

Sweet Love 1411

Chapter 1411 I do not wish to act in real life. Online - All Page - Novel Bin

Alas, she was not to be blamed for this lass not knowing how to generate hype from all the opportunities she had created for her.

After the interview, she could not help blurting out, "Yun Shishi, why didn't you make use of the chances I set up for you? Your agent has gone to great lengths to employ my help in pushing you up! With you squandering this rare chance, it'll be a miracle if you become famous."

The actress smiled. "Thank you for your kind words! If the movie becomes a box-office hit, I'll give you a treat."

The editor-in-chief truly felt deflected by then, yet she was touched by her authenticity.

The woman's genuineness was rare in the entertainment industry.

Andy was about to walk away when she had a sudden recollection. Walking back to the artist's side, she eyed her with a hostile look.

The other looked at her warily. Just when the actress thought that she would bother her again, the stylist asked incredulously, instead, "Earlier, why... didn't you follow the script?"

"What?"

"Stop your pretense."

Picking up her bag, Andy had a frosty expression. "I secretly took a peek at the interview script earlier. In it, you were supposed to talk about the rumored relationship between you and Xingze. Why didn't you follow the script during the interview and sidestepped that, instead?"

From what she had read, the focus of the interview was exactly that gossip about the two leads besides promoting the film.

In the end, the actress diverged from it with her responses.

Even the editor-in-chief was so infuriated with her that she did not know what to ask next.

Earlier, she had taken the actress for a calculative newbie. As a newcomer, she managed to star in Lin Fengtian's film and even had a chance to create a buzz with the superstar, earning a spot on Weibo's list of hottest trends.

A person who was not shrewd and conniving could not have made it this far.

At this point, the stylist knew very well how murky the entertainment industry was.

She also understood that those actresses, who had to survive in this kind of industry, were no angels.

Most had sugar daddies backing them.

This Yun Shishi was no exception.

She had, thus, initially pegged the actress as another scheming white lotus, who would use any means, including riding on the coattails of Gu Xingze's popularity, to reach stardom. In the end...

She took no bait despite the editor-in-chief giving her excellent chances time and again.

This fuddled her.

Looking detached, she answered matter-of-factly, "That's because I forgot to memorize the script."

The stylist was shocked and then immediately angrily refuted, "Forgot to memorize the script?! Please for goodness' sake! Can you stop belittling this interview?!"

An interview with Bazaar would allude to one's celebrity rating in the industry; many artists could only dream of this chance.

The magazine made the exception for Yun Shishi only because she had the support of her capable agent, yet she did not bother to memorize the script after being granted an interview!

How could this be?

The actress said neutrally, "It's not because I don't treasure this opportunity."

"Then..."

"I don't wish to act in real life."

"..."

Andy was thoroughly stumped.

The actress added, "Acting is my job. A job is just work. In real life, I prefer to stay honest to myself. I don't wish to remain an actress even in reality."

...

There was a dead silence following her confession.

The stylist eyed the actress, nonplussed, having not expected such a reply.

After what seemed like a century of silence, she chortled all of a sudden.

"What are you laughing at?" asked the actress quizzically.

The stylist replied, "You're really... I've been in this circle for so many years, but I've never seen such a stranger artist than you."

Chapter 1412 Irresponsible words hurt.

The stylist replied, "You're really... I've been in this circle for so many years, but I've never seen such a stranger artist than you."

She actually said that she did not want to act in places other than work.

Isn't that the entertainment industry, though?

Underneath their glamorous visage, many sugar daddies referred to these artists, male or female, as thespians in a derogatory manner. After all, when one stepped into the world of entertainment, one must put on a show for life.

They must act in front of the audience, the directors in charge of their films, and their fans.

What was more; some actresses married actors because of benefits and interests tied to the relationship. After the marriage, both parties had their fun separately, each with their respective sugar daddy and mistress.

Can one imagine that?

Affairs abound despite having lifetime partners.

Her morals flipped as a result.

Therefore, in her cognition, this actress should also be such a woman and one she especially felt disdainful of!

However... Yun Shishi had changed her perspective totally.

Here was a chance laid out perfectly for her, yet she totally disregarded it. This was so different from those desperate and calculative actresses she knew.

Andy initially thought that she was only putting on a show before her. During this short stint she had spent with the latter, she observed her closely.

