

Secret Love 2391

Chapter 2391: Tell a story

"Auntie Qiao, go grab some medicine."

When faced with the little fella's bright and dazzling gaze, Yin Yuerong didn't know why she relented and asked Auntie Qiao to retrieve some medicine in the end.

Inside the bedroom, Yin Yuerong took some fever-reducing medicine and lay down on her bed.

Tangtang stayed by her side and was only relieved after watching Yin Yuerong take her medicine.

"Auntie Qiao, bring over the documents from my desk," Yin Yuerong ordered.

Auntie Qiao was about to act on her request when Tangtang turned to Yin Yuerong at once. "Grandma, you need to rest! No matter how important the work is, it's not as important as your health!"

Then the little fella looked at Auntie Qiao. "Auntie Qiao, turn up the thermostat and tell the kitchen to prepare some plain porridge. From now on, politely refuse all visitors and request sick leave from the Arbitration Council on Grandma's behalf..."

The little fella efficiently made these orders in a few words.

Auntie Qiao stood dazed in her spot. "..."

From the side, Ah-Zhong was disdainful. Was this little brat trying to revolt? Where did he think he was? He actually dared to boss people around here. Madam would definitely erupt in fury this time, right, since Madam hated people who overstepped and broke rules the most!

Yin Yuerong stared at the little fella in front of her for a long while before casting her eyes down and chuckling lightly. Perhaps it was due to her weak health that her face appeared softer than normal. "You're quite bossy, little fella."

Based on Yin Yuerong's attitude, she didn't look displeased...

"Didn't you hear? Do as he said." Yin Yuerong turned to Auntie Qiao.

Auntie Qiao breathed a sigh of relief and was joyous as she quickly went to make the arrangements. Meanwhile, Ah-Zhong froze, flabbergasted...

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After Auntie Qiao and Ah-Zhong left, only Yin Yuerong and Tangtang remained in the room.

Yin Yuerong leaned against the headboard. "How did you know I had a fever?"

The little fella blinked. "Because Grandma looked really unwell!"

"Is that so..."

Yin Yuerong was already used to putting up a pretense and not allowing herself to reveal any flaws under any circumstance, so even Auntie Qiao, who had always been by her side, didn't see it. Yet, this child managed to detect she was unwell with a single glance.

It was probably because children's eyes were more innocent, so they could detect some things other people couldn't see, right?

"Grandma, is it hard to sleep? How about I tell you a story?" Tangtang suggested.

"As you wish." Yin Yuerong closed her eyes.

"Then I will start!" Tangtang cleared his throat before using his childish voice to start his storytelling.

"A long, long time ago, there lived a little girl in the forest. The little girl's grandmother weaved a red hood for the little girl that she particularly liked and wore every day, so everyone called her Little Red Riding Hood..."

"One day, Little Red Riding Hood went to the other end of the forest to bring a meal to her grandmother, but she unexpectedly ran into a big gray wolf on her way.

"That big gray wolf was very hungry and pounced on Little Red Riding Hood as soon as he saw her. However, after the big gray wolf pounced, he didn't eat Little Red Riding Hood.

"Grandma, do you know why the big gray wolf didn't eat Little Red Riding Hood?"

"Why?" Before Yin Yuerong realized it, she'd already asked.

Tangtang replied with a grin, "Because the big gray wolf found Little Red Riding Hood too cute, so he wanted to be friends with Little Red Riding Hood and didn't want to eat her anymore!"

A smile rippled in Yin Yuerong's eyes. "Is that how the story goes?"

"Yes, it is! Do you want to hear more, Grandma? I have a lot of stories! I can keep telling them!"

Chapter 2392: Don't be afraid, Grandma

As the little fella's childish voice surrounded her, Yin Yuerong slowly closed her eyes and entered dreamland.

Her sleep was particularly sound and uninterrupted, and Yin Yuerong slept from evening to the middle of the night, only jolted awake by a clap of thunder.

As lightning flashed and thunder clapped, a raging storm surged and gales howled in the night, the shadows of the swaying trees resembling ghosts madly dancing outside the window.

Yin Yuerong reflexively glanced outside the window with a furrow of her brows.

After lying there for a moment, she sat up and covered herself with a jacket before walking out of her room.

She stopped in front of the room next door and pushed open the door.

In the bedroom, a faint lamp was lit on the nightstand and the little fella was lying in bed, sound asleep and unperturbed by the thunder outside.

Yin Yuerong looked at Tangtang, her brows locked together, vexed. She didn't linger and turned to leave.

