the next heir.

He started working in the Mu Group at the age of 18, and when he turned 20, he took over the reins. The moment he became the chairman nine years ago, he made sure to stabilize his power and status. The powerful Disheng Financial Group was in his absolute control.

Without him, the powerful and far-reaching Mu organization would collapse overnight. Disheng would be unable to sustain his loss.

And yet, right now, grandpa is using this inheritance to threaten me?

This is ludicrous.

Does grandpa truly believe that I still care about the Mu inheritance with my current status and accomplishment?

He was no longer the Mu Yazhe from 15 years ago.

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He turned around and his icy gaze fell on Mu Sheng.

Just when the old man thought that his threat had worked and his grandson would concede to his will, the latter spouted haughtily without any expression, “You can give the Mu inheritance to whomever you like!”

His grandfather clearly did not expect to hear this. With eyes darkening in an instant, the old man demanded, “What did you say?!”

“My words are very clear.” He smiled a little and continued somewhat mockingly. “Grandpa, you have indeed aged. Your ears are failing you!”

“Unfilial! You are really rebelling now!” The old man was so provoked he had to hold onto his aching chest. His face had turned red with rage by now. “Are you really going to give up your inheritance for the sake of a lowly woman?! Do you plan to forsake everything for her and have nothing in the end?!”

The man sniggered and ignored his ridiculous claim. “The Mu Group will truly be reduced to nothing if I leave.”

The old man squinted his befuddled eyes dangerously.

This chap is so insolent!

Regarding his grandson through squinted eyes, he thought of his temperament. He knew the young man’s character well. Mu Yazhe, who had always been haughty and headstrong, had never bowed to any threats!

However, to the old man, this chap was still too green and too ambitious to know what was good for him!

Does this grandson of mine really believe that the Mu Group will collapse with him gone at its helm?!

The old man did not think so.

Still, he was taken aback by his grandson's audacious remark.

This fella's charisma has already overtaken mine at such a young age!

By the time he realized it, the chap had already become a prominent figure!

The thought was daunting, indeed.

Although he did not believe Mu Yazhe's words during this argument, he still wisely proceeded with care in order to determine just how much power this chap held in his hands.

The old man's face sank. He was not serious about removing his grandson from his inheritance. His threat was just a scare tactic. Unfortunately, it had backfired on him. He lost his ground with the young man's arrogance.

Mu Yazhe suddenly retorted with a serious look, "One more thing, grandpa. She is not a lowly woman; she's the woman that I, Mu Yazhe, have set my eyes on. Please get this right."

After a pause, his gaze, cold and mocking, fell onto Mu Wanrou, who was standing at the side with a complicated look on her face, and he

continued coolly. “Comparing her to the one standing here, grandpa, don’t you think it’s even more absurd to make me marry this dubious woman?”

“What dubiousness?!” The old man glared at him agitatedly. “How can Wanrou be dubious?!”

Chapter 609: What about the child in her stomach?

“Isn’t this so?! Grandpa, are you certain that she’s the woman you seek?”

His face had darkened by now. Inspecting her pale face, he taunted further, “Properly look yourself. Between her and that woman you cherished then, where is the resemblance?”

Mu Wanrou looked at the apathy on the man’s face, and her heart quickly plummeted.

Reading people’s emotions was her forte.

Just a glance, and she knew that this man had lost his patience with her!

When those words entered the old man’s ears, his eyes shifted from his grandson on to her.

The explicit suspicion in his eyes greatly shocked her. She took a step back subconsciously, crumpled her dress in her hand, and breathed feebly and helplessly, “Grandpa...”

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Her innocuous, doe eyes pulled him back to reality, and he vehemently denied, “Impossible! She is definitely Qingcheng’s daughter.”

The maternity test results were conclusive of her blood ties with Mu Qingcheng.

What of the features not being identical?

That was not enough proof of falsehood!

The young man sneered and moved to speak further when Mu Wanrou beat him to it with her sweet call. “Grandpa...”

Her lips were pursed. With face filled with desolation, she helplessly drew near the old man and reached out for his hand. “Since he wants to dissolve our engagement, just let it be. I have no place in his heart, and that is fine with me. I only want to stay by grandpa’s side forever, anyway! Which is why, grandpa, you mustn’t chase me away. Otherwise, I will miss you terribly. My sole desire is to serve grandpa! It’s just...”

The words hung in the air in suspense. Coupled with it, sorrowful tears fell from her lids and soaked her lashes. Her hand slowly shifted to her flat stomach as her lips trembled with unspeakable loneliness.

The old man registered all these in his sight and believed her to be heartbroken from his grandson’s declaration of his intention to terminate their betrothal. While there was guilt in his heart, there was also extreme heartache.

His withered hand covered hers, and two glistening pearls of salty tears timely dripped on it.

“What’s wrong?!” He panicked.

“Grandpa, what should I do? What about the child in my stomach?” She bit her lower lip. With great determination, she put on a mask of a crumbling face and wailed. “What should I and my child do?”

The old man was immensely startled, his face showing puzzlement. He was unaware of the child she was speaking of!

Mu Yazhe’s eyes narrowed, too, and they moved to track her every action, only for them to fall on her flat stomach. For a moment, he did not know what she was scheming of!

She was in pain. With her tear-stained face and clogged throat, her voice trembled in sadness. “Grandpa, I just learned of it. I couldn’t believe it at first, but after a few verifications, this good news arrived today. I intended to break the news today, but...”

She raised her wet face to look at the man. Her eyes were filled with disappointment and despair. “Ah Zhe doesn’t want me anymore, and that’s fine, but this child in my stomach, doesn’t he want it?”

With a bang, the old man’s mind exploded in white light.

She was pregnant!

Could it be that she was pregnant with his grandson’s progeny?

Hearing those words, Mu Yazhe's eyes widened slightly, and then his face froze.

She... is pregnant?

Chapter 610: The child is not of my flesh and blood.

Could it be that she was pregnant with his grandson's child?

The old man quickly grasped her wrist, a horrified look falling onto his grandson.

This lass was congenitally infertile, no?

How was it possible for her to have his child now?

Mu Yazhe, who had heard these words, was violently startled; his eyes widened slightly as his face turned cold.

This woman, just exactly what trick was she up to?

Pregnant?!

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He did not remember touching her at all!

Hence, he said with disgust, “Mu Wanrou, don't be pretentious.”

“I'm not!”

She tightly grasped the old man's hand and nervously yet fearfully explained, "Grandpa, I only learned of this today, too. I originally intended to tell this good news to all of you, but Ah Zhe told me that he wants to break off our engagement – this piece of good news has since turned into bad news! I am really pregnant, though."

Mu Yazhe finally realized the extent of this woman's shameless.

He suddenly thought of that moment he was claiming the little woman last night, and just when it was intense, she abruptly broke down in tears and questioned him.

'If I belong to you, then what about Mu Wanrou? Does she belong to you, too? Do you belong to her?'

Perhaps...

While he was abroad, this shameless woman had flaunted in front of his woman that she had his flesh and blood in an attempt to humiliate her?

Obviously, his woman believed it.

Was that why she mercilessly blacklisted his number, treated him indifferently, and ignored him?

She was so angry she would not let him touch her.

It was to the extent that she found him dirty, and it was all because she believed this deceitful woman's claim.

He instantly figured out the whole matter, but his heart was slightly annoyed.

That stupid woman believed rumors so easily yet had so little faith in him...

She definitely needs a punishment!

Still, he did not expect this Mu Wanrou to jump into the fire pit herself.

It could be said that this was merely a stalling tactic. If so, then she was more scheming than his previous assumption; it was really tough to speculate how far she could go.

He had never once touched her. Nonetheless, right now, she was audaciously proclaiming that she had his child.

Was she not afraid that once the child was born, he would do a paternity test?

Perhaps, she was...

His eyes widened slightly and then turned frigid in an instant.

Was it that she never planned to let the child live at all?

Here, Mu Sheng noticed her fragility and helplessness; the heartache he felt was akin to him losing an immense amount of lifeblood for it to be fatal.

The old man promptly moved to comfort her. “Wanrou, don’t worry; grandpa believes you! Come and sit down quickly!”

He coaxed her into sitting on the sofa before he proceeded to sit himself next to her. After the astonishment passed, his face

brightened. “Wanrou, what nonsense are you spouting? Being pregnant is a good thing! It is a blessing! Don’t you worry!”

He lightly patted her back and then turned to face his grandson, yelling, “What absurdity are you spouting?! Wanrou is pregnant with your child; isn’t that a fortunate thing?! What do you mean by ‘pretentious’? Speak properly, won’t you?! You don’t even know how to be a responsible man – truly ridiculous!”

Mu Yazhe frowned and coldly spat, “Grandpa, I have never touched her. Even if she is pregnant, the baby is unlikely to be mine.”

She felt a chill run down her spine upon hearing those words. Feigning sadness, she quickly covered her face and convulsed heartbrokenly. “Grandpa, forget it... forget it. Since he refuses to acknowledge this child, let’s just have it be gone!”

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Chapter 611: Not yours, then whose?

“Outrageous! It wasn’t easy for you to conceive this child. This is a blessing; how can we even consider ridding of it?!” Mu Sheng was livid and blamed his grandson fully. “This ungrateful chap, are you really intending to turn your back on your flesh and blood?! Wanrou help you out with all her heart, and it’s all for your own good, too, but what about you?! You actually dare not to acknowledge your child! She’s pregnant. If the child isn’t yours, then whose?!”

She consistently maintained her virtuous image before his grandfather.

Naturally, the old man believed her words sans a sliver of doubt.

Instead, he thought his grandson to be an insensible chap with his inability to account for his own child.

“Ah Zhe... is truly the baby’s father; why won’t he acknowledge it?” She looked at her grandpa with eyes full of abject tears, her voice, as well as her body, quivering.

To have a full view of this, Mu Sheng felt a stab of pain in his heart. He astutely held her in his arms and gently consoled, “Don’t cry, child. You’ve been wronged! Fear nothing for grandpa is here. I will make decisions for you! Concentrate on your health and halt your worrying!”

“Grandpa...” Weeping with an aggrieved face, she burrowed deeper into his embrace.

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Her bitter cries tore to his heart more deeply and made him feel immense pain.

Mu Yazhe cocked a brow in wry and stiffly lifted his lips in disdain.

This woman, what superb acting!

The top artistes in the entertainment industry could really not hold a candle even to half her acting skills! If it was not for his disposition,

he might also believe her innocent-looking face, and now he wondered to whom child in her stomach belonged!

Regarding this, he had no intention of making another comment.

In this situation where his grandfather only believed her words, no amount of explanation from him would sufficiently convince the old man of the truth.

At this moment, his grandfather was covering her hands with his as he went to great lengths to comfort her. “Wanrou, don’t be disheartened. If he refuses to admit the baby, grandpa will do it in his stead! Fret no more and dry your tears. Just focus on the baby and you.”

Being driven into a dead end, Mu Wanrou came up with this bluff tactic to buy time. Her hand was truly forced here.

To protect her identity from total exposure, she had to take risks now!

She was made aware of Mu Yazhe’s knowledge about her identity, but just when did he find out?

In any case, she could not worry about it now.

Her identity was soon to be exposed before her eyes, and at the end of her wits, she divulged of her pregnancy.

Since the man knew of her identity, she could only discredit him before the old man by declaring that she carried his child.

The old man would predictably be overjoyed and believed her claim to be the truth. Therefore, he would bring forth much earlier the wedding between Mu Yazhe and her.

Once the wedding was in place, she would really be the legitimate young mistress of this household, and the rest of those loose knots could easily be untangled subsequently.

She did not fear the man's denial at all. Between his grandson and her, Mu Sheng would definitely take her side.

Although a paternity test was required, her conscience would remain free of fear and guilt.

She did a calculation of the time of her conception and of her and Aaron's carnal trysts, which had only started five weeks ago.

Since she was safe in that period, it was unlikely for her to conceive then.

Therefore, putting two and two together, she should only be pregnant for three and a half weeks.

If the man wanted to expose her, he must at least present evidence to Mu Sheng.

Chapter 612: Amniotic Fluid Puncture

Paternity testing was not something that could be done when he wished!

Even if he insisted, the old man would surely disagree.

This was because amniotic fluid puncture could only be performed under the right condition. There would be a danger of miscarriage if it was performed too early into the pregnancy.

It was usually performed after the first trimester.

As the continuation of this family's bloodline was very important to the old man, he would naturally disagree to this test.

With him around, she would be safe for the next two months at least. This meant that she would have a window of two months to strategize.

Two months later, she would have her way to have a 'natural miscarriage'.

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As long as she moved swifter than Mu Yazhe, he would have no way to prove that the child was not his.

If everything went according to plan, all her worries would be resolved.