The artist did not look as if she were acting.

This was a genuine woman.

Having been in this industry for so long, she could easily tell if one was pretending in front of her.

The woman was definitely not pretentious.

Coming to know the actress better by now, she was slowly turning into a fan.

Without mentioning the rest of the matter, the mere fact that the actress had rejected this chance to make use of the superstar's fame was good enough to earn her admiration!

Thus, the stylist suddenly put on a pout wryly and apologized guiltily. "Yun Shishi, I'm sorry! Taking you for a conniving woman like the others in this industry, it's a mistake of mine! I apologize for offending you earlier!"

The other bit her lower lip and immediately gave a forgiving smile. "He he! No need to apologize. If really necessary, then I should apologize as well."

"Err?" Andy raised her brow in bewilderment.

The actress confessed, "Actually, Xingze and I aren't an item; I misled you earlier."

"Why?" She was surprised to hear that.

“Nothing much.” Yun Shishi cocked a brow before giving a neutral answer. “I just wanna let you know that irresponsible words hurt.”

The words seemed to stab the stylist right to her heart as she appeared stunned.

Her expression gradually changed into one of guilt and shame.

She understood the actress’s intention.

The latter wanted her to know how it felt to be on the other side of the fence and how abominable it was to speak irresponsibly.

Because of her malicious speculation, she had used sharp and humiliating words to criticize, slander, and insult the latter from their first meeting.

She might not realize the injury she had inflicted on the actress with her hurtful words.

Hence, the latter twisted the truth so she could feel the pain, too.

“I’m sorry; I shouldn’t have said those irresponsible words out of malicious presumptions,” apologized the stylist sincerely.

She was a straightforward person. Right was right and wrong was wrong; she would admit her mistake if she knew she was at fault.

The actress did not take the wrong to heart as she shook her head offhandedly. “No worries! Let’s be friends.”

She found Andy to be a nice character.

Chapter 1413 I do not want to ride on Xingze’s popularity.

She found Andy to be a nice character.

The stylist obviously had a negative and even downright bad impression of her from the start. Despite that, she maintained her professionalism and created a beautiful look for her. This showed that Andy did not have a bad nature and was just an impulsive person.

This point alone was enough proof that the stylist was worth it to befriend.

Besides, she was very moved by the latter’s sincere apology after she recognized her mistake.

Yun Shishi reached out and placed her hand in front of the stylist.

The other dipped her eyes, studied the woman one more time, and then gave a slight smile before clasping the outreached hand with hers.

Both held the other’s palm tightly.

“Fine.”

Before the actress took her leave, Andy asked again while fidgeting, "Is there really nothing between you and Xingze?"

She threw in the towel this time and replied resignedly, "Please; I don't tell lies! No means no. There's no need for me to lie to you, is there?"

"Then, can I probe further?" She drew close to her curiously. "Does he have a girlfriend?"

"Doesn't seem so," reported the actress accordingly.

"Doesn't seem so?" This reply sounded dubious to the stylist.

The artist haltingly clarified, "There... shouldn't be!"

At least, she had not heard of it before.

"I'm not that close to him."

The stylist looked unusually elated as she nodded in acquiescence.

"Shishi, thank you!"

After giving a heartfelt thanks and throwing a flying kiss at the actress, she left.

Qin Zhou received a call from Bazaar's editor-in-chief after he rushed back to the office that afternoon and severely reprimanded his actress upon her return.

"Do you know how difficult it was for me to get you an interview with Bazaar?! Haven't I passed you the interview script to memorize? Did you even read it? I stayed up all night just to draft you that script and painstakingly listed down the important points for you. You didn't read it in the end and gave a load of useless answers!"

The man hit the roof.

There was a cause for celebration at first; the supporting role for the popular drama was finally settled.

However, on his way back, he received the editor-in-chief's complaint call about Yun Shishi's uncooperative behavior.

Her agent expressed his hurt feelings due to her attitude.

Not everyone was qualified for an exclusive interview with Bazaar!

Many actresses had to dig their brains for a chance and still might be unable to get their faces on half of the cover page.

One should know that, for a rookie like her, without a high celebrity rating or status, she could only get an interview with Bazaar simply because of her manager's resources and network!

This interview was made possible by his reputation alone.

In the end, she gave such flippant answers when it was her turn. The editor-in-chief was hapless against the actress.