However, as she left, she accidentally stumbled into the chair by the bed, making a “bang.”

“Mmm...” The child in bed groggily woke up. “Grandma?”

When the little fella discovered her presence, Yin Yuerong cleared her throat and answered, “Mm.”

Tangtang sat up as he rubbed his eyes before sleepily extending his arm and touching Yin Yuerong’s forehead, checking if Yin Yuerong’s fever had reduced.

Then he yawned and looked at Yin Yuerong, curious. “Grandma, why did you come over? Oh, I know... are you scared, Grandma?”

As he said that, he patted Yin Yuerong’s back with his little hand. “Don’t be scared, Grandma. My mommy said lightning and thunder are natural phenomena and there aren’t ghosts in this world, so you don’t need to be scared!”

The little fella earnestly explained all this to Yin Yuerong and even shifted over on the bed toward the inside. “Grandma, if you’re scared, you can sleep with Tangtang!”

Although Yin Yuerong didn’t want to admit it, she came to see the child out of concern, not expecting to end up being the one comforted.

On the bed, the child wore the pajamas prepared for him by Auntie Qiao. The fuzzy pajamas matched the little fella’s fair cheeks and sleepy eyes and made him exceptionally adorable.

Ah-Jiu was just as charming and adorable when he was younger, but Ah-Jiu was akin to an exquisite but soulless and emotionless porcelain doll. His eyes never contained innocence, light, and warmth of this sort.

Yin Yuerong became absent-minded, dusty memories from ages ago surfacing in her mind. A long, long time ago, when she was still a little girl, she liked children the most.

Since when did she start hating them so much? Was it when Si Huaizhang and that woman secretly got together or when their illegitimate children were born one after another or when she had a child with Si Huaizhang after much effort but the child was ignored and viewed as a burden by him...?

“No need. Go back to sleep.” Yin Yuerong’s expression quickly regained its normal facade, and she turned to leave the bedroom.

Perhaps sick people were prone to letting their imaginations run wild, after all. Her behavior tonight was truly too abnormal.

...

The next morning, Yin Yuerong’s fever had fully subsided.

She’d taken a sick day from the Arbitration Council and would be resting at home today.

Early in the morning, Tangtang sought out Yin Yuerong and wasn’t placated until he confirmed she was well again.

They had just finished eating breakfast when Auntie Qiao led a young woman into the dining room. "Madam, Manager Zhang has personally brought over the newest season of clothes! Would you like to take a look?"

Yin Yuerong didn't even look up and casually waved her hand. "You decide."

Chapter 2393: This one is pretty

Auntie Qiao quickly responded, "Madam, the clothes this season are decent, so you should choose yourself! Your style is too monotonous; it's time to get some new additions!"

Every time new styles came out, Auntie Qiao would ask the stores to bring them to the house for Yin Yuerong to select, but Yin Yuerong either had Auntie Qiao decide or would choose the same three styles every time in black and black alone, never picking anything else.

Since there wasn't anything to do today, Yin Yuerong agreed. "Bring them inside then."

"Yes!" Auntie Qiao quickly asked the manager to bring the clothes inside.

It wasn't Manager Zhang's first visit, but every time she came, she still couldn't help looking at this beautiful and aloof director of the Arbitration Council.

This director seriously maintained herself too well. However, she just never dressed up. If she put even a smidgen more effort into her looks, she would definitely be more breathtaking.

Manager Zhang had her workers move all the clothes inside, lining them up in one row for Yin Yuerong to choose at her leisure.

Yin Yuerong tilted her head and randomly pointed at several options. "This one, this one."

As expected, every outfit Yin Yuerong picked was black and formal and old-fashioned, not sparing a glance to the rest.

Out of professional habit, Manager Zhang couldn't help walking to a navy blue dress and making a suggestion. "Director Yin, this one is also pretty with a classic style, so it wouldn't be too forward, and the color particularly complements your skin!"

Yin Yuerong looked up and apathetically glanced at the aforementioned dress. "Ugly."

Manager Zhang's expression stiffened and she pointed at a more standard purple dress. "What do you think about this one?"

Yin Yuerong was too lazy to even speak this time; her expression clearly expressing her disdain.

Manager Zhang awkwardly withdrew and didn't say anything else.

Auntie Qiao spoke up from the side. "Madam, I think the two styles Manager Zhang recommended are very pretty and suitable for you. Why don't you give them a try?"

Yin Yuerong coldly glanced at the other woman. "You want me to wear that?"

Auntie Qiao was exasperated and was about to speak when Tangtang declared, having entered at some point in time, "Both of those are ugly! They aren't worthy of my grandma!"