The man standing at the highest step of this flight of stairs cast his eyes on the fiasco below before he made his stand coldly. "That thing in her womb is no child of mine. Why don't we do a paternity test to unveil the truth?"

She looked up and replied indignantly, “All right! I’ll do it! If a paternity test is what you want, I’ll follow your wishes! This will prove my innocence, too!”

She looked squarely in his eyes without any shame and fear. To a certain degree, she was challenging him!

He was holding a penetrating look when Mu Sheng cut in sternly, “No way!”

His third wife had done the same test before; hence, he knew very well the danger that the fetus might face with this procedure. It could easily cause a miscarriage.

He got up with a start and severely reprimanded, “This is ridiculous! How will the fetus survive if this test is carried out now?! Are you crazy?”

“Grandpa, I’ll be fine! Since he wants to confirm if the child belongs to him, then I’ll do the procedure. Anyway, I’m innocent!” she insisted.

The elderly man said wistfully, “Stupid Wanrou, you don’t understand. This is your first pregnancy, so you don’t know the procedure. You won’t be able to keep the child if you do the testing now!”

Looking like the wronged party, she muttered with pretentious grievance, “Let there be a miscarriage, then! He doesn’t want to acknowledge this child, anyway. If the child finds out of the father denying its existence, the child will be heartbroken.”

“Ignore him! Regardless, grandpa won’t let you go through such a dangerous procedure! You just look after the baby in your womb and don’t worry about the rest!” The old man immediately consoled her.

She wiped away the tears from the corner of her eyes. Keeping her head bowed, she revealed an eerie smile at Mu Sheng’s blind spot.

Her creepy smile could not escape past Mu Yazhe’s eyes, though.

An idea seemed to strike the man suddenly as he furrowed his brows and arched his thin lips into a sardonic smile.

He seemed to figure out who the father of the child was!

He had to give credit to this woman who had this all planned out; she must be trying to buy time.

After three months, she would quietly stage a ‘natural miscarriage’, no?

She was too naïve if she really thought that that would work.

He was already prepared for such a scenario.

Six years ago, after they got engaged, his grandfather hurried them to get married. The old man did not want to procrastinate the wedding as he wanted to have grandchildren soon.

However, this woman was just a stepping stone for him to get the Mu family’s inheritance.

Chapter 613: Mu Yazhe’s Scheming Mind

This woman was just a stepping stone for him to get the Mu family's inheritance. He could be engaged to her and cared not if they got married, but for him to touch this woman...

Impossible.

Hence, he made up the story about her being infertile.

Everyone believed that claim in the end.

When his grandfather learned of her infertility, he was somewhat hesitant. After all, he cared deeply about the matter of progeny.

The wedding was repeatedly postponed thereafter.

She also took the news for real and wholly believed herself to be infertile.

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She did not know that she was just a pawn in his game all this time.

Moreover, he had evidence of her infidelity in his hands.

There were voice clips and camera footage that could prove just how 'innocent' she was.

This woman is too naïve .

It was ludicrous to play such a dirty trick on him.

Is she really this naïve to think that I can't produce other evidence of her infidelity besides doing the amniocentesis procedure ?

He smiled and asked, “Grandpa, if, one day, you learn that the child in her tummy isn’t mine, what will you do?”

The old man looked at him with a start and quickly shifted his gaze on to her.

The latter quickly shook her head innocently and whimpered piteously, “Grandpa, you must believe me! If it’s possible, I’ll do the procedure right away! He can refuse to acknowledge the child, but he can’t... slight my reputation this way!”

The old man quickly coaxed, “Wanrou, grandpa believes you! Once the fetus reaches five months, we’ll do the paternity test. You can reclaim your innocence then!”

“All right. I’ll produce the evidence to prove your ‘innocence’.”

The man remained composed as he turned to walk up the stairs without any expression.

His hostile eyes and chilly tone made the woman shudder all over.

This man seemed to be more terrifying than she reckoned.

What else did he have up his sleeve that she was unaware of?!

Her heart panicked with the thought of any evidence in his arsenal that he might use against her.

She was always careful not to leave any trace behind her; therefore, there should not be any piece of proof left to discredit her now!

No, he would not have caught wind of her fishy dealings.

The fleeting scorn and ridicule in his eyes told her otherwise, however. The thought that he might have something on her stirred her agitation further.

Somehow, she had this nagging feeling that the man knew of her shading undertakings. If that were not the case, he would not be so calm and composed.

In fact, when she announced her pregnancy, he did not look surprised at all.

He seemed to expect this eventuality.

Unless... he knew that she could get pregnant ?!

This possibility sent a chill down her spine!

When she was diagnosed as infertile six years ago, she had many misgivings and feelings of ambiguity. The whole matter reeked of strangeness to her.

She did not believe fully then that she had no ability to conceive.

Unless... Did the man orchestrate this whole thing from behind the scenes ?!

She was overwhelmed with terror at the thought of this, and all of a sudden, her back was soaked in sweat.

The old man touched her hand and found her fingertips to be cold and clammy. Looking up, he saw her breaking out in a cold sweat, and her eyes could not hide the immense fear she felt.

“Wanrou, don’t be afraid. With grandpa around, he won’t be able to do anything to you!”

Chapter 614: IQ not on Par

Translator: Atlas Studios Editor: Atlas Studios

She held his hand with the intention to ingratiate herself to him.

“Grandpa, I am scared; I am really scared. You must believe me. If this child in my womb isn’t his, then who else can it be? He accused me of an affair with another man, but how could I possibly?!

Grandpa, please believe Wanrou; I won’t do anything to betray him, you, and the Mu family!”

He nodded solemnly, clearly convinced by her argument. “I do believe; how can my Wanrou be capable of such vileness? Grandpa believes you fully!”

“He really wants to do a paternity test with me, though! Grandpa, it’s not that I don’t want to; it’s just... I can’t bear to lose this child because of that procedure. After all, I’m unsure if I can conceive again in this life!”

Her moving words effused sadness and agitation, and they struck a heartbreaking chord in him. Looking at her pitiful appearance, he reassured, “Good girl! You need not worry. As long as grandpa is around, nobody can bully you! I won’t let anyone harm a descendant of the Mu family! Don’t feel down. Even if he refuses to accept the child, grandpa will definitely welcome it with open arms!”

While her heart was bursting with joy, her face was still a mask of grievous gratification. She pounced on him and cried, “Yes! Grandpa dotes on Wanrou the most!”

Nestling in his embrace, she continuously sobbed in sorrow. Hidden from his eyes, an incredibly flustered and frightened look contorted her face.

...

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Song Qingling Kindergarten.

At the school gate, a teacher helped the children board the school bus one by one.

Yun Tianyou, who was standing at the school entrance, sent Li Hanlin a text message. As he raised his head, just like how stars clustered around the moon, a group of cute lolitas flocked around him.

He was used to this, though.

His small face was slightly serious, his silky black hair was drooping around his ears, and his pretty orbs were glistening.

A little girl with stunning eyes reached out and tugged on his shirt's edge in an attempt to converse with him.

A few words would do, too.

He gently turned around, a little repulsed by her touch.

The girl did not mind this even one bit. Smiling with great satisfaction, she gazed at him fixatedly. “Youyou, where are your parents? Do you go home alone?”

He stoically averted his face from her and proceeded to ignore her.

Alas, the guileless girl mistook his action for grief. A look of pity flashed across her face, and she tugged on his sleeve even more resolutely. “Youyou, I can accompany you!”

He expressionlessly took out his phone to check the time.

How slow!

This Mr. Li, did his car broke down on the way here ?!

The girl continued chattering at his side.

He could not help feeling a dull pain in his head from it.

Unable to bear it any longer, he pivoted to face her and barked, “Don’t stand next to me!”

It’s really annoying!

He had already been tortured by them for an entire day; at least, spare him the headache after school!

A group of imps that could only count with their fingers.

How should he interact with them when their IQ was not up to par with his?

Youyou was the dream boy in this kindergarten. Not just the female pupils, even the teachers from the other sections often rushed to the hallway outside his classroom to look at him through the glass windows and fangirl about him.

“Gosh. He’s so cute! If I had such a cute child, I’d be beyond happy!”

“His mother probably saved the universe in her past life for her to have such a cute child in this life. I’m so green with envy!”

Chapter 615: Dispatched People to Track Mu Wanrou

Tsk!

How irritating.

He felt as if he were a rare animal being watched at zoo all day long.

It was really annoying.

What nonsensical saying was that about his mommy saving the universe in her past life?

His mommy was the woman who doted on him the most in this world.

His mommy might not be Superman who had saved the world in her past life, but she was the mommy he loved with all his heart!

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Just when the poor kid was tangled in this bevy of smitten girls, a hero finally appeared in all splendor to save him.

A Bugatti Veyron parked outside the school gate, and Li Hanlin hopped out of it. The glistening sports car instantly attracted a burst of exclamations from the passersby.

“Oh, heavens! It’s Bugatti Veyron. This limited-edition supercar costs a fortune!”

“I’ve seen it in a magazine before. This car is worth at least 10 million! Gosh. This is my first time seeing the car in real life!”

“...”

The flashy luxury car attracted nearby onlookers.

Many took out their phones to stream a video of it to their friends.

Some usually only saw such supercars in magazines, but none had seen a limited edition, which was airlifted from the United Kingdom.

Yun Tianyou smirked.

He was speechless at the passersby boldly standing beside the car and posing for a selfie.

His agent found him in the crowd at a glance and walked briskly toward him.

“Director Yun, I came late. He he!”

The boy was in a sour mood and shot his agent a withering look, but the latter seemed to be used to this already and knew just what to say next to appease him. Astutely and sincerely bowing to him, he begged, “Please don’t deduct my salary! Director Yun, it is tough to save money for my marriage!”

Youyou: "..."

The agent blinked his eyes and threw him a fawning smile.

The boy coldly spat, "Enough. Give me a reason for your tardiness, or else I will deduct your bonus, too!"

"There is! I have a legit reason for being late!" The agent immediately defended himself.

"Speak."

"I was investigating a matter today. Let me put you in the car first, and then I'll slowly present my report to you."

His man leaned over and carried him into the car.

The passenger seat was specially fitted with a child safety seat for this boy.

He was averse toward it, though. "Such a childish item; I'm also not a kid. I don't want to sit in it!"

His agent felt wronged. "Director Yun, you have no choice but to sit in it as that's made for the sake of your safety! Plus, national law stipulates that children under the age of eight must be fastened into a safety seat!"

Resentment showed on the boy's face.

Indeed, he was under the age of eight.

In the car, the agent passed over a stack of documents to him. He roughly flipped through the files and frowned. “You dispatched people to track Mu Wanrou?”

“Yes! On a 24-hour watch.”

“Not bad.” He gave him a rare compliment and smile. “Pay raise for this month!”

The agent was overjoyed. “Hurray to Director Yun!”

He was still skimming through the sheets when his eyes fell on a pregnancy diagnosis report. He carefully scanned through its content and then displayed astonishment on his face. “This woman... is pregnant?”

“Yes!”

“How can that be?” Suspicion rose in his mind, and he hurriedly asked, “Isn’t she congenitally infertile?”

“I’m not sure about that.” His agent paused for a bit to organize the details about this on his head.

In order to pull off the deceit, she specifically chose an unknown private hospital, heavily bribed the obstetrician, and did a pregnancy test.

The result of the test showed that she was more or less four weeks in her gestation.

Chapter 616: That child is not his daddy’ s...

Pregnant ?!

Yun Tianyou's intense gaze on the report in his hand was so sharp it seemed capable of piercing through it.

How could this woman be pregnant ?

She was congenitally infertile, yet now there was a pregnancy diagnosis report ?

Was this a joke ?

He skeptically read the report several times just to ensure that he was not seeing things.

“Is this news reliable ?”

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“Yes. That woman is really pregnant.”

Li Hanlin patiently attested to the validity of the report.

Whose child was that in the woman's womb ?

Was it Mu Yazhe's ?

“D*mn it!” He crumpled the report in his hand, and sparks of anger shot from his beautiful eyes.

He clearly had an agreement with him. Since he wanted to woo his mommy and be his daddy, getting rid of the women around him was a given.

This was his, as well as his mommy's, bottom line and principle that should not be crossed!

What did he say to him from the start?

He said he would take care of it.

What was the outcome, then?

A pregnancy diagnosis report?!

His expression went cold and tight and his pink lips pursed into a grim line while his face contorted with disappointment. "I told him to get rid of the women around him. If mommy finds out about this, she'll surely be heartbroken!"

He bent his head and looked at the crumpled report in his hand. He had a sudden insight. With a frown, he asked, "Say... Do you think she chose a private hospital for her pregnancy test to cover up something?"