His charge acted pitiful before him as she received his chastisement with silent obedience.

“Shishi, it’s our plan, Xingze’s team and ours, to generate publicity from the rumored relationship between you two. We sought your agreement from the start and you didn’t oppose it. Why didn’t you treasure this opportunity given to you, then?! So many artists want to tap on his fame and popularity without success; now that you had a chance to go for it, why didn’t you treasure it?!”

The man just could not understand.

She answered defiantly, “It’s because I want to prove myself with my ability; I don’t want to rely on him to gain success.”

Her eager defense stunned him.

After a delayed response, he looked at her, vexed and resigned, and heaved a long sigh. “I know what you are thinking, but the entertainment industry has its rules, which you need to abide.”

There were constant vicious competitions in the industry, where everyone fought against one another for the sake of fame.

Chapter 1414 Creating the So-called Hype

It was not that simple to pave a smooth road to fame in the entertainment industry.

Without real ability, there was no way to court fame.

“Err.”

“I trust that you still remember my ambitions for you; I hope you can work with me on that. In the past, I made Xingze famous. Now, my goal is to help you reach the number-one tier and become an exceptional star, but your current behavior is a great hindrance to that!”

His tone was heavy as he spoke with his gaze falling deeply on her!

The undertone in his words was searching and serious.

She immediately turned silent!

Qin Zhou continued, “You ought to keep in mind that I’ve been in this industry for many years, so I possess enough resources to protect you fully! You need not worry about the hidden rules with me around! You also don’t have to go drinking with bosses or sleep around with anyone! Besides your capability, what you must do is work along with me.”

“Err...”

Somewhat vexed, she remarked out of the blue, “Actually, I don’t understand why Xingze can rise to fame while steering clear of gossip in the last decade, but I can’t. He’s proven himself through his talent, hasn’t he? Why is he allowed to do that, but I am not?”

Why does he not need hype to become a super idol with an evergreen status, while I can’t?

She could not fathom this point.

“Silly girl, that’s because men and women hold a different status in this industry.”

“Why?”

He patiently explained, “Women are the biggest consumer group of the entertainment industry. Generally speaking, ladies hold many fantasies for their idols and see the actors as their dream man-gods or nation husbands. From that, have you ever seen any woman hoping to see her husband be involved in a scandal with another woman?”

The actress was hit by a sudden realization when she heard that. “Ohhh...”

“It’s different for an actress, though. Since the main consumer group is the female population, then for an actress to gain exposure, besides beauty, acting ability, and image, what else do you think she needs?”

“I understand now. She needs to satisfy the gossip mentality of the masses...” she replied.

He smiled contentedly. “You aren’t that stupid, then! For women, they like gossip and entertainment. When a star is rumored to be having an affair with their idol, they’ll naturally pay more attention to her! This is how one actress gains exposure.”

“Still... Surely, the actress will face lots of malicious and slanderous accusations.”

An example was Andy whom she had met today.

“This can’t be helped.” The agent smiled and did not deny her supposition, admitting it, instead. “This method of creating hype will cause you to hear slander and vicious words initially! Just talk about Weibo alone; your account will be bombarded by Xingze’s army of fans, so stay away from it and its comment sections during this period.”

His words were a terrifying reminder to her.

The superstar’s fans were labeled as the ‘UN army’ because they came from all sorts of nationalities.

It was said that his fanbase had broken the 100-million record.

100 million...

This was only the recorded number of registered fans on the official website and did not take into account those unregistered.

The terrifying figure naturally unnerved her.

“Shishi, I want you to understand something.”

Her manager suddenly sat down in front of her and grasped the cup of coffee he got from the nearby café before he returned to the office. “Look at this cup of coffee; do you know which store I got it from?”

Chapter 1415 Sis, you are so heartless.

She shook her head, looking dazed. "No..."

She did not understand what he was trying to tell her.

He went on to comment, "That's because the coffee here is not well-known like Starbucks."

"That's right!"

He continued, "Let me give you a scenario. What if one day, Xingze, on a whim, decides to order a coffee from this place. He then takes a picture and posts it online. Do you think that this cup of coffee will gain attention from many?"

"Mhm."

"Now, this is exposure and the power of the fans! By doing that, his fans will take note of this café, visit it, and order the same type of drink as him. This café will become famous as a result!"