Auntie Qiao reflexively turned to the arrival. "Little Young Master..."

After Yin Yuerong saw the little fella and heard what he said, her expression eased a little.

Manager Zhang was initially unhappy upon hearing that, but when she saw the speaker was an adorable child, her displeasure dissipated. Children's words carried no harm.

"This is?" Manager Zhang automatically inquired.

Auntie Qiao made the introductions. "This is our Little Young Master."

Little Young Master??

Since when did the Yin family gain a little young master??

She had heard that the Yin family's Eldest Young Master, who'd left home a long time ago, did have an illegitimate child. Could this be that child?

However, Manager Zhang didn't dare to delve into other people's secrets, so she quickly greeted him. "Hello, Little Young Master. May I ask which one you like? Which one do you think suits your grandmother? You can help your grandmother choose!"

Yin Yuerong remained seated and didn't attempt to stop the proceedings.

Tangtang walked to the row of clothes, treading back and forth and surveying everything earnestly as if he was truly sifting through them.

In the end, Tangtang stopped in front of a black gown.

Auntie Qiao hastily noted, "Little Young Master, Madam already chose this one earlier."

Tangtang shook his head. "I like the dress next to this black one! Grandma will definitely look good in this!"

The one next to the black gown??

Next to the black gown was a red woman's suit. The style was trendy but not overly forward, and the embroidery on the neckline and edge of the skirt was very exquisite.

Chapter 2394: Bring it over, I will try it on

Manager Zhang's eyes lit up. "Little Young Master's taste is very good. This set is this season's most outstanding product, but this style is particularly polarizing, so normal people wouldn't dare to wear it. If it was you though, Madam, you could rock it for sure!"

However... however, Yin Yuerong didn't look like she'd choose this dress no matter what based on her personality, which was why the manager hadn't recommended it at all.

Tangtang pattered over to Yin Yuerong. "Grandma, wear this! This one is pretty!"

Yin Yuerong furrowed her brows. In all fairness, the outfit Tangtang chose was truly the best looking one in the entire selection.

Her younger self would've definitely chosen it, but now...

Yin Yuerong aloofly glanced at the outfit. "Is that so? I don't see anything pretty about it though."

Tangtang's eyes sparkled. "It's pretty! You'll definitely look especially, especially pretty when you wear it, Grandma—like a goddess! Try it on, Grandma! Tangtang wants to see Grandma wear it!"

"The color is ugly," Yin Yuerong retorted.

"But it's very pretty! Look, Grandma, Tangtang is also wearing red today!"

Yin Yuerong stayed silent for half a day before finally saying, "Bring it over. I'll try it on."

Auntie Qiao: "...!"

Manager Zhang: "..."

The two of them never expected Yin Yuerong to actually agree and took half a day to realize what had happened.

"Yes yes yes, I'll bring it over right now!" Manager Zhang hastily took the outfit off the hanger.

Yin Yuerong accepted the outfit and entered a side room to change.

After waiting for an eternity, Yin Yuerong finally finished changing and came back out.

The second she stepped out, all the servants in the room froze, their eyes shooting open.

Normally, their madam wore purely black clothes and covered herself tightly. This was their first time realizing their madam was so good-looking and elegant.

This outfit was truly very selective in its wearer and normal people couldn't tame it. Only someone of Yin Yuerong's age and aura could dominate this outfit completely—so much that her entire demeanor underwent a transformation, and every tinge of bleakness dissipated from her aura. She did appear imperious and domineering still, but she was also bright, beautiful, and vivacious.

"Madam... you... you look so good wearing this..." Auntie Qiao involuntarily recalled a younger Yin Yuerong.

Manager Zhang also lauded her endlessly. "Little Young Master's taste is truly too great! This color really suits you, Madam!"

"Grandma is so pretty! Grandma matches Tangtang now!" The little fella happily skipped over.

As Yin Yuerong stood in front of the mirror and saw her appearance, she almost didn't dare to recognize it.

Is this... me...?

She couldn't remember how many years it had been since she put any effort into dressing up and seriously choosing an outfit for herself.

“Madam!”

At this moment, Ah-Zhong hastily dashed inside and was about to speak when he saw Yin Yuerong in front of the mirror. He was startled.

He’d never seen Yin Yuerong wear such bright-colored clothing. What was going on?

Don’t tell me it was the brat again...?

Ah-Zhong didn’t have time to think about it through and quickly reported, “Madam, there’s news of an emergency meeting from the Arbitration Council and they require you to immediately head over.”