"Yes, I agree!" Li Hanlin nodded. "The Mu Group controls over 90 percent of the health care institutions in the capital, so all medical files in each are sent to the main database. This private hospital is on the city outskirts, and its health care system is not linked to the main database. Plus, when she went out that day, she's dressed in a low-key attire yet still kept her sunglasses and mask on..."

Upon hearing his agent's observation, the boy's fingertips drummed on his knees. He seemed to be caught up in an analysis.

He drew a conclusion after a while. "From your deduction, I suspect that the child in her stomach isn't my daddy's..."

Mid-speech, he stopped.

The little boy was immensely shocked.

He had subconsciously called that man his 'daddy'...

He hastily cleared his throat and restored his expression to normalcy before he made amend. "I suspect that that child isn't Mu Yazhe's at all!"

The agent was bewildered and a little puzzled. "What do you mean?"

"If her child is Mu Yazhe's, this should be a reason for celebration to her. The Mu family is big in this capital and puts heavy emphasis on progeny. If she's pregnant with Mu Yazhe's child, it will guarantee safety and riches to the mother-child pair. With a son or a daughter at her side, her position will be strengthened immensely."

After a pause, he narrowed his eyes. "In contrast, in the case that she is up to no good and is covering up something, her first move should be to choose a trifling private hospital, bribe its obstetrician, and do the test in complete secret. It seems that her pregnancy is something to be ashamed of. Don't you think that's strange?"

After his detailed analysis, the agent found it fishy, too. “What Director Yun means to say is that this child of that woman isn’t Mr. Mu’s flesh and blood?”

The little boy sneered. “This pregnancy can guarantee her safety and riches in the Mu family. Pray tell why she’s behaving so furtively. If this isn’t fishy, then what is?”

The boy also managed to extract something from this.

That was of Mu Yazhe not having touched Mu Wanrou even once at all.

His heart was relieved.

Should that man really want to get him a half-sibling, he would never acknowledge that child!

Li Hanlin could not help his brows from rising in awe of the boy’s wits. “Director Yun, if you didn’t explain it, I would really think that your daddy has impregnated someone else!”

Youyou eyed him contemptuously and mercilessly lambasted, “Agent Li, are you comparing mine to your low-level IQ?”

The agent was full of grievances over Youyou’s belittling of his intelligence.

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Was there a need for the boy’s brutal honesty?

Saying that his IQ was low level.

Grief and indignation showed on his face.

His heart was bitter, but he kept quiet about it.

The boy might withdraw his bonus if he revealed his thoughts.

The agent pursed his lips in slight puzzlement still. “If the child isn’t Mu Yazhe’s, then whose is it?”

“Definitely not yours,” the boy coldly snapped.

His agent uttered, “... I know that it’s not mine.”

“You’ve got an interesting question there.” The little boy looked at him drolly. “In what way should I know whose child is it? Do you think I’m God?”

This agent gleefully clapped inwardly.

This child was not God, after all!

He did not know everything!

It was his heart’s turn to feel relieved this time around.

“Director Yun, your mommy is filming a show; don’t you want to drop by?” the agent asked.

“Nope. She’s working on the night scenes these few days; it must be very tiring for her. After the filming for those are over, I will definitely nourish her health!” The boy then started searching through his mind for nourishment recipes. When his mother returned, he intended to feed her healthy food.

The agent sitting at the side felt extremely envious.

Gee, why doesn't I have such a filial son?

... That was the cold and bitter truth. In fact, he did not have a wife, too.

Once he had a child, he would use this boy as a benchmark in his inculcation of the child on filial piety from childhood to adulthood. He would groom his child to be smart and filial just like this boy!

...

“Boss, based on multi-angle analysis, Miss Yun is displaying jealousy toward you.”

Inside the CEO's office in Disheng Financial Group, Min Yu raised his head from a thick pile of psychology books on his table, pushed up his glasses' rim, and pronounced that seriously.

Mu Yazhe, whose back was leaned against his swivel chair, pondered on it for a bit and then looked at him askance. “Really?”

“It probably is,” his assistant replied, “because that's what these books say!”

“Read it aloud for me,” the man ordered.

The assistant nodded. ““Be the person a man or a woman, when he or she sees his or her partner frequently in the company of the opposite sex, he or she will not help but feel irrational. In psychology, this is termed as jealousy.””

“Continue!” The boss inclined his head for him to go on.

The assistant hurriedly lowered his head and read aloud the words in the book accordingly. “Based on several studies about the topic, the following are the criteria of a jealous person: First, it’s the lack of confidence in one’s self—’No, I don’t deserve him,’ ‘He’s way more interesting than me,’ ‘Has better qualifications,’ et cetera. Second, another form jealousy is the opposite of that, which is narcissism and selfishness.”

Chapter 618: An Expression of Jealousy

“He requires a constant affirmation of affection. The idea of a ‘possible love rival’ can evoke a strong sense of suspicion and rebuke in him like that of a selfish person. Such baseless accusation can make him feel wronged and weary at first, but later, it will evolve to become an insult, which will nearly be unbearable for him.”

Mu Yazhe fell into a stupor.

Why was the last description of the symptom that Min Yu had read aloud more apt to describe his behavior?

Him flying into a towering rage when he saw Gu Xingze and her kiss that day – could that be an expression of jealousy as well?

Was it not a certainty for one to feel angry when witnessing his woman be with another man?!

He leaned forward a little abruptly and clasped his hands together with his brows tightly knitted. “Min Yu.”

“Yes, boss!”

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He inquired rather hesitantly, “Is it normal for a man to be jealous of a woman?”

His assistant was surprised, and immediately, he lowered his head to let his fingertips fly through the pages.

The man was shocked by the dexterity of his fingers. “...”

His assistant seriously perused the content of a page and recited it in a silver voice straight away, ““A relationship without jealousy is non-existent. ‘Jealousy’, regarding love, is a condiment – a nourishment even. Furthermore, usually, the extent of one’s jealousy is directly related to the extent of one’s love. Therefore, reflect upon the past and ponder about the current situation again; if you have never felt a bit of jealousy in the course of your relationship, wouldn’t this so-called ‘love’ be very dubious? The only benchmark to test the truth is through application. Similarly, the benchmark to test if you’re truly in love with a person is through jealousy.””

“This means that one feels jealousy toward another because he loves her and cares for her?” The man extracted the gist out of that long-winded explanation.

His assistant nodded after some consideration. “You can say that.”

His brows furrowed and his eyes drooped; he appeared to be in deep thought.

All of a sudden, he lifted an uncertain and baffled gaze on to his assistant.

The latter felt shivers down his spine at his superior's penetrating stare at him.

“Min Yu?”

“Yes, boss.”

“Have you been in love before?”

“No...” His boss hit a nerve, and thereafter, he piteously shook his head.

“You've actually never been in love before?”

The man sized him up from head to toe in slight disdain.

He treated a person who had never been in love before as his mentor in ‘love psychology’?!

The assistant, however, confidently retorted, “Boss, I have yet to earn money for marriage; dare I fall in love?”

The chairman cocked a brow in dissatisfaction and stared at his assistant coldly. Drumming his knuckles on the table, he stated, “If you want a raise, tell me directly.”

The assistant truthfully requested, “Boss, I want a raise.”

He shrugged his request off pronto. “Rejected!”

The assistant responded with a hopeless expression. “...”

He, however, did not concern himself with the bitterness radiating off in waves from his assistant and probed further. “How does a woman show jealousy toward a man?”

The assistant reluctantly dipped his head again and unenthusiastically flipped through the book. He then read off the book word for word, ““When a woman gets feels jealous, first, she will ignore her partner.””

He nodded.

That woman blacklisted his number while he was overseas for a few days.

““Second, she will show disinterest.””

He nodded again.

That woman was, indeed, very disinterested in him!

She was cold and indifferent.

Could this be her way of expressing her affection toward him?

““Third, she easily loses her cool – 90% of women express this!””

He knocked his fingers on the desk. “Continue!”

Chapter 619: Love Equation! Jealousy Equals to Love.

““Fourth, she will close herself off while spitting sarcastic remarks, knowingly or unknowingly.””

It seemed to be like this.

““She will compare herself with another woman.””

He stroked his chin thoughtfully. The questioning words she had spoken with puffy eyes reverberated in his head once more. ‘If I belong to you, then what about you? Do you belong Mu Wanrou?’

Erm...

““She will feel down, becoming broken as she weeps bitterly.””

His subordinate listed off all the responses that a jealous woman would often show.

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Most of them fit his woman’s previous actions.

That woman blacklisted his number, treated him indifferently, kept her distance from him, made snide remarks about him while remaining impassive, and even compared herself to another woman. All of those were signs of jealousy, according to this psychology book.

He naturally substituted this into an equation: jealousy = love.

Was that woman jealous toward him because she loved him?

This realization had him puckering his lips into a smile. The frost in his eyes gradually receded, and joy faintly emerged from within.

Min Yu raised his head and watched his boss's excitement and contentment in shock. The man returned to himself quickly after, only to realize that his assistant was looking at him in such a bare manner. Hastily withdrawing the smile on his lips, he cleared his throat and sent a glum glare at him. "Continue reading!"

The latter gathered his wits and dared not look at his superior any longer.

"A man must be in control of his emotions and respect his partner's feelings. He should keep in mind that she is not his private property—"

"She is my private property," he corrected, feeling rather displeased.

"She has the right to be in a relationship and to fall in love with another—"

He swiftly cut him off, shooting daggers at him. "She has no right to be in a relationship with anyone else besides me, and all the more, she has no right to love another!"

The oppressive aura he effused made his subordinate shut his mouth for a long while.

"Boss..."

"Is that book authentic?" he asked skeptically. "How can there be such an absurd description?"

“It is!”

His assistant turned to another page and added, “It says here: ‘Jealousy may be a reflection of one’s affection, but it vastly contrasts with true love. There is only one way out of jealousy: use love to gain affection and to redeem one’s relationship.’”

“‘Use love to gain affection’?”

He could not help pondering on this as he leaned against his chair. From the expression he showed, he seemed to be considering it seriously.

“Do women firmly insist on marriage? What is a typical woman’s opinion on marriage?”

The assistant shook his head in bafflement. “I don’t know.”

He loved to answer that question as well.

Alas, he did not have a girlfriend.

His boss sent him a glare. “If you don’t know, then hurry up and investigate!”

He hurriedly fished out a book titled ‘Marriage Psychology’ and quietly skimmed through its pages.

“‘Being in a relationship is easy, but staying committed is difficult. The biggest difference between these two is that a person looks at his or her partner’s good points when in a relationship while a person must embrace the other’s weak points once married. In marriage,

communication is often the issue. This is usually due to the disparity between a man and woman's perception of marriage.”

He nodded thoughtfully.

“Love is everything to a woman, whereas it is only a small part to a man's life. A man's accomplishments come from success in his career and the rise in his social status. Love is simply a method to relieve himself of his loneliness. As for a woman, her accomplishments largely originate from a man's concern and love for her. Love can be a woman's driving force in life...”

“Is that so?” Mu Yazhe mumbled, doubtful.

His subordinate dared not guarantee anything. “Oh, well... It's hard to read the minds of women; I don't know much, too.”

He asked, “Marriage is just a piece of paper; why do women see it as a form of security?”

He really could not fathom how a woman's mind worked.

He was really puzzled by all this. “Isn't it still possible to divorce after marriage?”

Carefully considering it, Min Yu shared his opinion. “I don't think it's just about having a sense of security for a woman. Rather, I think it's the desire of a woman for a man's love toward her to be legitimate.”

The man lightly rubbed his forefinger against his thumb. Thousands of thoughts flashed across his mind, yet he did not voice aloud any of them.

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“Boss, don’t you know how to appease a woman?” His assistant slyly blinked at him. “Shall I teach you a method?”

“Go on.”

His assistant quickly went over and whispered into his ear for a while.

Upon hearing the method, he looked at him with doubt.

“Does it really work?”

“Of course, it does! Women like romance.”

He regarded him with pursed lips. “You shall make arrangements!”

“All right!”

...

Yun Shan Shi Yi Estate.

Yun Shishi locked herself in the bedroom for the whole day.

She wanted to go home, but when she approached the door, she was stopped by a servant.

This picturesque and scenic villa, a treasured piece of feng shui land in the suburbs, was away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

Past the gate, one would see the sprawling, faraway hilly road, which meandered for thousands of miles.

Because it was a private estate, there was basically no public transport available. If she stubbornly insisted on leaving, she would have to walk all the way down the mountain to catch the first cab.

She suffered from pent-up frustrations.

Mu Yazhe!

What did that man mean by leaving her alone in this villa and disappearing by himself? What was he up to?

In the afternoon, Youyou called to ask if her filming went well.

Naturally, she kept silent about her not being with the production team anymore.

She originally had a schedule today, but after the fiasco involving that domineering man last night, who knew what the production team thought of her now?