Suddenly, she understood what he was trying to express.

Her agent explained further. "Those fans of his perhaps hold a negative impression of you now, but at least they will notice you. If you're good enough, they'll notice it, too, and may turn into your fans eventually, but without exposure, your talent won't ever be discovered! The entertainment industry is full of talents. You're a newcomer so you need to find suitable opportunities to showcase yourself and get the public's approval!"

He added after a pause. "This so-called hype is just a way for the public to notice you; this is also a chance for you to showcase yourself. Do you understand?"

She nodded in acquiescence. "I understand now."

He held onto her shoulders with a look of seriousness, saying in a deep tone, "Listen up, Shishi; many times, an artist is like a commodity. They need marketing and packaging! You should understand this principle well and must follow my orders in the future. Don't worry; I'm not here to harm you."

She maintained her silence for a long while and then finally nodded slowly. "I understand, Qin Zhou! I'll do my best to work with you in the future."

"That's great!"

He smiled at her reassurance and ruffled her hair like a doting senior.

"Sometimes, you are really smart. You gain fast insights when we talk about such things; very perceptive!"

After she left the office, her head was still reeling with the man's words.

'There is no fairness in this industry. There is only a simple principle: The strong will win and the weak will succumb. I hope you understand!'

Deep down, she was very reluctant to rely on Gu Xingze to create a buzz. She was bothered by the thought of generating news from naught, which, to her, was a crass act.

However, it seemed that she would be eliminated if she did not follow the rules.

It was time, then, for her to put away these inappropriate thoughts and carry out her agent's instructions.

The driver had not arrived yet when she stepped out of the office.

Just then, her phone rang.

A charming and sexy voice could be heard from the other end when she picked up the call. "Darling... where are you?"

The deep, magnetic voice was alluring.

She got a shock and quickly checked the screen for the caller ID. This was a number foreign to her.

"Who are you?" she asked warily.

There was a long, dead silence before a grudging voice, full of grievance, could be heard. "Sis... you are so heartless! How come you can't recognize Xiao Jie's voice now..."

Chapter 1416 The Intimacy between Siblings

Yun Shishi was stunned for a moment before a gentle smile graced her lips. "Xiao Jie, is that you? I didn't recognize your voice earlier! Sorry about that!"

"Sis, where are you right now? Let me treat you to some tea."

"I'm at my company."

Gong Jie asked for the address and told her that he would be there soon.

In a short moment, a Porsche was parked at the entrance.

He opened the car door and got down from the vehicle. Walking over to his sister, the man bowed elegantly like a gentleman before kissing her on the cheek. "I'm sorry to have kept you waiting, beautiful lady!"

The woman chuckled at that. She examined him and remarked, "Your etiquette is rather decent! Where did you learn it from?"

His lips curled into a pure and warm smile. "I was taught by an etiquette teacher at home when I was young."

Not long after his return to the Gong family, he was introduced to the etiquette of the high society.

As one of the successors of the family, he was required to have excellent inculcation on aristocratic etiquette.

"Sis, let me treat you to some tea. Do you have any places to recommend?" he asked gently.

His words were overflowing with love and indulgence.

It was as Youyou commented; even his uncle himself did not notice that he was actually a complete sison.

Abundant tenderness was hidden behind his gaze as he lowered his head to look at his sister.

If his subordinates were here to witness this scene, they would be flabbergasted!

In their eyes, he was an extremely cold and two-faced figure. He rarely smiled, and if he did, his eyes had a calculative glint, which was bone-chilling and could cause one to tremble in fear.

No one had ever seen him directing a loving and gentle smile to anyone. The moment when his cold and deep-set eyes curved a little, it was as if billions of broken stars were hidden in them.

His handsome eyes were really like stars.

Yun Shishi could not help but be dazed as she gazed at him.

She remembered when they were young; many people claimed that they were extremely alike, as if cast in the same mold.

The adults said that it was extremely rare to see a pair of fraternal twins looking so similar. Especially their eyes, they were truly identical.

At that time, she wore her hair short and donned the same clothes as her brother. When they stood next to each other, people could not tell them apart, and this caused quite a few humorous jokes to be thrown.

She recalled their mother bathing her once, only to bathe her again when she returned from receiving a package at the door.

She only realized afterward that she had mistaken her daughter for her son—therefore, bathing her again.