Yin Yuerong immediately replied with a serious expression, “Understood. I will head there now.”

“Madam, the people here to pick you up are waiting outside already,” Ah-Zhong added.

Yin Yuerong was originally planning to change into a different outfit first but changed her mind upon hearing this and started walking outside. “Let’s go.”

...

Half an hour later, inside the Arbitration Council building’s conference room:

Everyone was fervently discussing business related to Qin Zong when a knock was heard and a woman entered.

No one recognized the newcomer at first. When they realized it was Yin Yuerong, nobody could suppress their astonishment.

Chapter 2395: Do you really have a heart?

Shocked exclamations reverberated throughout the conference room.

“What’s going on? This... this is Yin Yuerong?”

“This is the first time I’ve realized Director Yin is so beautiful! Even at her age, I can still see her beauty! She’s a lot more charming than those young women!”

“Director Yin was a well-renowned beauty years ago, alright? It’s just that she dressed like a widow afterward and looked unapproachable and cold, so everyone forgot...”

Several older higher-ups were aware of the inside story back then and couldn’t help but remark, “Say, what was that guy from the Si Clan thinking back then? Why would he disregard such a gorgeous beauty with a background and insist on abandoning everything to elope with an impoverished girl from China?!”

“To me, what’s hardest to understand is Yin Yuerong, right? With her qualities, what man would be unobtainable for her back then? Why did she vehemently latch onto Si Huaizhang? Her story is too pitiful!”

...

When Yi Lingjun heard everyone straying further and further from the topic at hand, he cleared his throat and interrupted their discussion. He turned to Yin Yuerong and said, "Please sit, Director Yin. How are you feeling?"

Yin Yuerong nodded curtly. "Thank you for your concern, President. I'm fine now."

"Ah, that's good." Yi Lingjun couldn't help but feel suspicious as he said that.

Yin Yuerong was a workaholic and had never taken a sick day since she started with the Arbitration Council. One time, there was an assassination attempt on her and she took a knife to her abdomen, but she still attended a meeting the next day with bandages around her waist. This was her first time requesting a day off, and based on what her housekeeper said on the phone, it was a minor illness such as a cold and fever. This was truly surprising.

Then, when Yin Yuerong appeared today, she was dressed totally different than her norm, so this was naturally eye-catching.

Yi Lingjun couldn't help but wonder why Yin Yuerong was behaving so abnormally all of a sudden.

At the same time, another attendee of the meeting today, Si Yehan, was also imperceptibly examining Yin Yuerong.

He didn't pay attention to what she wore and was merely trying to assess Tangtang's situation based on her expression.

Si Yehan sent people to covertly scout at the Yin Estate and learned that Tangtang wasn't there and was probably transported elsewhere in secret. He suspected Tangtang was moved to another manor that belonged to Yin Yuerong, but that manor was under tight surveillance and Yin Yuerong's confidants had full control of the area, so he was unable to obtain any information.

After the meeting ended, in the hallway:

Si Yehan called out, "Director Yin."

Yin Yuerong appeared to have predicted Si Yehan would seek her out, so she calmly turned around. "Do you need something?"

Si Yehan cut straight to the chase. "When are you planning to release Tangtang, Director Yin?"

Yin Yuerong aloofly replied, "It's my first time meeting my grandson, after all, so I'll naturally keep him for several more days."

Si Yehan's face was frosty. "I'm afraid your adopted son won't last several more days."

Yin Yuerong mockingly smiled. "Heh, Ah-Jiu, I always thought you knew Mom well. Why did you think you could threaten me with Yin Heng?"

Si Yehan knitted his brows. Wanwan also said something similar.

However, Yin Yuerong had no scruples about replacing him with Yin Heng and cemented Yin Heng's inheritance of the position of family head. She even once risked her life to save Yin Heng, so how could she disregard her adopted son's life?

Yin Yuerong retracted her smile and ice enveloped her eyes. "I'm unconcerned about Yin Heng's survival. If you like, you can keep him. Whether you kill or cut him into pieces, do as you wish."

Si Yehan coldly stared at the woman in front of him with a bottomless darkness in his eyes. "Yin Yuerong, do you really have a heart?"

Chapter 2396: Adding fuel to the flames

How could someone be heartless and cold-blooded to this extent? Was there anything she cared about?

When those icy words were spoken, Yin Yuerong's spine stiffened.

A moment later, Yin Yuerong slowly looked up. "Good son, you finally realized the kind of person your mother is. That's good, isn't it?"