What the production director thought of her...

She tried to muster up the courage to call Lin Fengtian to apologize. Due to her personal matter, the entire filming schedule was delayed, and she felt very guilty about it.

This was especially after Mu Yazhe had violently pushed him to the ground. He probably got hurt.

What about Gu Xingze?

He probably got hurt, too.

The production would probably be on hiatus because of this.

This made her feel guilty.

She resented Mu Yazhe's irrationality.

In the evening, there was a knock on the bedroom door.

She covered herself with the comforter and ignored the knock.

A series of knocks came from outside the door for a bit before the butler's polite voice was heard. "Miss Yun, are you asleep?"

"Yes, I am!" she answered with vexation.

It was yet again silent at the door.

Following this, the light clinking of keys sounded.

She sat bolt upright in bed at that, slipped on her slippers, and walked to the just unlocked door. She grumbled, "Didn't I say that I'm asleep?"

"... Miss Yun, don't you want to go home?" the stunned butler asked with some trepidation.

She was startled. "You'll send me home?"

"Yes," the butler explained, "the chairman called earlier to let us send you home!"

Her face went blank. She did not know why there was a tinge of disappointment in her heart upon hearing of the man's order.

It faded away very quickly, though.

“It was his order to take me home?”

“Yes!” The butler then handed over the dress she was holding carefully in her hands to Yun Shishi. “This is from the chairman. If you don’t mind, we will help you change into it!”

“What is this?” She eyed the small, black dress.

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It was an exquisite Chanel haute couture dress. It must have cost a fortune. The dress was more for a casual party of socialites rather than a formal gathering of professionals with its simple yet elegant design.

She could not help but frown. “I don’t want it.”

She would not wear clothes given by him.

The butler panicked at this. “Miss Yun, this... He repeatedly ordered us to let you change into it. If you don’t... Miss Yun, please don’t make it difficult for us!”

She answered in a fit of pique. “I don’t want! Tell him that I don’t like it!”

“Is it the design that you don’t like?” the butler inquired.

This design was personally selected by the president. They, too, thought that she would look beautiful in the dress.

“I don’t like this design,” she coldly stated.

“The chairman did not only send this piece. If Miss Yun doesn’t like this, there are a few other pieces you can choose from!”

With that, the butler summoned in the row of fashion clerks, dressed in well-made uniforms, that were waiting outside the door. They paraded in turn before her with a piece of haute couture, of different designs and styles, each for her selection.

“Aren’t you supposed to be sending me home? Why have me change clothes, then? Where’s Mu Yazhe? What is he after?” She felt a spark of anger ignite in her at not knowing what the man wanted from her.

The crowd exchanged glances and shook their heads in perplexity. “The chairman only gave us the order to assist you in getting dressed and boarding the car. Your ride is already waiting outside!”

She quickly walked up to the window, pulled the drapes aside, and saw a luxury limousine parked at the courtyard. She was at a loss for a moment. She really could not understand what Mu Yazhe’s intention was!

When she turned around again to face these employees that were in a tight spot because of her, she sighed and extended her hand out to point to that slim black dress. “Forget it; I’ll not make things difficult for you. Just this one; I’ll change into it on my own!”

The servants’ faces immediately brightened up. Leaving the dress behind, they swiftly departed from the room.

She changed into the dress and looked at herself in the vanity mirror. Not only did the little black dress accentuated her elegance and slender curves, it also showed off her fair skin.

Her silky, black hair cascaded from her shoulders straight to her waist; it brought out the air of a regal beauty.

The moment she opened the door, the stylists outside quickly surrounded her.

From hairstyle to makeup, jewelry and high heels, all these undoubtedly made up a huge project.

She sensed that something was off.

“Just what are you all doing?”

Equally baffled, the stylists unanimously shook their heads.

She found this matter to be very bizarre, but she could not guess what the man had in mind.

The Bentley slowly parked at the carpark of Huxin Island.

This island, which was artificially made two years ago, was now a popular landmark in the capital.

A restaurant was situated on the island. The scenic view from it was perfect for those poetic and artistic at heart.

Bali Island Western Restaurant.

This capital's top western restaurant had a very romantic ambiance – perfect for couples.

Per week, this restaurant hosted only one pair of lovers as guests.

Rumors had it that this was the most expensive restaurant across the capital.

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Either the contents of the menu or glasses of fine wine were extremely luxurious.

Hence, many hearsays claimed that Bali Island's couple package was worth at least 10 million.

When Yun Shishi first heard of their reputation, she found it to be greatly overblown.

How could anyone be so stupid to spend 10 million for a single western meal?

However, as she alighted from the car with the skirt's hemline in her hand, she was surprised to see the magnificent cruise ship moored on the shore.

It was so beautiful.

Now that it was nighttime, the entire island was embraced by colorful lights. It was extremely romantic.

As the evening breeze picked up, a floral fragrance wafted in the air.

The blooming flowers by the shore blanketed the area like an expensive carpet. The stars in the night sky, coupled with the star lanterns, decorated the lake. The scenery was absolutely breathtaking.

She could not help but be fascinated by this romantic view as she walked along the lakeside.

The floral fragrance, the nightscape, the star lights – all kept her entranced, and by the time she came to herself, the car had already left.

What was his intention by doing this?

Why was she left alone here?

Her heart pounded as she looked at her surroundings and found a dock nearby.

The nightscape of Huxin Island was very beautiful. That was not all; at the lakeside, there was a dock holding several small cruise ships. Once on board, one could easily travel around the island. Although tickets were expensive, people still came in droves.

Hence, there was a long line at the dock right now. Many were waiting for their turn to board the ships and tour around the island while basking in the beautiful night scene.

She was now even more confused.

Just what was that man up to?

Dolling her up and then leaving her alone in this place, how would she get back to the city?

She supposed that she could catch a public bus here but she had nothing on her.

Her phone and her wallet were not with her.

She started to feel depressed.

Catching sight of someone by the dock, she thought she could go up and ask for directions to see if there was any way to return to the city from here.

Hence, she walked in the direction of the dock.

Halfway there, as she was walking anxiously without paying much attention to her surroundings, she bumped into a woman and knocked the latter's phone onto the ground.

She hurriedly apologized and picked up the person's phone.

However, the woman impatiently shouted, "Tsk! What's wrong with you? Don't you look at where you're going? Really!"

She frowned at that but did not wish to argue with this passerby and focused only on picking up the phone. When she lifted her head to look at the woman, she was quite shocked.

It was her...

This woman was not just anyone; she was that person she had seen at the hospital that day, Song Enya.

Why would she see her here?

She froze on the spot, a hint of doubt and surprise showing on her face. This was way too much of a coincidence.

Song Enya originally intended to cruise around the island to view the nightscape with her friends. After they bought the tickets, they

found out that they still needed to queue; hence, they decided to walk along the lakeside first and enjoy the nightscape.

However, she was knocked by someone and her phone, which was not tightly held, dropped to the ground.

Chapter 623: Dating (3)

Song Enya's temperament was volatile. She was just about to explode when she caught sight of the person's face as the latter lifted her head. It was Yun Shishi! After the shock, doubts surfaced on her face.

Undoubtedly, she recognized this woman with a glance.

That day, Mu Yazhe's phone call display was of this woman's sleeping face.

Her stunning beauty was all natural, unlike those actresses that had gone under the knife. Either her appearance or her disposition was very distinctive.

Despite seeing that photo of her just once, she could still not forget about it.

The only difference was that the woman before her wore an elegant black dress on her body and light sophisticated makeup on her face. Her face was a bit more distinctive than the one in the picture.

She was much more fetching in real life.

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It was a fact that she did not want to admit to herself.

It was no wonder that Brother Mu seemed to be very fond of this woman.

This was the type of woman that men preferred.

An elegant appearance and a clean and refined disposition. Even if she were a man, she would be just as mesmerizing.

Why would she appear here, though?

Yun Shishi stared at Song Enya with shock and started to hold suspicion. Naturally, she did not know that the latter had seen a photo of her on the man's phone before. She just thought that the latter was mad about the bumping incident, so she hurriedly returned the phone to her.

“I'm sorry; it's an accident. Please check if the phone is damaged.”

Song Enya retrieved the phone from her and inspected it. The phone did not seem to have suffered any damage from the fall.

Since there was no damage on it, she turned around to leave.

The woman called out to her.

“Yun Shishi!”

She shouted her name.

Yun Shishi was startled and turned around confusedly.

How did she know my name?

They had not officially met yet!

“I didn’t get the wrong person, did I?” Song Enya lifted her chin haughtily and strode toward her domineeringly. “That’s your name, right?”

She had the habit of scrolling through Weibo, and on one particular day, ‘The Green Apple’ production team posted a set of makeup photos, which topped the search rank in no time.

Only when she clicked it and saw Yun Shishi did she learn of her name.

Yun Shishi...

She recalled that the villa estate the Mu family had developed was named ‘Yun Shan Shi Yi’...

Was it just a coincidence, or did Brother Mu specially name it after this woman?

Song Enya then followed the Weibo page of ‘The Green Apple’. Ever since the production started, Yun Shishi’s behind the scenes footage had the highest number of views.

It was obvious that this woman was not ordinary.

“Yes. My name is Yun Shishi. You are...”

She looked at her and politely asked for her name.

“You don’t deserve to know my name!” Song Enya crossed her arms around her chest and presented herself with extreme arrogance.

The polite smile vacated Yun Shishi’s face in an instant.

What a haughty woman.

She curled up her lips lightly. “That’s fine; I’m not interested, anyway.”

As if she was really curious in the first place.

She could not be bothered to stoop to her level.

Song Enya choked upon hearing her words. “You...”

“Is there anything else?” She plastered a graceful smile on her lips. “If there’s none, I’ll take my leave now.”

“Stop right there!”

Seeing that she was truly about to leave, Song Enya grinded her teeth and stomped her feet in anger. She chased after Yun Shishi and clasped her on the shoulder.

As Yun Shishi’s dress was off shoulders, Song Enya’s freshly manicured nails, which were extremely sharp, and not to mention, the latter had used a lot of strength in her grip, she left deep marks on her shoulder in no time.

“What are you doing?”

Yun Shishi was now angered and shrugged her shoulder to dislodge Song Enya's hand. The woman was being ridiculous.

The woman's glare seemed to express her desire to swallow her!

With a sneer, Song Enya retorted, "Did I allow you to leave?"

"Strange. Just who are you for me to listen to you?" She found her even more ridiculous now. "Are you sick in the head?"

"Hah." Song Enya laughed in her anger and crossed her arms against her chest again as she glared at her with loathing. "Yun Shishi, you should consider your identity. With your lowly status, you dared to talk to me in this manner?"

"Miss, what does my identity have to do with you? With such a haughty look, I'd think that you were a royal princess of another country, but your upbringing said otherwise. I doubt you even received a proper education on etiquette," she mercilessly countered, rendering Song Enya speechless in defeat.

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Given Yun Shishi's fragile and harmless look, she did not expect her to have such a sharp tongue.

Song Enya's lips curled. She took a step toward her, scanned her body with insidious eyes, and laughed derisively. "Look at you; you're nothing much yourself! At most, you're just a pretty face that is able to seduce men! Who knows what you really are on the inside? How cheap you must be! Who do you think you are? Do you really think that by wearing such a dress, you can be a part of the

upper-class society? Dream on! Commoners are commoners. Don't ever harbor the thought of marrying into a rich family!"

Yun Shishi was startled and confused by her sarcasm. She wondered in what manner had she offended this lady for her to be so rude.

Song Enya continued. "These days, the third party can actually be so righteous after getting between other people's marriage. It really is an eye-opener!"

"I don't know what you're talking about!"

"You do!"

She gripped her wrist and viciously spat, "B*tch, you really like to seduce men, right? Despite knowing that Brother Mu has a fiancée, you still shamelessly stick to him! Don't you feel embarrassed?"

"What are you talking..." Yun Shishi pried her hand away and then paused at her words.

On hindsight, she finally knew who this woman meant by 'Brother Mu'!

Thus, she also understood the underlying meaning of her vicious words.

Mu Yazhe...

How could she have forgotten that this woman was his niece?

Still, how did she know her?

Did he mention her to his niece ?

What did he say to her ?

Yun Shishi's face soured.

“I advise you to retain some pride as a woman! Brother Mu already has a fiancée; you'd better stay far away from him! If Grandpa Mu learns of this, he won't ever let you off!”

His niece warned in disgust; the disdain in her eyes could almost brand her skin.

Although Yun Shishi was furious, she appeared calm when she looked her right in the eye.

She had no intention to back down.

Carefully observing Song Enya's face, she saw naked jealousy from it.

This bare jealousy almost needed no cover up!

Was she jealous ?