Repercussions like these were not rare as they really looked too similar. Even now, after many years, she still felt as if she were standing before a mirror at times when she stood next to her brother!

The only few differences now were that he had an arrogant and fearsome aura, a different hairstyle, and a distinct body shape. However, their faces were still extremely alike.

Therefore, she could see a resemblance to her twin sons from his face.

Genes were truly marvelous things.

Seeing how his sister was staring, riveted, at him, Gong Jie unconsciously touched his face as he raised a brow in question. “Why are you staring at me?”

“Nothing much.”

The woman paused for a moment before she chuckled. “I just realized something fascinating.”

“What?”

“Your eyes are so pretty!”

She pressed the tip of his nose with hers affectionately before rubbing them together gently.

Chapter 1417 Secretly Captured on Camera

Yun Shishi gradually leaned closer to him as she continued speaking. "Your eyes are exactly similar to mine! It's just like when we were young; everyone said that our eyes were extremely alike."

With that, she smiled, gently cupped his handsome face, and pressed the tip of his nose with hers affectionately before rubbing them together gently.

Gong Jie's heart softened, his face flushing at her action. He blushed up to the roots of his ears as he felt that his heart had burst open and had been filled with warmth.

Suddenly, he was a bit sentimental toward her affectionate action!

When they were young, their mother always liked brushing their noses together affectionately.

His sister also did the same thing to him regularly.

In his memories, he remembered that short yet blissful period of time.

He was hiding under the blankets with Yun Shishi. At that time, it was very cold during winter and they did not have heater, so the two of them were forced to hug a hot water bottle to sleep.

By the time it was late in the night, the hot water bottle had cooled. They woke up from the cold and shivered under the blankets. Pitifully, they hugged each other tightly and tried to warm each other up through that.

Those days were tough, yet amid their suffering, there was still some happiness.

Thinking about this, he said, "That's because you are my sister and I am your brother."

He paused for a moment before his face was filled with delight. "When we were young, no one could tell us apart."

"Hmph. You still have the cheek to say that! When you did something wrong, who always took the rap?" indignantly grumbled his sister suddenly.

The man felt quite embarrassed and apologized weakly, "I'm sorry, sis! It's my fault."

With that, he pulled at the corner of her blouse like a spoiled brat.

The woman was amused by his careful actions of trying to appease her and chuckled. "Alright! It's been so long. I no longer blame you for that."

Yun Shishi unconsciously reached out and swiped at the tip of his nose. "Come on; I'll treat you to some tea. I know a dessert stall. Their tea tastes rather good."

She regularly went there to eat with Youyou in the past.

"Okay!"

Her brother helped her into the car before steering off.

As the vehicle drove into the distance, a figure emerged from behind a tree. It was a paparazzo who had been crouching low with a camera in hand.

Using the tree as cover, no one noticed him.

He was not discovered even by the vigilant Gong Jie.

He was a paparazzo who had been in the industry for many years, so he was skilled at taking secret photographs.

He would commit all manners of crimes just to take a few personal shots of celebrities.

He lowered his head and looked through the camera album. That scene of the artist being intimate with a man was captured by him fully. From the angle of the shot, the two appeared to be sharing a kiss!

The man smiled delightfully. He reaped quite a hefty profit today!

All that crouching he had done was not a waste!

In reality, he had been squatting near the entrance of Huanyu to take a few shots of Gu Xingze, but the superstar had never come by. He managed to capture shots of Yun Shishi, though, and a few were precious to boot.

The shots of the actress, in fact, were not worth much, and he would be unable to fetch a good price if he were to sell them to the media, but that was in the past.

It was different now.

The actress was rumored to be in a love affair with the superstar.

Thus, the set of photos he had captured would definitely create some hype and would likely cost quite a lot!

Thinking about this, he smiled happily and left the scene.

Chapter 1418 Hardcore Sister Mania

Yun Shishi brought her brother to a dessert stall that she used to frequent.

This small and classy store was unlike the busy dessert shops found in a city. With its elegant furnishings, it attracted long-time customers.

She chose one cozy table seating and ordered a few signature desserts.

With his hands propping his chin, Gong Jie quietly watched her in action.

To him, it was fun watching her move and smile.

After she ordered the desserts, she turned around and could not help breaking into a smile when she saw him watching her with a dazed look.