Yin Yuerong paused briefly before continuing, "Oh right, I had something to tell you. That child—what's his name? Tangtang, was it? That little fella truly resembles his mother too much; he's just as disgusting. Don't worry—I will keep him and treat him well!"

"Yin Yuerong!" A bone-chilling coldness exploded from Si Yehan's eyes.

Without another word, Yin Yuerong turned and left.

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At the Si residence:

When Si Yehan returned, Lin Que nearly thought the Arbitration Council building was bombed since he had seriously never seen Si Yehan's expression looking this terrible.

Lin Que hid far away before asking, "Ninth... Ninth Brother... what's going on?"

As soon as Ye Wanwan heard Lin Que talking to Si Yehan, she rushed over.

Lin Que immediately shuffled over. "Ninth Sister, hurry over and ask! Ninth Brother's expression is too terrifying!"

Ye Wanwan slowly walked over and sighed softly when she saw Si Yehan's appearance. "Did you see your mother?"

Si Yehan remained silent, and Ye Wanwan knew her guess was close to the mark.

"You guys argued, right?" Ye Wanwan was exasperated. "Considering your personalities, it's the same as planets colliding when you meet. It's absolutely impossible for matters to be resolved through negotiation, and that's just adding fuel to the flames."

Lin Que nodded frantically. "Sister-in-law, you seriously know them too well!"

Si Yehan finally spoke: "Wanwan, sorry."

Ye Wanwan gently embraced the man. "Why are you apologizing to me? It's not your fault."

Having a mother like that was already his biggest tragedy, so how could it be his fault?

Si Yehan pinched his brows. "Lin Que, immediately send people to investigate. As soon as you confirm Tangtang is at Wanmei Villa, dispatch every person there, including the men from Asura."

Lin Que was dumbfounded. "D*mn! What are you planning, Ninth Brother?! Are you trying to raid them forcefully?"

Ye Wanwan was also surprised. "Yin Yuerong's power can't be underestimated, and this is also Tianshui City, Yin Yuerong's territory..."

"Wanwan, you don't know her. If we allow this to drag on, Tangtang will be in danger."

Yin Yuerong might even detain Tangtang for the rest of his life, unwilling to release him.

Si Yehan absolute wouldn't permit Tangtang to experience what he did.

Upon hearing that, Ye Wanwan's expression also turned grim, and she found herself in a dilemma.

She had actually carefully contemplated this before. There really wasn't any reason for Yin Yuerong to detain Tangtang. As Yi Lingjun said before, her pride merely took a hit and after a few days of mellowing out with Yi Lingjun mediating things between them, she would likely release Tangtang.

However, Si Yehan was Yin Yuerong's son, after all, and he naturally knew her well. Yin Yuerong probably said something when they saw each other today, which was why he was so aggravated.

"Fine. After we determine Tangtang's location, I'll request First Elder to bring some people over too," Ye Wanwan said in the end.

She couldn't hold back anymore when it came to Tangtang's safety.

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At Wanmei Villa:

When Yin Yuerong returned, her expression was exceptionally horrible. Every servant trembled with fear and stayed quiet as a statue; even Ah-Zhong didn't dare to approach.

Chapter 2397: Shouldn't anger a girl

Auntie Qiao cautiously approached and inquired, "Madam, what happened?"

Yin Yuerong silently entered her study and stayed inside.

Sometime later, Tangtang walked over. "Auntie Qiao, Auntie Qiao, where's Grandma?"

Auntie Qiao was fretting with worry when she saw Tangtang, her eyes lighting up. "Little Young Master, your grandma seems to be in a bad mood and has been locked up in her room."

Tangtang frowned. "Did someone bully Grandma?"

"Um... I don't know..." Auntie Qiao replied.

Even if it was the Arbitration Council, there wasn't anyone who would dare to antagonize their madam.

“Auntie Qiao, I’m worried about Grandma. Can I go in and see Grandma?” the little fella asked.

Auntie Qiao was hesitant. “Um...”

Ah-Zhong walked over with a cup of tea in hand and angrily glared at them. “The study is an important place; no one but Madam can enter!”

Auntie Qiao helplessly said, “Sorry, Little Young Master. Unless Madam gives permission, no one is allowed to enter the study.”

Ah-Zhong harrumphed and walked to the study door. He quietly said, “Madam, I’ve boiled calming tea for you...”

Before Ah-Zhong could finish, they heard the sound of a cup hitting the door with a bang and shattering. “Scram!”

Ah-Zhong shivered from fright. “Yes... yes...”

It appeared Madam was rather infuriated this time.

It had been a long time since they had seen Madam this angry...