Generally, for a woman to have such a cruel and envious look, the man should occupy a very important place in her heart.

Did she like him ?

Did she like him ?

Pursing her lips, Yun Shishi recalled when she bumped into that scene of the two at the hospital.

The woman was embracing and reveling in his doting love. The happiness she exhibited on her face was not the kind of adoration one would have for her brother.

Her look spoke volumes of her possessiveness and amorous desire.

An attachment she sought but could not get.

There was no doubt that she liked her uncle.

Her liking could not be obvious; it was suppressed more or less by societal norm.

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Still, deep down, her feelings for her uncle was not a simple familial love.

Yun Shishi got a better idea of this woman's thoughts right now.

Although she accused her of being the third party, in fact, she herself yearned to be the woman standing by his side and not as his niece.

With this newly found knowledge, she smiled at her competitor and slowly uttered, “I believe you've got something wrong here.”

“What?” Song Enya looked at her with a start.

“I’m not the mistress that messed with their marriage.” Cocking a brow, she displayed a cool and elegant smile. “Mu Yazhe is only engaged right now; what he has is merely a fiancée. Is he married yet? I don’t think so. How can you say that I’m destroying their marriage?”

“Brother Mu is already engaged to Mu Wanrou!” the latter blurted angrily.

Her choice of word did not escape her, though.

Mu Wanrou.

She had addressed her by name directly without any qualms.

This might be because she could not accept that woman as her uncle’s fiancée.

She added. “So, what if they are engaged? It’s only an engagement ordered by the family elders. He doesn’t feel any love for the other party. How is this considered as me coming between them? Heh.”

Her sneer thoroughly antagonized Song Enya.

That pushed her to rap blatantly. “Hah! You’re too naïve for your own good! Do you think Brother Mu really likes you? He’s just toying with you! Oh, c’mon. You really think that you can take this chance to earn a title and marry into a rich family? The Mu is the top elite family in the capital. Grandpa Mu won’t ever let an actress enter the family! Are you thinking of marrying him? You’d be better off buying a pillow for your daydream as that’d be more realistic!”

She was clearly jeering at her for having such notion.

His niece's flagrant mocking was like driving a needle, dipped with salt, into her heart, causing her to feel unbearable pain.

Despite the pain she was experiencing inside, Yun Shishi toughened herself up and maintained her gracious smile. "What of that?"

"You..." Song Enya was aghast with the former's lack of shame and berated, "Shameless!"

"Well, let's say that your words are right." Pouting her lips innocently, Yun Shishi threw her a sympathetic look to hint that she knew of the latter's immoral affection for her uncle and continued resignedly. "I'm here to marry the rich—to snatch your Brother Mu that is Mu Wanrou's fiancée—and I'm the third party. Still..."

A brief moment passed, and then she looked up with a sharp glare at her. "What can you do about that?"

"You!"

Song Enya lifted her palm high and sent a hard slap to her face.

Yun Shishi caught her wrist halfway, though. She looked meek and feeble, so the other woman did not expect her to possess this much strength! In fact, when she clenched her hand, a row of deep red marks appeared on Song Enya's fair wrist.

She, when truly antagonized, was akin to a ferocious kitten, which would swing its claws and return unimaginable pain to its aggressor.

Chapter 626: Dating (6)

“Why? Are you resorting to violence now since you can’t win the argument? What an ill-mannered missy.”

With that, she jerked off her hand. Song Enya, who was caught off guard, lost her balance from her pull and fell to the ground.

“Heh... Interesting. You’re Mu Yazhe’s niece, right?”

She walked toward her casually. Looking down at the woman on the ground, she sarcastically

remarked, “Oh, my. Look at the jealous look you have on your face now. Don’t tell me that you like Mu Yazhe, no?”

Her offhand comment reeked of thinly disguised sarcasm.

Song Enya’s face turned white with alarm at her direct question.

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Unlike men, women could read one another well.

He might be unable to tell, but she was not equally as blind.

His niece was obviously in love with him.

Her strong and sweet adoration could not be concealed.

She could tell this with one look.

This was even more when there was now panic and shame on the woman’s face.

She really did hit the nail on the head, huh.

Shaking her head, she sighed wistfully. “So this is the real story. You are in love with your uncle!”

“It’s none of your business!”

The other woman craned her neck and retorted sharply.

With the man’s niece on the ground while Yun Shishi bore down on her, the former was robbed of her earlier dominance.

The woman hastily tried to stand up but she reached her leg forward and aimed her fine tapering stiletto on her hand.

His niece screamed and retracted her hand; her ashen face winced in pain.

“You are so pathetic.”

Yun Shishi continued mocking the other with a face devoid of feeling. “He is your uncle and you are his niece. This is incest! What a shock!”

“You!” The latter’s face sank all of a sudden upon hearing that.

“Look; you fall in love with a man, but this man turns out to be your uncle. It’s impossible for you to be with him in this lifetime. Isn’t that pathetic?”

She then added nonchalantly. “I’m different from you, though. I am with him and even have a child with him.”

Wide-eyed, Song Enya stared at her unbelievably when she heard that.

Looking at her pale-looking face, Yun Shishi regained her confidence as she admired the infliction she had caused and then went on casually. “What about you?”

What about you?

They were uncle and niece. As close relations, being together would be incestuous!

Song Enya was stunned momentarily. She stared blankly at her face before she suddenly reacted.

Yun Shishi’s eyes and brows, as well as the shape of her lips, were so alike with Little Yichen.

To be exact, Little Yichen’s eyes and brows inherited her softness and beauty.

She did not pay heed to these details initially, so they escaped her notice.

This realization shocked her beyond words.

Don’t tell me...

Little Yichen is her and Mu Yazhe’s... child?

This cognition was too big a blow for her, almost sending her into the fiery pits of hell.

“Who is the one having wistful thinking and daydreaming here? Do you think that, without me, you can be with the man you love?”

She let out a jeer that seemed to speak of the other's naivety. "Now, that is truly ridiculous!"

"Shut up... Shut up. You keep your mouth shut!" Song Enya went into hysterics, covering her ears to block out the sarcastic words.

Covering her smile with her palm, Yun Shishi kept to her elegant demeanor and lady etiquette, unlike her opponent who had lost control of herself. She told her neutrally, "Do you know what Mu Yazhe told me about you?"

Chapter 627: Dating (7)

Hearing this question, Song Enya felt terrified and stifled as she raised her head to meet Yun Shishi's cold gaze.

"He said that you're only a sister to him. Should I mind, he'll keep his distance from you and even cut ties with you!"

Just this statement was enough to send her mercilessly into hell.

In that instant, it was as if her heart had stopped beating!

Tears broke out and rolled down her cheeks.

She stubbornly clenched her teeth. Refusing to let Yun Shishi witness her pathetic state, she choked out, "You're lying; you're lying! Brother Mu dotes on me the most; he won't ever... You must be lying!"

"Well, you can always ask him if you don't believe."

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Yun Shishi did not lie at all.

The man had truly said it himself.

She merely quoted him.

Yun Shishi was angry now, especially upon recalling how this woman had trampled on her pride moments ago.

Knowing how he viewed her now, she could not accept the blow and broke down. She was not only a vase ¹ but also a very delicate one.

In fact, Yun Shishi was one to bear grudges.

Well, a real man must settle his scores.

Hence, she intended to continue pouring salt on the bloody wound of the man's niece.

“It seems that you're nothing to him at all if he can cut ties with you for a woman whom he's just 'playing with'. Your devotion toward him has gone to waste!”

Song Enya lost control of herself as she howled, “Shut up, you b*tch!”

With that, she threw herself ferociously at her in an attempt to strangle her to death!

At this moment, after being repeatedly spited by this woman before her, she was no longer in full control of herself. She was hell-bent on teaching this b*tch a lesson today!

Yun Shishi was unbothered by this. Simply leaning slightly to the side and stretching out her foot, she caused Song Enya, who was blinded by anger, to take a tumble to the floor just like a dog with mud on its mouth.

The ground was made of cement and was uneven with gravel.

With this fall, the man's niece, in her skimpy dress, broke the skin on her knees with tiny beads of blood seeping out of them.

There were also bloody abrasions on her palms. How disheveled she looked presently!

Song Enya looked down and saw the terrible wounds on her knees.

In the Song family, she was always pampered with love like a princess.

Before the birth of Song Enxi, she was the apple of the eye of her family.

Doted on by her parents and brother alike, she had never suffered any grievances.

Even after the birth of her youngest sibling, her parents' love for her did not diminish.

Her arrogant temperament was due to being spoiled rotten by them.

With their loving princess treatment of her, she had white, flawless skin and became rather vain about not letting herself get hurt

Alas, now, as she bowed her head, her knees were covered in wounds she found too tragic to look at. Stubbornly glaring at the other, she howled mournfully. “Yun Shishi, you shameless b*tch!”

Tears rolled down face, ruining her meticulously done makeup into uneven smudges.

“Yes, that’s it.” Yun Shishi smiled elegantly at her. “I like seeing you in this manner – how you hate me but still can’t get rid of me.”

A single statement which was wicked yet elegant.

It stunned Song Enya for a moment. With wide eyes, she sized up this woman, and when she felt her heart tense up, she clenched her teeth.

“You! This b*tch—”

SMACK!

Yun Shishi sent a tight slap to her face.

This left Song Enya’s stunned face reeling. Cradling her stinging cheek, she could hardly believe it!

She was hit by someone.

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Yun Shishi sneered. “Did your parents not teach you anything?”

“How dare you hit me?!” Her eyes were flushed with anger.

SMACK!

The other just laughed and sent her another tight slap.

At this point, she was completely stunned.

“Shall I slap you to let you see how many times I dare?”

Yun Shishi emotionlessly pulled up her sleeves. Just as the man’s niece wanted to retaliate, she gracefully turned around and left!

“Stop!”

Song Enya clenched her teeth and stood up from the ground to chase after her.

A hint of annoyance showed on Yun Shishi’s face.

She just did not know when to stop!

The dispute between them was witnessed by a server at the dock. His eyes locked onto Yun Shishi and on her black off-shoulder dress, as well as her waist-length silky hair and exquisite makeup. He knew there and then that she was the VIP he was tasked to wait for tonight. As such, he hurried over and interrupted the catfight.

“Hello! Are you Miss Yun Shishi?”

She faced this newcomer and saw that it was a smartly dressed man with a polite disposition and smiled. “Hello. Yes, I am. May I know who you are?”

“Miss Yun, I’m in charge of Bali Island Western Restaurant. You are our guest tonight; I’m here to escort you!”

She was momentarily dazed.

Song Enya was also stunned at the back.

Bali Island ?!

She was very astonished.

Was she here for a date ?

Bali Island’s couple package was worth at least 10 to 13 million. This was a lot of money even in the whole capital!

By word of mouth, this restaurant was the ultimate dream of many counterparts. A meal here comprised eight delicacies, complemented by aged wines. From cutlery to interior decoration, everything was exquisitely made.

Rumors had it that, before a meal, one could take a 30-minute helicopter ride overlooking the picturesque Huxin Island, and one would also receive 10,000 roses during the meal.

This alone attracted many women.

Being able to date in Bali Island was a sign of prestige.

Who was the man she going on a date here ?!

Her chest felt stifled. Is it Brother Mu ?

Yun Shishi was a little surprised as well, but she at least knew who had made this arrangement.

She squinted at the man's niece, then faced the waiter, and politely smiled. "All right. I'll follow you, then."

"Wait!"

Song Enya, with a livid face, shouted, "You... Are you dating Brother Mu?!"

She turned to look at her expressionlessly.

A date?

He would go on a date with her?

She could not imagine that he would actually use his spare time for a date.

Hence, she dared not confirm that the man's arrangement was a date.

She wanted to see her looking stricken and confused, though, so she sneeringly replied quite vaguely, "Yes. I'm going on a date, so don't follow me anymore. It's annoying to look at you."

Chapter 629: Dating (9)

Song Enya flew into a rage out of humiliation. She was about to step forward again, but she was stopped on the spot by the timely appearance of the bodyguards.

Security at the restaurant was tight. After all, they must guarantee their guests' personal safety and privacy.

Hence, under the bodyguards' obstruction, she could only watch her board a cruise ship.

Bali Island Western Restaurant was on Huxin Island, and to get there, the primary mode of transport was aboard a cruise ship.

This cruise ship, unlike the other ones at the dock, was for the specific use of that restaurant. Therefore, it was much more extravagant than the others.

Hence, when Yun Shishi boarded the cruise ship to Bali Island with the assistance of the server, she garnered the exclamations of those sightseeing at the dock!

For a moment, jealous, amazed, and envious comments could be heard.

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“Oh, heavens. Is that Bali Island's private cruise ship? How luxurious!”

“Indeed! I heard that the building of this cruise ship cost a fortune!”