“Why are you staring at me?”

He gave a wayward answer. “I like it.”

“...Um!” She hooked her lips into a resigned smile.

He added, “It’s because I can’t get enough of you!”

“Huh?”

“We were apart for so long. It’s been a decade and a half. I want to recoup all that I’ve lost in those past fifteen years,” he replied matter-of-factly.

Her heart stirred, making her eyes turn soft and moist.

“Xiao Jie, I’m very happy and moved. I didn’t dare hope to meet you again in this lifetime.”

A flash of loneliness could be seen in his eyes.

Somehow, he felt that he had missed so many good things in her life that, no matter how hard he tried to make up for those, he could not completely cover the loss.

The person he loved the most did not have him in her memory in the last decade and a half.

He had no place in her youth, nor was he involved in her wonderful years, and he even missed out the most important events in her life.

He was absent from her life; likewise, she was missing from his.

They had lost too much in this decade and a half.

As the desserts were served on their table accordingly, she pushed the slice of tiramisu before her brother, smiling. “Come and try this! This store serves excellent desserts!”

“Mhm.” He nodded and scooped that piece with a spoon.

“How is it?” she asked with anticipation.

He slowly nodded as he held the spoon in his mouth. He beamed slightly. “Not bad; it’s very sweet.”

Actually, he did not like desserts.

Back at the Gong residence, he would not bother with the afternoon tea which was served every day.

He was sick and tired of them.

However, that was different from the ones ordered by his sister.

He liked these.

He enjoyed every moment he spent with her, even when they were not doing anything in particular. He felt content just by watching her.

The blinking screen on his mobile phone caught her attention.

It was a model unique and one she had not seen before; hence, she had no clue of its brand even.

She picked it up out of curiosity.

“What hand phone brand is this? Why is it that I’ve never seen one like it before?”

He smiled. “This is a satellite phone designed and created in-house. It’s not for sale.”

For business reasons, the communication devices he used were all satellite-powered and developed in-house by Hurricane Group.

Many phones in the market posed security concerns.

Hence, he had to use the phones with a system developed by his corporation, which could ensure that all data was well-encrypted.

She touched the screen and was astounded to see that he had used her picture as his wallpaper.

Blushing, she looked up and said petulantly, “You... your wallpaper... when did you change it?”

“It’s been awhile.” He smiled slightly. “I like this particular shot; you look beautiful in it.”

From when he found out her identity that day, he searched for pictures and fashion shots of her like a lovelorn fan once he returned home.

He especially liked this picture. Finding it beautiful, he then replaced his wallpaper for the lock screen with this picture so that he could see it every time he activated his phone.

Chapter 1419 He missed not just a decade and a half.

She blushed.

Honestly, she felt rather shy knowing that her picture was being used as a wallpaper.

It was quite awkward, in fact!

Thus, she requested timidly, “Can you change it?”

He was surprised and quizzical. “Why?”

“I feel... embarrassed!” She covered her face but still could not conceal her two blushing cheeks.

The man was stunned at first before he broke into an uncontrollable chuckle. Plucking his brow in amusement, he teased, “Tsk, tsk! Sister also knows how to feel shy!”

“Xiao Jie!” She protested coyly with pouted lips and feigned being upset, although her eyes revealed mirth. “Just change it; I feel so embarrassed!”

Her brother did not take it to heart. With his thin lips curved in mirth, he said, “What’s there to be embarrassed about? Sis is so pretty. I replaced my wallpaper because I want to see you before I sleep every day, as well as the first person I see when I wake up.”

Her face turned redder after he said that. She looked even more captivating as she dipped her eyes and covered her face in shyness.

Somehow, as he watched her, he started to feel jealous of Youyou unknowingly.

That little lad had kept this secret from him for more than a year after joining Hurricane Group. He really did not expect that genius-of-the-century to be his nephew.

Still, despite his displeasure, he could let it pass when he considered how that little fellow had protected his mother stoically when he was not around.

The pair spent that whole afternoon in the dessert store in this way.

They casually chatted, though more often, it was Yun Shishi doing the talking while the man sat across the table, listening quietly with his hands propping his chin.

However, she never mentioned the event that had occurred when she was eighteen and totally avoided discussing her son's biological father.

Since she did not want to talk about it, her brother did not pursue the matter, either.