Tangtang frowned deeply and stood in front of the door, gently knocking on the door. “Grandma, it’s Tangtang. Can I enter?”

Ah-Zhong immediately glared at him. “Little brat, how dare you make this much noise? Do you want to die?!”

Inside the study, when Yin Yuerong heard the child’s voice, she involuntarily recalled the child’s father and his inquiry today, and she became even more agitated.

A second later, the study door was abruptly pulled open.

Yin Yuerong stood at the doorway with a dark expression and looked Ah-Zhong. “Have you argued enough?”

Ah-Zhong didn’t dare to say anything in his fright.

Yin Yuerong was irritated. “Go to the Punishment Hall yourself and receive your punishment!”

Disbelief filled Ah-Zhong’s face. “Madam, I was just worried about your health and boiled a cup of tea for you. It’s clearly this little brat who’s undisciplined and keeps disturbing you, Madam...”

Yin Yuerong ignored him and peered at the child by her feet. She saw his face, which extremely resembled his father, and her face chilled further. “Who allowed you to make a ruckus here?”

Yin Yuerong was about to launch into a rampage when the child extended his short little arms, a pouty, aggrieved expression on his face as he looked at her tearfully. He childishly said, “Tangtang’s worried about Grandma... Hug me, Grandma!”

Yin Yuerong: “...”

One second...

Two seconds...

Perhaps it was because his grandmother was ignoring him that the little fella's gaze became more aggrieved.

Three seconds...

Yin Yuerong bent down and picked up the child.

Auntie Qiao: "..."

Ah-Zhong: "..."

What did I just see???

Madam... Madam actually hugged this little brat?!

Yin Yuerong then carried Tangtang into the study and slammed the door with a bang.

After entering the room, Yin Yuerong set Tangtang down but didn't kick him out, so Tangtang pattered over and glued himself to her.

The little fella asked with concern, "Grandma, why are you sad?"

Yin Yuerong was startled. Sad?

Why did this child say I'm sad...

"Grandma, which big meanie bullied you?"

Yin Yuerong glanced at the little fella. "What if the meanie was your dad?"

Tangtang's eyes turned and he replied without a hint of hesitation, "Then Daddy is also a big meanie!"

"Why? How do you know it's your dad's fault?"

Tangtang sounded matter-of-fact. "Because as a man, he should protect girls and shouldn't anger them!"

Chapter 2398: Melting ice

Regarding Tangtang's answer, Yin Yuerong didn't know whether to cry or laugh. However, the sullenness enveloping her heart inexplicably dissipated with those child's simple words.

The little fella comforted her softly: "Don't be angry, Grandma. You won't be pretty anymore if you're angry! Grandma, the plum blossoms are so pretty outside. Tangtang will go see them with you!"

"Alright," Yin Yuerong agreed.

After Tangtang and Yin Yuerong entered the room, Auntie Qiao had been anxiously waiting outside the door, worried that Madam would redirect her anger at the child.

To her surprise, the two of them walked back out not long later, and Yin Yuerong's expression was many degrees calmer.

It had been cold recently, so Yin Yuerong glanced at the little fella next to her before instructing her housekeeper, "Prepare a thicker jacket for him."

"Grandma, Tangtang's health is really good. I'm not cold."

"It's windy in the plum forest."

"Thank you, Grandma! Grandma is so good to Tangtang!" The little boy rejoiced.

Yin Yuerong maintained her stiff expression without any other emotion. "Auntie Qiao, go and prepare more clothing tomorrow."

Auntie Qiao immediately understood. Little Young Master actually managed to pacify Madam! She quickly nodded and responded, "Yes yes yes, Madam, I will go and make preparations now!"

After changing into a thick jacket, Yin Yuerong and Tangtang walked to the plum forest.

The little fella was wearing a jacket with white fur on the lapels and resembled a snowball as he walked in the snow.

"Wow! So pretty! Come here, Grandma!" The little fella was dashing through the forest but he came back a few steps later, returning to Yin Yuerong's side. He extended his hand and clutched his grandmother's hand. "Grandma, I'll hold onto you. Don't slip!"

Yin Yuerong peered down at her hand in the little fella's grasp and lifted it a centimeter but didn't pull away in the end.

During their walk, the little fella kept chattering with her, evident that he wanted to make her happy again.

"Grandma, did you plant all these flowers?"

"Grandma, I'll take a photo for you!"

"Grandma, the snow is so white! It's as white as Great White's fur. Oh right, Great White is a giant white tiger; he's my friend!"