“My god! Bali Island – that's a dream come true!”

...

Yun Shishi stood before the railings as the cruise ship's engine started and slowly glided away from the dock in the direction of Huxin Island.

She lowered her head and looked at the constantly rising waves. The reflection of the star lanterns of the cruise ship on the lake was beautiful.

In the horizon, the silver moon seemed like a hook.

Standing on the deck, Yun Shishi hugged her shoulders as she felt a little chilly.

The server immediately thoughtfully put a coat on her. She politely thanked him, but even though she had the coat, only her body was warmed.

Her heart still felt cold.

‘The Mu is the top elite family in the capital. Grandpa Mu won't ever let an actress enter the family! Are you thinking of marrying him? You'd be better off buying a pillow for your daydream as that'd be more realistic!

‘Do you think Brother Mu really likes you? He's just toying with you! Oh, c'mon. You really think that you can take this chance to earn a title and marry into a rich family?

‘These days, the third party can actually be so righteous after getting between other people's marriage.’

The third party?

Her lips curled up and she laughed coldly.

It was ludicrous. How did she become the third party?

Everything that Mu Wanrou had, it all belonged to her in the first place!

She was the real third party, no?

She stole the token left behind by her mother.

She stole her identity.

She stole her family...

She stole... her fiancé.

Was that woman not the third party? How did it become her?

She looked at the reflection of the sparkling moonlight on the lake's surface as she felt the cold evening breeze on her skin. Suddenly, she reached out her hand to fix her hair that was in disarray due to the wind and stood up straighter.

She was not the third party.

All the things that were in Mu Wanrou's possession originally belonged to her!

In that case, she just had to take back everything she owned!

Although she did not care for all that, she would certainly not let an imposter encroach on her territory and flaunt it before her!

Recalling that woman's repulsive face, she felt disgust from the bottom of her heart.

All the accumulation of accusations and grievances for over a decade came pouring into her heart!

She swore that she would take back all that belonged to her!

The cruise ship soon reached the dock of Huxin Island.

There were already people waiting in a line at the dock.

She alighted from the cruise ship, and Bali Island's server astutely greeted her. "Hello, Miss Yun! Welcome to Bali Island Western Restaurant!"

The restaurant only had one private room.

Its floor size was huge at 990 square meters.

When the server led her into the room, the lavish decoration came into her view.

The bright crystal chandelier alone was worth a fortune.

As she walked to the table, she noticed that tableware and chopsticks, made of jade with diamond-inlaid and her name engraving, were laid on it.

YUN SHISHI

...

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Its extravagance left her speechless.

It was no wonder that there were rumors of Bali Island Western Restaurant's couple package being priced at 10 million or so.

Each was extremely detailed and covered in luxury.

She looked at her surroundings but did not see the man anywhere.

She turned to ask the server. "Who booked this restaurant? Where is the person?"

Doubt crept into her heart.

Just what was that man scheming of now?

He had her brought here, he did not show up himself.

A few servers exchanged smiles.

She noticed their secretive behavior and raised a brow, simply past caring.

She toured around the private room alone and incidentally discovered that there was an observation deck inside, too. She was attracted to the Hubble Space Telescope on the observation deck.

"Is this a telescope?"

She pointed to it.

She was pretty clueless about astronomy; hence, she was unsure if the instrument was really a telescope.

The server behind her smilingly answered, “Yes. There’s news of a meteor shower tonight. Miss Yun, would you like to look through it?”

“All right,” she happily agreed.

She was quite interested in the telescope.

She enthusiastically went to it, and the server hurriedly made adjustments for her. She clumsily looked through it and saw the beautiful starry night sky.

Incredible.

Usually, one could only see the few sporadic stars scattered across the night sky. However, through the telescope, she could see plenty of them, and they were in fact of different sizes.

Some were so tiny like sand particles, while others were so big and even pulsated blue or orange.

A handful were even like brilliant diamonds hanging in the sky – utterly mesmerizing.

The stars together made up the beautiful constellations.

They were breathtakingly captivating!

She was completely fascinated.

She realized now why there were many astronomy enthusiasts. Indeed, one could not help but be fascinated in the starry night sky.

Completely entranced by the stars, she did not notice that the server behind her had already left the private room quietly.

She was still raptly observing the night sky when a bright shooting star streaked across the lens!

It disappeared in the blink of an eye.

Still, she was ecstatic!

This was her first time seeing a falling star since she became an adult.

She exclaimed and lifted her head in joy, “I saw a shooting star!”

Turning around to announce this, she bumped into a warm and sturdy chest, instead.

Her forehead was a little sore.

She shut her eyes on reflex as she held her slightly aching head. Raising her head as she opened her eyes, a shooting star seemed to shoot past when a diamond necklace dangled before her in all its brilliance.

Chapter 631: Dating (11)

She could not help but notice the exquisite workmanship done on the diamond, which was carefully carved into the shape of a shooting star, and just like that celestial object, the pendant was dazzling at one glance.

She was startled at the sight of it.

It was unknown when exactly, but Mu Yazhe now stood before her.

Wearing a black shirt with his dark hair combed to perfection and his handsome face complemented by expressively tantalizing eyes, the man's concentration was fully on her.

In this haughty and aloof man's dark orbs was tenderness that he never had before.

This rare tenderness could melt even the world's coldest glacier.

She was astonished. Was that a shooting star earlier or was it this diamond necklace?

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Her heart felt that everything about tonight might be his specially arranged 'surprise'.

What made her the most surprised was that she did not think that he would spend his time on a date with her.

From what she knew, his time was gold. Controlling such a large conglomerate like Disheng was definitely no easy task!

Still...

Although she had her suspicion, she still did not expect him to prepare this much.

For a moment, she felt stupid.

Did he know that he had gone overboard last night, so he set this mysterious date to surprise her and make up for it?

She did not know how haughty this man was.

She was his first woman.

Also, she was the only woman he was willing to devote all his mind to.

He had never put so much effort into anything like this before.

This truly was his first time.

While many aspects of this date were based on Min Yu's suggestions, that was only because he did not know how a woman's mind worked.

What did she like?

What did she not like?

Clueless about anything, he could only rely on his subordinate's advice and fumble around.

Mu Yazhe's eyes never left hers. He saw the astonishment in her enchanting peach eyes over the diamond pendant dangling before her.

Did this man specially prepare all these because he felt sorry about last night and wanted to make amends?

She secretly cursed to herself and lifted her eyes to check his expression furtively.

“Like it?” His low voice came out of his mouth.

She kept her silence. The anger in his eyes reminded her of his cruelty last night, and her resentment toward him was evoked.

Her vision fell on the stunning pendant again. No matter how hard she tried to keep the cold arc on her lips, she still smiled at this unexpected surprise.

Judging from the twinkle in her eyes, he presumed that she liked this surprise a lot! Women were weak to such surprises, indeed!

Thus, he took her by the shoulders, turned her around, and moved to put the pendant around her neck.

She broke free from him in a matter of seconds. After this brief display of intimacy, she was back to being indifferent.

In his eyes, she appeared to still be mad at him!

“You don’t like it?” He seemed to be inquiring for her opinion.

She glanced at the pendant in his hand and then shook her head coldly!

He was too naïve!

He could easily see through her stubborn defiance.

This woman was obviously angry with him still!

From the look in her eyes, he could tell that she liked this pendant very much.

She was still waging a cold war with him.

He smiled mischievously. “Since you don’t like it, I’ll throw it away.”

Before she could respond, he strode to the edge of the observation deck and hurled the pendant in his hand into the lake!

The observation deck was very close to the lake.

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The strength of his hand was not to be underestimated as well, so as soon as it was thrown, the pendant disappeared in the blink of an eye!

She sneaked a glimpse and happened to catch this very action. Her heart dropped, and not bothering to reserve her composure, she walked anxiously over to his side and peered in the direction of where he had thrown the jewelry. It was nowhere to be seen!

Her heart fumed.

Angrily biting her lower lip, she turned around and pushed him hard.

“Why did you do that?”

“Er? What did I do?”

He looked at her with an innocent face, as if he could not quite wrap his head around what he had just done.

“Ridiculous. Why did you throw my pendant into the lake? Is that a joke?” She was pissed.

“You said that you dislike it.”

His tone was hushed and his look was penetrating, silently reminding her of her earlier words. She disliked the pendant, so he threw it away.

She was stuck for words for once. “You threw it away just because I said that I don’t like it?”

“Since you don’t like it, it loses its value.” The man raised his haughty chin as he declared this matter-of-factly.

He seemed to be telling her that that stunning jewelry’s value was not measured by its cost but by her liking.

She did not like it, so the pendant lost its worth.

The loss of a worthless object would not be a pity.

She knitted her brows in deep forlorn and frustration.

It was true that she had said that she did not like it, but was it really what she felt inside?

Actually, she liked that gorgeous pendant from the bottom of her heart; it was just that she did not want to forgive him so readily!

Why is he... so dense when it comes to reading a woman’s mind?

The truth was that she really liked it.

Very much, indeed.

She could tell that he had taken much effort into selecting that jewelry for her. Every angle of that pendant was delicate, be it the cut or the polished shine. It must have cost a bomb, too!

He had carefully prepared such an exquisite surprise for her tonight; in any case, for her, what she really wanted was a statement from him about his last night's attitude.

Just a simple word of apology to her would be greatly appreciated.

He was too proud for that, though.

Now, he threw away an expensive pendant just from her insincere utterance.

More importantly, she really liked it.

She stared at him without expression. In her anger and annoyance, she simply looked away from as she intended to ignore him for good!

She sulkily turned away without a second look at him. Her heart was undulating tumultuously as she pouted and watched the calm lake surface.

He chuckled softly as he watched her behavior.

He walked toward her back and his long slender legs hugged close to her hemline.

She turned her head and gave him a warning look. Her zipped lips and stern eyes seemed to caution him to keep his distance from her.

She was apparently still simmering with anger.

He let off another chuckle, knowing well that she was fuming now. Instead of keeping his distance, he drew closer to her.

Bowing slightly, he rested his chin on her nape. His breath blew warm on her cheek as he asked, “Why? Are you still mad at me?”

“No, I’m not!” she retorted coldly, brushing aside his affection.

Her tone belied her words, though, as she sounded deeply displeased.

He reckoned that she was pissed off because he had carelessly thrown away the jewelry.

With a smile, he pressed close to her ear and intimately panted. “Little liar, you are obviously angry.”

“I don’t dare to be angry with you, almighty CEO Mu.” She sniggered jestingly.

“In fact, you like that pendant, right?” His statement hit the jackpot as his gaze locked on to her fuming face.

“It belongs to you, so you can do whatever you want with it. What has that got to do with me?” She told him off brashly.

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She did not realize that their exchange and behavior right now were plain flirting!

He smiled and knew deep down that she was playing hard to get!

She was rather dumb, though, and not thinking at the same time.

Did she really think that he could not tell how much she liked this pendant?

The man slowly opened his palm.

As if by magic, the necklace that he had supposedly thrown away rested quietly in the center of his palm, exuding a charming and gentle sheen under the bright moonbeam.

In fact, he could tell what she was thinking with just a look. She did not mean it when she said that she did not like it; it was just how a woman would behave when angry.

He could also tell that what she felt was the opposite – she liked it a lot.

He was just bluffing when he mimed throwing the necklace away.

She fell for his fake action of throwing the necklace into the lake hook, line, and sinker, though.

Her anxious look could not escape his eyes.

Standing behind her, he gently swept her hair aside to reveal the porcelain-like fair skin on her nape.

His eyes gave sparks as his back stiffened somewhat.

Her soft, fair, and flawless skin was like a masterpiece, especially right now when the dark water surface, which was reflecting the pale moonlight, was accentuating her jade-like skin.

She was a stunning beauty from inside and outside.

The classy black gown she was wearing contrasted with her snowy white skin perfectly; it exuded an innately forbidden allure.

His gaze turned deep upon beholding her alluring beauty, which led to something inside stirring.

She twisted her body to wrestle free from his grasp when he hissed, “Don’t move!”

“You...”

“Don’t move or I’ll do you right here and now!” His voice was tight with forbearance and repressed urge.

She immediately stood stock still.

She did not doubt this man’s words. If she really moved, he would make his threat real right on this observation deck.

She already had a taste of his tyranny.

She was still sulking when she felt something cool lie on her neck. Looking down, her eyes caught sight of an exquisitely sparkling diamond hanging between her clavicles.

Is this the pendant he’s thrown away earlier?

Didn't he just throw it away, or was he pulling her leg all along?

She was stunned momentarily, and at the same time, her lips could not hide a delighted smile.

Lowering his head close to her ear, he mouthed, "You must wear this pendant at all times."

Just as her gaze grew, he barked, "You're forbidden from taking it off!"