Actually, if he really wanted to find out, he would have the means to check. In fact, he could find out everything, big and small, that happened in her twenty-four years of life if he wanted.

However, he would rather hear from her personally.

A trace of sadness lingered in his heart.

An unceasing and bewildering sense of loss.

The more she talked, the more he realized how much he had missed in her life—much more than fifteen years of her life.

So much could happen in a decade and a half!

She was bullied in the welfare center and subsequently adopted at the age of nine. She went to a key junior high school at twelve, entered puberty at thirteen, followed by college, and then gave birth to a child at eighteen...

He could have witnessed all this from the start!

The more he listened, the more agitated he became.

He looked down, put a cigarette between his lips, and lit it in his usual manner.

A light whiff of cigarette scent permeated the air as the flame extinguished from the lighter.

He was not an addict; however, he would smoke one whenever he felt frustrated.

She was taken aback by his action.

She watched him as he sat elegantly across from her with a cigarette dangling between his fingers. He took another drag, and sparks flashed as he inhaled through his thin lips. Soon, a plume of light smoke could be seen scattering between his lips and nose.

Momentarily stunned, she unconsciously snatched the cigarette from between his fingers after his third puff and snuffed out the stick adamantly in an ashtray.

He was caught off guard. "Sis..."

"When did you learn how to smoke?" she chided unhappily. "Stop smoking."

He was a little shocked before bursting into a light chuckle.

She was still treating him as a kid apparently!

He looked at her wryly. "Sis, I'm a grown-up now."

Chapter 1420 I will listen to you.

He was indirectly telling her that he was no longer a child.

Perhaps, in her eyes, he was still the little devilish lad trotting behind her!

However, he was a grown man now and even was familiar with the rules and games of society.

"That doesn't mean you can smoke." She paused before snorting. "No more smoking, yeah?"

He was stunned.

She cooed, "Be good and listen to me, okay? I don't like Xiao Jie smoking!"

Smiling slightly and with his chin propped in his palms, he looked pensively at her and said, "All right."

His meekness had none of his usual defiance.

"I'll listen to you."

Since she did not like him smoking, he would not smoke. He would no longer do that if she did not like it.

He would rather stay as the brother that she liked.

"Now, that's a good boy!" She was satisfied with his answer and pinched his face lovingly.

He was captivated more than ever by her smile.

He liked the way she smiled—so gentle and charming. Her ethereal demeanor was a face that came straight out of a painting.

He would not mind the time stopping here and now as he immersed in her charm. Heck, he would not get tired of her smile for even a century.

It started to pour outside the window.

He sent her back to Xiangti Walk. Just as she turned to leave, he returned her the wallet that she had left behind in his car previously before reluctantly giving her a peck on the cheek.

"Sis, can I often look for you in the future?" he asked cautiously with eyes full of anticipation.

She replied matter-of-factly, "Of course! Still, I may not be free when I am working!"

"Mhm."

"Oh, right..." Holding the umbrella, her voice was gentle as she stood in the shower. "Xiao Jie, what are you doing now?"

There was no sound from him.

She tilted her head, puzzled over his silence.

After a long, dead silence, he smiled warmly and replied, "Sis, I'm running my business now."

He gave a vague answer and omitted the part about him being the chief commanding officer of Hurricane Group and holding a huge stack of that enterprise. Neither did he mention the background of the group.

He could not imagine what her reaction would be if he were to confess the entire truth now to her—about him easily commanding a multibillion-dollar arms order, which might lead to hundreds of thousands of civilian casualties.

He was really afraid that she would fear, despise... and even avoid him.

Thus, he hid the truth from her.

She was well surprised to hear that, and then her eyes widened slightly in astonishment. "You're so good! So young yet you've already founded a business!"

"Sis, the rain is getting heavier. You'd better get inside!" The man avoided the topic and hurried her along.

She nodded in agreement, waved, and then entered the house.

Deep in thought, he watched her back fade from his sight before rolling up the car window and looking past his shoulder. "Back to the office."

"Understand, Master Gong."

He had a complex look while he sat at the back as the car sped.

Why did his sister hide the matter regarding the son's biological father from him?

In reality, he knew that her son was Mu Yazhe's offspring. When he first found out about this, he was surprised but did not take it to heart.

However, when he realized that Youyou was her son, which made him his nephew, he wondered about the relationship between that man and his sister.