"White tiger..." Yin Yuerong seemed to have recalled something, a hint of somberness creeping into her face.

"That's right! Great White is really soft and really cute! You'd definitely like Great White if you saw him, Grandma! I'll introduce him to you later, Grandma! Oh right, there's also Great Black! Great Black is a black panther!"

...

Two rows of big and small footprints were stamped onto the snow-covered ground, extending into the depths of the plum forest.

After Yin Yuerong and Tangtang admired the blossoms for a period of time, they returned to the study.

Tangtang had broken a branch of plum flowers and helped Yin Yuerong place it into a vase on the desk.

With the splatter of dark red, the solemn and cold study appeared much livelier.

Yin Yuerong opened a drawer on her desk and pulled out a fountain pen. This pen appeared to have been custom-made with plum blossom prints carved onto the surface. There was also a button on the body of the pen which was equipped with a recording function.

“Grandma, this pen is so pretty.”

“For you.” Yin Yuerong handed the fountain pen to him. “It’s to thank you for your plum blossoms.”

“Thank you, Grandma!” The little fella happily accepted it and carefully stored it in his pocket. Then he leaned over and smacked a kiss on Yin Yuerong’s cheek.

Yin Yuerong appeared to be unaccustomed to this level of intimacy and her body stiffened. She expressionlessly said, “It’s just a pen.”

Tangtang seriously shook his head. “It’s not! It’s a pen given to me by Grandma!”

The next morning:

The minute Tangtang got up from bed, he noticed there were a lot of newly prepared clothes in his room and one big colorful container on the table.

When he opened the container, he realized it was filled to the brim with milk candy—the kind that Tangtang gave Yin Yuerong the other day...

Chapter 2399: This is the time for growth

In the following days, Yin Yuerong mainly stayed at Wanmei Villa.

Outside Wanmei Villa, the security turned stricter and everyone was on high alert. However, inside the villa, it was a completely different atmosphere.

After Yin Yuerong returned from the Arbitration Council in a terrible mood, all the servants were certain their next few days would be disastrous.

To their surprise, Yin Yuerong’s mood returned to normal at the turn of a head and she even... appeared to be in a better mood than normal.

Auntie Qiao was euphoric. She originally hoped Yin Yuerong would come around to it and quickly release the child, but now she sincerely wished Little Young Master could stay several more days.

After Little Young Master’s arrival, while Madam might’ve been as unreasonable as always, she was also extraordinarily patient in front of Little Young Master. Plus, Little Young Master was so adorable, so all the servants in the villa grew to like him very much within a few short days.

Since that day, Yin Yuerong tacitly permitted Tangtang to enter the study and her bedroom as he wished.

Outside the window, the winter sun cast rays of warmth into the room. Yin Yuerong was handling her business affairs on her desk while Tangtang quietly stayed nearby and drew. The grandmother and grandson duo was unusually harmonious, displaying the comforts of life.

Auntie Qiao softly knocked on the study door. "Madam."

Yin Yuerong called out: "Enter."

When Auntie Qiao entered and saw the scene inside, the corners of her eyes involuntarily reddened.

"Madam, what dishes would you like today? I'll ask the kitchen to prepare them," Auntie Qiao said.

Yin Yuerong didn't look up. "Anything is fine."

She had never been particular about food.

And so, Auntie Qiao turned to Tangtang. "Little Young Master, what about you? What do you want to eat?"

Tangtang set down the coloring pencil in his hand and mulled it over before announcing, "Auntie Qiao, I want to eat sweet and sour spare ribs!"

Auntie Qiao looked troubled upon hearing that. "Um..."

Yin Yuerong had been a vegetarian all these years, so all three meals prepared at the Yin Estate each day were vegetarian dishes without exception.

Auntie Qiao looked at Yin Yuerong and probed, "Madam, how about we ask the kitchen to prepare a meat dish?"

Upon seeing the displeasure on Yin Yuerong's face, Auntie Qiao promptly added, "After all, Madam, this is the time that children grow..."

When Yin Yuerong heard Auntie Qiao say "time to grow," she answered, "You can."

Auntie Qiao turned joyous. "Great, I'll go make preparations now!"

Similar scenes played out in the next few days. As long as it was the little young master's request, Yin Yuerong might look unhappy but she would fulfill nearly all of his wishes in the end.

"Grandma, you've been working for two hours in a row! You need to rest! Tangtang wants to talk to you!" The little fella pattered over to his grandmother.

Yin Yuerong put down the document she was holding. "Talk about what?"