Chapter 634: You only need to believe me. (1)

"You're forbidden from taking it off!"

His tone, as always, was commanding and incredibly tyrannical.

She fingered the necklace, lifted her eyes to look at him, and protested angrily, "You are so unreasonable."

"Yes, I am unreasonable." Standing behind her, he drew her into his embrace slowly with his arms.

He watched gaze at the pendant encircling her neck with her almond-shaped eyes; her pinky lips spread apart into a faint smile as her fingertips rubbed against it lovingly.

"Didn't you say that you dislike it?" He could not help teasing her.

She snorted. "I just find it a pity to throw this away!"

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“Stubborn!” he chided lightly.

This stupid woman was indeed headstrong.

The truth was actually the opposite; she really liked his gift!

Staring at the lovely dimples lighting her face, he had the strong impulse to lock her lips with his.

Egged on by that abrupt impulse, he dipped her in his embrace and lowered his head to kiss her small, pinkish lips.

Her soft and warm lip flaps only made him want more as he tasted her sweetness.

She widened her eyes in shock.

His kiss grew more invasive, and she was not the slightest prepared. As she gazed at his broad frame and handsome features, with distinctive contour, she felt his compelling presence magnify before her.

Looking at him at such proximity, she realized how long and dense his lashes were, much like two black phoenix tails.

It was no wonder his eyes were penetratingly mesmerizing.

She must admit that this man was born with God’s favor.

With his outstanding features, noble disposition, and aristocratic lineage, he was definitely the type to attract a flock of women. She no

longer questioned why this man could make many celebrities in the capital swoon and why even his niece was head over heels for him.

This man had everything in his favor, indeed.

His thin lips were somewhat cool to the touch.

Her mind started to wander.

She remembered reading on physiognomy about most people with thin lips being rational and fickle-minded.

Is this man fickle-minded ?

She passively let his kisses dominate her.

Bearing down on her eagerly, he burrowed deep into her throat with the wish to swallow her whole if possible.

Her thoughts inexplicably started to flutter far as the man hugged her tightly around the waist and affixed his lips onto hers to trace their outline lightly with labored breathing. “Did you blacklist my number because Mu Wanrou said something to you ?”

She opened her eyes in shock, only to see him staring at her, too. His look silently questioned her.

“...”

“Why aren’t you speaking ?”

Looking doubtful, he caught her chin with his thumb and index fingers.

He initially suspected Mu Wanrou of making false claim that she was pregnant with his flesh and blood.

Most women were sensitive to this sort of things, and this was especially the case with the innately stubborn Yun Shishi. It would totally be unacceptable to her.

This was only a suspicion, though.

As for what had really made her blacklist him sans explanation, he would need to clarify that with her.

His question inadvertently reminded her of Mu Wanrou's pregnancy.

That woman had his child, but was that really his?

Chapter 635: You only need to believe me. (2)

Yun Shishi kept silent for a moment. Slowly, she said, "She informed me of her carrying your child and accused me of being the third party in your marriage..."

"Heh?!"

Mu Yazhe snorted at this. He felt frustrated but helpless even more.

"So, you believe her?"

Should the reason for him being blacklisted was other than that, perhaps he could still accept it, but for her to believe the one-sided claim of that insignificant woman with no substantial evidence, he felt simply dismissed.

This woman was too much.

Seeing him scoff, she raised a brow. “What’s wrong?”

“You unconditionally believed her words. So...”

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His deep eyes fixated on her face as he asked, “Am I unworthy of your unconditional trust?”

“How am I supposed to trust you?” she countered helplessly.

She was in no position to question him.

The moment she learned of Mu Wanrou’s pregnancy, she only felt utter despair.

She believed it without a doubt then.

After all, she was in no position to raise questions, no?

That woman was his fiancée, and he was her fiancé.

Even if she had his child, it was only right.

Was this the time for her to withdraw?

She did not think so now.

Everything that that woman possessed now was originally hers.

She would no longer give in and would use any means possible to take back everything she should rightfully own.

With that thought in mind, she pursed her lips. This was when she heard the man's jovial laughter. "I know."

She frowned.

As he scrutinized her uncomfortable look, something came to his mind, and he proceeded to tease her. "Did you blacklist me because you were jealous?"

Her eyes widened in alarm as she saw him gaze on her intently with smugness.

He observed her stunned look not with exasperation but with insufferable arrogance, instead. He then recalled Min Yu's words.

Jealousy equaled like.

This woman liked him!

There was no doubt about it.

It was so much so that her feelings for him should be beyond ordinary! Was that why she blacklisted him as she flew into a humiliating rage when Mu Wanrou flaunted before her?

"You like me."

He paused. Feeling that this term was inappropriate, he proceeded to change it. "Yun Shishi, you've fallen for me."

His words were curt and casual, yet his tone sounded pleased and overbearing.

She stared wide-eyed at him in her confusion and wondered where he was getting his confidence.

How did jealousy equal like?

He actually equated her action with love.

Where was this man really getting his confidence?

“Don’t you want to admit it yet?” He laughed as he reached out to tap her delicate nose.

This woman must love him deeply for her to be jealous to that extent.

According to his subordinate, women in love would have an extremely incomprehensible possessiveness.

They disliked their men being chummy with other women.

The more jealous a woman was, the loftier a man’s place in her heart.

This stupid woman must be madly in love with him; that was probably why she was so jealous.

Chapter 636: I will give you a legitimate title. (1)

He did not like jealous women all along.

Thus, he did not know why this woman was different to him. When he learned of her jealousy, sparks of joy rose in his heart.

“Yun Shishi, I’m telling you this.” He turned her around by the shoulder and forced her to look into his eyes as he enunciated, “I did not touch her.”

She was astounded to see him looking at her in such a solemn manner. It was something she had never seen him do before.

“I have never touched anyone else besides you; do you believe me?” he reiterated, looking somber still.

She was confused.

Bit by bit, suspicions bloomed in her heart.

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She was flabbergasted at his explanation.

At the bar last time, Mu Wanrou arrogantly announced her pregnancy to her. Could it be false?

She soon went on to deny it.

Impossible.

When she bumped into her at the restaurant, she was really having morning sickness. There was no sign falsehood in that.

From her experience, that woman was truly pregnant.

That time she was pregnant with Little Yichen and Youyou, she suffered from terrible morning sickness as well.

That woman's symptoms were for those over a month pregnant.

Now, he was telling her that he did not touch her.

Could she believe it?

Could this man be trusted?

Was that woman faking it, or was this man lying to her?

Her mind was in turmoil!

Her face slowly turned cold.

She was unable to accept another woman getting pregnant with his child.

She was unable to accept his naked lie even more!

Hence, she tactfully yet solemnly smiled. "Mu Yazhe, you don't need to explain so much. It's obvious that Mu Wanrou is pregnant, yet you're denying having touched her now."

Pausing, she looked right into his eyes and earnestly asked, "Do you treat me as an easily fooled child? Is teasing me fun? Am I really that gullible?"

He was frustrated. "You doubt my words?"

She paled. "Doubt? If you've never touched her, then whose child does hers belong? Don't tell me that she had an affair!"

She did not believe that Mu Wanrou would cheat on him, nor could she believe that the child was not his.

If that were the case, it would be a scandalous affair to the Mu family.

With his arrogant attitude, how could he bear such a betrayal?

His face turned dark upon noting the undisguised doubt on her face. A hint of sullen anger glinted in his eyes. “Yun Shishi, don’t you have confidence in me?”

She raised her jaw and expressionlessly answered, “I only believe in the truth!”

He was annoyed. “She’s pregnant, but the child isn’t mine.”

“Then whose?” She pressured him, not wanting vague answers.

He frowned, kept silent awhile, and coldly stated, “Listen; she’s merely a pawn I’m using as leverage to gain control of the Mu family. Right from the very start, I have never touched a single finger hers. As for who the child belongs, you’ll know it in the future!”

Pausing, he tightly held her shoulders and solemnly said, “You only need to remember that I haven’t been intimate with her. That’s all.”

She felt a little fed up and proceeded to push him away. “Can you please not talk in riddles with me?!”

“...”

She grabbed his lapel in her frustration and questioned him in an uncontrollable manner. “If she’s a pawn to you, then what about me? Am I a pawn, too?!”

Chapter 637: I will give you a legitimate title. (2)

His eyes turned cold and his face contorted with rage. “I’ve never said that you’re a pawn!”

“You’re willing to be engaged with your so-called ‘pawn’, but you can’t even give me a legitimate title; am I not even worth a pawn in your eyes?!”

She laughed coldly. Her retort made his face even darker.

He was frozen in that instant.

“What do you mean?”

She smiled as she tried to remain calm, but a tremble could still be perceived in her voice. “Mu Yazhe, I like you. What about you? Do you like me, too?”

His lips parted, but no words came out.

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The word ‘like’ was stuck in his throat, unable to be voiced out.

He was a proud and arrogant man, so he could not easily utter the word ‘like’ before the woman he had feelings for.

At his silence, the smile on her face slightly cooled.

“I’ll tell you this, too! Since I like you, I can acknowledge you and even give you my heart, so what about you? Can you do the same?”

He could.

Although that was what he thought, he could not convey it in words.

He stared at her ferociously. For a moment, it was all quiet.

“Do you know who I just met?”

With her face slightly pale as her lashes drooped in disappointment, she said weakly, “I met Song Enya. She righteously accused me before a crowd – ridiculed me for being the third party. Mu Yazhe, are my feelings cheap, or in your eyes, am I also merely a pawn for you to exploit and be at your beck and call? You can give Mu Wanrou a proper engagement, yet you can’t give me a legitimate title! I don’t want romantic dates or beautiful diamond pendants, and I don’t want you going through all this trouble to please me!”

She raised her eyes at him with a pale face.

Their eyes met.

She looked at him, then suddenly closed in on him, and pressed herself against his front. She lifted her finger and lightly tapped against his chest.

Right there was his powerful heartbeat.

“I want this; can you give it to me?”

He stared at her intently.

Her throat felt parched, but she persisted in her questioning. “The love I desire, I hope that it will have a legitimate title; can you give that to me?”

His continued silence gradually made her feel disheartened. She gave a hollow laugh and suddenly found this interrogation to be ludicrous.

She mentioned his heart.

In his heart, was she really a pawn that was there to do his every bidding?

“Do you know what marriage means to me? If you can’t even give me a legitimate title, why should I keep liking you?”

She gritted her teeth and weakly declared, “I don’t like you anymore!”

That one declaration was like an icicle stabbing deeply into his flesh. In that moment, his heart seemed to have been pierced fatally.

Did she just refuse to like him?

D*mn this woman! How could she act on her own?

Did he permit her not to like him?

He stood rooted to the spot. Along with the stiffening of his massive and proud frame, his facial expression also froze as his eyes showed puzzlement, humiliation, and anger.

Unable to accept his continued silence, she turned to leave.

He reached out to grab her arm tightly and pulled her back.

Chapter 638: I will give you a legitimate title. (3)

She felt a wave of dizziness as she was shoved to the front railings.

With a hand on her waist and another on the railing, the man trapped her right before him.

“I’ll give you a chance to retract your statement!”

He lowered his gaze on her and coldly demanded, “Retract that statement now!”

“Retract?” Her face paled. With her lips curling downward, she retorted, “All right. Which statement do you want me to retract?”

“That one about you refusing to like me anymore.”

The corners of her mouth plummeted further at that. She averted her gaze from him and schooled her face into an impassive and cold look.

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She remained mum for a long time.

Her silence frustrated him endlessly. As his eyes filled with hidden tears, his hand clasping her shoulder inadvertently tightened.

“Say it!”

Her vision was never once on him. She tried to speak a few times, but her throat was too dry.

“Say it!”

He had lost some of his patience.

This woman was indeed out to infuriate him.

He stared at her cold face while he repeatedly repressed his rage, which was on the verge of exploding.

“Is it so hard to retract that statement?!”

He glared at her fiercely, then gripped her jaw to make her face him, and carefully enunciated, “Yun Shishi, keep this in mind: you are forbidden from leaving me.”

“Just what do you mean by that?!” she snarled. “Mu Yazhe, you want me to be your kept woman – a canary in your cage?”

“You’re my woman – not a canary!” He arrogantly corrected her while he kept his gaze on her. “You don’t need to use those words to put me off!”

“That’s right. Women. You can have a lot of them!”

Although her heart was pounding in pain, she fought to maintain a calm face. She nonchalantly added, “Just like this, I’m not your only one.”

“You are!”

How could this woman continue her one-sided conversation?

He did not have any other woman but her.

With a heavy face, he said, “You’re my only one.”

She looked at him in shock yet managed to question him calmly.

“What can you use to prove it?”

“You want me to give you a legitimate title.”

It was a rhetorical question.

Indubitably.

She did not speak but tacitly agreed.