The little fella had basically become her overseer now and insisted on accompanying her when she worked every day. When it was time, he'd urge her to rest and converse with her.

At first, she only listened, but later on, she got used to this child seeking her out for conversation and slowly started responding.

Tangtang inquisitively asked, "Were you the one who named Daddy, Grandma?"

"Mm."

Tangtang immediately asked another question. “Where did you get Daddy’s name? What does it mean?”

Yin Yuerong’s expression became dazed. “It was a long time ago, so I don’t remember well. It was probably because it was a night in the twelfth lunar month when I gave birth to your father, and it was very cold that night...”

The details of that night were very fuzzy in her memories. The only crystal clear detail was cold—bone-chilling coldness.

Chapter 2400: Cook Herself

Tangtang seemed to be at a loss for words. “The night you gave birth to Daddy was very cold, so you called him? Yehan¹? Grandma, you named him so casually!”

Yin Yuerong’s face was a bit chilly at first, but the corners of her lips turned up with mirth due to the little fella’s expression. “Is that so?”

Tangtang immediately replied, “Yes! It was too casual! Tangtang’s name was the result of very serious brainstorming by Mommy!”

Tangtang’s name??

Nie Tangxiao... Tangxiao...?

“Then what’s the meaning behind your name?” Yin Yuerong inquired.

Tangtang blinked. “Guess, Grandma!”

Yin Yuerong considered it for a moment. “Upright and honest and secluded solitude?”

Tangtang shook his head and proudly boasted: “Nope! It’s because my mommy particularly liked to eat sweet and sour spare ribs¹, so Mommy named me Nie Tangxiao!”

Yin Yuerong: “...”

Sweet and sour... spare ribs...?

Are you sure she didn’t name you too casually??

That little fella continued to explain to Yin Yuerong, particularly jubilant. “Sweet and sour spare ribs is Mommy’s favorite dish. By using her favorite thing to name Tangtang, it means Mommy really, really likes Tangtang. Doesn’t it sound good, Grandma?”

Yin Yuerong looked at the little fella’s lively expression and sparkling starry eyes, and her own gaze gradually softened involuntarily. “Mm, it’s a very good name.”

It appeared to be a very casual name, but the meaning actually turned out to be this warm.

Tangtang sighed regretfully. "Ay, unfortunately, both my daddy and mommy don't cook well, and the sweet and sour spare ribs they make isn't good! Grandma, do you know how to make sweet and sour spare ribs?"

When Yin Yuerong heard this, she fell into silence for some reason and didn't say anything.

She had nearly forgotten she actually knew how to cook. For Si Huaizhang, she mastered an array of culinary skills.

However, he didn't eat anything she made even once.

Instead, she ran into him at the office once, eating the boxed lunch that woman made for him. The lunch was poorly made and appeared a little burnt even, but he treated it like a treasure. He even flew into a terrible rage toward her because she knocked over the food that woman made.

Ever since then, she hadn't cooked.

Tangtang called, "Grandma! Grandma?"

Yin Yuerong returned to the present. "I know a little."

Anticipation and admiration filled Tangtang's face immediately. "Really? Grandma knows how to make it?"

Yin Yuerong asked, "You want to eat it?"

Tangtang nodded truthfully. "I want to eat it made by Grandma!"

At the same time, inside the kitchen:

Ah-Zhong was currently blowing his top. "What kind of joke is this? You want to make a meat dish?! Don't you know Madam has been a vegetarian all these years? It's already good enough that the little brat is receiving a mouthful of food, so how dare he be so picky?! I have to inform Madam of this!"

Auntie Qiao was about to speak when Yin Yuerong's voice was heard behind them. "Why did you want to see me?"

Ah-Zhong hastily stormed forward and complained, "Madam, Auntie Qiao is getting more and more unruly! She actually wants the chef to cook a meat dish for the little brat? Doesn't he know Madam can't stand the stench of meat? What kind of intentions does she have?! She clearly wants to antagonize you, Madam!"

Yin Yuerong aloofly glanced at him. "Who said I told the chef to make a meat dish?"

The moment Ah-Zhong heard that, he became more arrogant. "Auntie Qiao, you actually lied to me, saying it was Madam's order! You're seriously gutsy!"

Auntie Qiao was at a loss. "Madam... This..."

Yin Yuerong leisurely rolled up her sleeves as she said, "Auntie Qiao, prepare the ingredients. I'll make it myself."

Auntie Qiao: "...!!!"

Ah-Zhong: "...?"

What???

Madam is actually going to cook herself?!?

Ah-Zhong was dumbfounded, unable to believe what he just heard.