The cold wind blew across the observation deck.

The evening breeze from the lake was bone-chillingly wet.

She backed up against the railings.

Despite his control, his grip on her shoulder was still hard enough to elicit a dull pain from her.

Her face was unchangingly still.

Those black orbs of his focused on her fully. “Is a piece of paper so valuable to you?”

Did this woman trust this paper more than him?

She looked up at him in shock.

In this man's heart, was the marriage certificate a mere piece of paper?

He, at her silence, continued. "Compared to that piece of paper, am I really unworthy of your trust?"

She laughed hollowly at that and then countered, "You can't even give me a piece of paper, so tell me how I can trust you?"

This piece of paper was sacred to her and was worthy of her respect.

Alas, something so important to her was deemed by him as worthless.

He inclined his head to ask in a deep voice, "Your trust seems to be flimsy if it's just reliant on a piece of paper! What can that even guarantee to you?!"

Chapter 639: I will give you a legitimate title. (4)

"Respect!" she firmly answered.

Marriage was sacred to her.

Even if the environment she grew up in never gave her the notion that marriage equaled happiness, but her heart still strongly desired for a family.

This family needed this piece of paper for it to be legitimate.

“I mind it a lot; I really care about it!”

She shouted in a fit of rage, “Just what exactly are you thinking of?! If your heart does have a place for me, how can you watch our children call another woman ‘mommy’?!”

This single statement was akin to a cold knife piercing his heart deep enough for blood to splutter about.

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His gaze fixated on her.

“Do you really think that I want this name?” Her face was cold. “All right. How about we consider each other’s position, instead.”

“What?”

“Mu Yazhe, I love you,” she casually declared. “All things unchanged; I can’t give you a legitimate title.”

His face froze instantly as his eyes gradually darkened.

“I’ll marry another man, but you must believe, that’s just a piece of paper. Even though I live under the same roof as this ‘husband’ as his ‘wife’ and Youyou calls him ‘daddy’, you must believe that I’ll have nothing to do with him and that there’s only you in my heart.”

She scoffed. Measuring his face’s frostiness, she questioned further, “Is that all right?”

Complex emotions continuously swirled within his eyes.

He seemed to be trying to repress something.

She stared at his handsome face and attempted to find a trace of change in it. “How is it? Since you deem that status as unimportant, it surely doesn’t matter to you if I do that.”

“Enough.”

“Not enough!”

“That’s enough!”

With a gloomy face, he cut her off. “Yun Shishi, that is enough!”

He did not give her a chance to speak more. Grasping her shoulders, he kissed her almost punishingly.

He kissed her in a desperate frenzy.

The whole world seemed to spin erratically.

The kiss was lingering, but fear could be traced in it.

Her words actually made him feel helpless and afraid.

He could not imagine – could not imagine Youyou calling another man daddy.

Worst of all, he could not imagine her becoming another man’s wife even if it was only in name!

He initially only viewed that as a method to tie two people together and that it was not binding.

In his eyes, it was no better than a negligible contract for fame and profit.

Now, he did not think so.

The idea of her becoming another man's wife in name was unbearable to him.

Even for a piece of paper!

She stubbornly sealed her lips and refused to give him a chance to enter her mouth.

Despite his fierce assault, she did not relent her mouth to him.

He went wild at her resistance, his eyes flashing dark red. He wrapped his powerful arms around her waist and forced her body even closer to his chest.

Stubbornly, she kept her lips shut until the man tasted a bit of blood.

Unconsciously, his lips tore.

There was a touch of blood on her lips.

His sight fell. The tip of his tongue slowly caressed the bleeding wound, and the metallic taste of blood filled his mouth promptly.

Although she was wounded, she refused to give in to him.

Just for this metallic taste, he kissed her lips anew.

Chapter 640: I give you my whole world.

Seemingly losing her soul for a moment, she stared blankly ahead like a lifeless puppet.

She resisted his invasive lips and gave her a vacant look as she squeezed out these words between teeth, “Mu Yazhe, do you love me?”

His body stiffened momentarily as his handsome face froze.

She persisted in her questioning. “Do you love me? I want to know if you are taking me as your love toy or your lover.”

“...”

“Speak!”

“...”

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“Say something; is this question difficult for you to answer?” Her gaze locked penetratingly on his dark orbs.

In the next second, he closed in on her and forcefully sealed her mouth with his again.

He plastered her lips with his and looked deeply into her eyes. From his throat, there came a hoarse utterance. “Love!”

Her eyes flashed a second of surprise, and then she stood rooted to the spot.

She thought that he would remain silent until the end.

Hearing that word come out of his mouth was beyond her wildest imagination.

“Love.”

He slowly repeated the word. Licking away with his tongue the bloody stain on her lip flap, he plodded. “I’ll give you that piece of paper you want!”

If this was what she wanted, then he would give her just that!

“...” She was thoroughly floored.

“I’ll give you the legitimate love you want!”

“...”

She was stunned by his tyrannical declaration.

Such a proud man conceding to her in this way was indeed unbelievable.

Truthfully, he was an extremely stubborn man.

Stubborn and tyrannical.

When he set his eyes on something, he would not give up no matter how others tried to dissuade him.

In the same way, no other ladies could replace the woman he set his sights on.

He could satisfy her every desire except leaving his side. He would never allow that.

He lifted his penetrating gaze and zoomed it on her face warmly and tenderly; his brows had relaxed slightly by now. “I can give all you want except for leaving me! Other than that, I can give you everything!”

She was dumbstruck.

He pressed close to feel her warm, moist lips as clear and distinct words tumbled from his.

“You want my entire being, so I’ll give to only you!”

“...”

“I promise you; I won’t touch any other woman. You are the only one.”

“...”

“I only want you.”

Can she understand?

His confession seemed rather awkward.

There was none of those flowery languages or everlasting vows like other men. His every word was so blunt and insistent; in a serious tone, he told all that to her without preamble.

“Yun Shishi, I only want you.”

“Mu Yazhe...”

“If you like, I can give you my whole world.”

In fact, he would give her that sans a reservation.

Except for leaving me, I can give you everything!

“Now, can I kiss you?”

He asked in his hoarse voice.

He wanted her.

He really wanted her like crazy.

This woman was like a spell cast on him. Now, he was entrapped with no way out except through her.

She sipped her lips as her heart received a thorough shocked via his confession. Slowly, she extended her jade-like arms across his waist.

It was like an invitation to him.

She felt his slender fingertips gently raise her chin up.

His perfect face inched closer intimately.

Lowering his head, he gently covered her mouth with his thin, moist lips.

His fresh breath lingered between his teeth; the refreshing aroma that was uniquely his surrounded and mesmerized her.

Chapter 641: Let us have a meal first.

She frowned in disbelief, her eyes widening to show her shock.

He looked at her and then covered her eyes with his palm before he lightly closed his. The soft and tender kiss reverberated through her very being and made her heart pound fast and furious.

The soft moonlight gently spilled from the star-mottled sky.

Under the pristine, white moonlight, his face was embellished in a ghastly glow that complemented his jade-like skin.

She opened her eyes and peered through the gap between his fingers.

His impeccable profile took her breath away.

The man imprisoned her in his embrace. With a hand lifting her chin and another caressing the fray hair gently framing her face, his lips locked down onto hers. Unlike his earlier aggressive stance, it was now filled with never-before-seen loving tenderness.

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He suckled softly and intimately around her lips.

No woman could possibly resist this tenderness that might even melt ice.

Her ears turned red from his kiss and a faint blush rose steadily on her cheeks.

Her two hands started flapping on his chest uneasily.

He grabbed her wrists and slowly moved them toward his waist. Following his lead, she found herself interlacing her fingers around his waist. Her knuckles had turned white at this point from nervousness.

Suddenly, fireworks exploded way above them and spread its radiance across in the vast night sky.

He raised his eyes slightly as his slender, long fingers stroked her face lightly.

His fingertips caressed her skin which was smooth like silk. The touch electrified him and made his heart jump. Somewhere inside him seemed to reach a tipping point.

He kissed her between her brows, which delighted him with their beautiful arches.

He kissed her almond-shaped eyes, which captivated his heart.

He kissed the tip of her nose, which was so exquisite and delicate in his eyes.

Finally, he kissed her lip flaps.

This was what he loved the most.

A bite of the apple made him yearn for more.

His broad and tall frame pressed on her without reservation.

She started to feel the strain of his weight on her.

“Mu Yazhe...”

“Huh?”

He seemed oblivious to her skittish pleads.

“Mu Yazhe!” she cried out coyly again.

“What?”

“Not here, please.” She negotiated with him.

He neutrally cut her off. “Yes, here.”

The observation deck came with the most beautiful night view and happened to be one of the most secluded and elegant spots on Huxin Island. This also meant that there would be no interference from anyone.

Her cheeks flushed red as she said, “I’m hungry.”

“I’m hungry, too.” His hushed, magnetic voice sounded hoarse and repressed.

His quick breathing almost scorched her cheeks with its heat, which caused her to blush even more.

“Stop teasing me, all right?”

“Eh. I’m not teasing you.”

“I’m really hungry.”

“I’m really hungry, too.”

She kept quiet, sulking.

This man can be too much!

“Are you a kid? Why are you so childish?”

“Since you know that I am childish, why can’t you give in to me?”

“You...”

She was antagonized into speechlessness.

Leaning over, he kissed her lovely earlobe and hissed, “I’ll feed you first and then you feed me next. Deal?”

It was a compromise for him.

He listed his terms and conditions out in the open.

His low and dry tone, together with the deep and penetrating look on her, barely concealed his suppressed urge!

Looking at the desire burning in his eyes, nothing seemed capable of extinguishing the flames.

She was moved and licked her lips in anticipation, but she was indeed famished this time.

Her tummy was rumbling by now.

Chapter 642: Ultimate Leader

Back in Yun Shan Shi Yi, she had locked herself in the room to make up for her lost sleep. That meant that she had not eaten anything since this morning.

“I want... to eat first!”

She told him clearly.

He carried her in his arms in the next second.

Her world swirled for a moment as her feet left the ground.

Before long, she was buoyed into the dining table by him.

She tried getting off him, but he resisted. With his strong and long arms hugging her waist, he firmly embraced her on his lap.

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His chest was sturdy and warm, and it was broad enough to accommodate her entire being.

She bit her lower lip as her whole being was embraced entirely by him close to his chest; her two legs draped loosely on his legs. He carried her now as if he were holding a child.

Through the thin fabric of his shirt, she could feel the strong thumping of his heart.

Her face instantly blushed crimson.

She renewed her struggle to break free from his embrace.

His low, magnetic voice rang above her head just in time. “Don’t move, or I’ll let you feed me now.”

He had suppressed his urge to the best of his aptitude.

Knowing how hungry she was, he was doing his best to hold back.

If she were so much as to move, his bulwark might just disintegrate with a rousing consequence.

He pressed the silver-colored service bell on the table, and the flavorful dishes were quickly served one by one thereafter.

The table was just the right size to hold the 18-course delectable meal.

The ambrosial food assaulted their senses; they were wholly immersed in this astounding sea of appetizing aroma.

French pigeon meat pine tart.

Black truffle tomato tartare with fresh oysters.

Orange foie gras sauce...

Every menu item laid on the table was the ultimate, leading European cuisine, enticing enough to hook anyone’s appetite.

She stared with dumbfounded eyes at all these presented dishes. Every menu item was exquisite like a piece of expensive art. They looked so lovely that she felt reluctant to use her utensils on them for fear of spoiling the beautiful sight.

However, her tummy was calling out to her relentlessly. The saliva secreted inside her oral cavity was especially active. She swallowed a mouthful, an obvious sign of her extreme hunger.

He smiled slightly as his palm stroked her growling tummy. She looked really hungry!

Hence, with one hand on her waist, he picked up a fork with another.

“What do you want to eat?”

She quickly quipped in embarrassment, “I’ll feed myself!”

“Let me feed you.”

“Not necessary; I’ll do it myself.” She insisted.

He pinched her face and kindly reminded her. “We have an agreement that I’ll feed you first. Retain your strength for later when you’re the one feeding me.”

Her cheeks burned with his words.

“You don’t have to...”

He reiterated slowly, “I’ll feed you.”

His tone told her that his words were not dismissible.

In the end, she gave up and let him cater to her.

He picked up a piece of steak cut into bite size and slowly brought it next to her mouth.

She bit into it easily. The delicious juicy gravy oozing from the tender meat overfilled her mouth. It was soft yet firm with a great texture.

“Is it delicious?”

“Delicious...” It was so tasty she almost did not bother replying.

Her eyes laid squarely on the tableful of delights while her face expressed an ultimate contentment.

He was not into French cuisine, though.

After all, no matter how tasty something could be, one could get tired of it once eaten too often.