

## Sweet Love 1841

### Chapter 1841: I do not envy anyone because I have you.

To tell a friend that her fiancé might run off with another woman someday on her engagement day was crass, was it not?

This was a crude joke on such an occasion.

In the first place, Jiang Li was an uncultured lady. Other than staying at home to look after her kids, the people she interacted with were usually young mothers, too. Hence, her social skills were rather lacking.

Her low EQ was well-demonstrated on this particular occasion.

True enough, Yun Shishi felt rather awkward when she heard the other's remark!

Despite knowing that her friend meant no harm, and she was merely trying to highlight her good fortune, it did not feel good to hear that at all.

Embarrassment also flashed across Xiao Xue's face, and she quickly tugged at her friend's sleeve as a warning. She really did not expect her to come up with such an ill-timed joke.

That was when the woman in question realized her inappropriate joke and felt ashamed over her tactlessness.

The man, however, suddenly gave a gracious smile. "My wife is very good."

Everyone looked at him with a start.

He dipped his eyes to give his woman's profile a loving gaze. Tenderness flooded his eyes like water!

Even though he did not say anything more, the guests were hushed by his apparent show of love for her.

There was no eloquence in what he had just said, but the love hidden in his words was undeniable!

Casually, he continued, "With my wife around, no woman interests me."

He only had eyes for her, and so was his heart.

Who else mattered to him?

He was not joking when he made that comment; it was truly heartfelt.

Jiang Li was so envious that her eyes hurt!

*How romantic!*

Recalling her husband who was like a block of wood when it came to romance—when had he ever said such romantic words to her?

Putting aside the most common utterance of 'I love you,' he had not even given in to her or made an attempt to coax her during any of their arguments.

She kept quiet all of a sudden.

At this moment, she was full of self-pity.

Perhaps her friend's happiness was too glaring for her, such that she felt so envious to the point of jealousy.

Yun Shishi smiled when she heard his casual remark.

She turned to look at him, soft in the eyes, and her lips moved. In a voice that was only audible to him, she mouthed, "My husband is also very good. Do you know that when I'm with you, I don't envy anyone?"

Perhaps, this was what true happiness was all about.

The fact was that she had never envied anyone because she was able to hold his hand and be with him.

To her, having him was enough to make her the happiest woman in the world!

Standing at one side, her father was so moved that his eyes turned wet with tears.

He could not contain the emotions inside him as he rubbed his eyes with his square hankie.

It might be because up until today, he still had a little doubt over the sincerity of his daughter's husband.

Did he really love his daughter?

Were his feelings for her real?

Would his daughter really be happy with him?

These questions plagued him so much so that he could not sleep the night before the engagement.

Hearing the young man's words now, his heart finally felt at ease.

Only a man could truly know another man. He could tell if Mu Yazhe was merely patronizing his daughter or he meant what he had said!

**Chapter 1842: Because happiness is hard to come by, it needs to be treasured more.**

His greatest wish was for her happiness.

Now that his wish was fulfilled, he finally had a peace of mind.

His brother was equally choked with emotions as he held his hand and congratulated joyfully, "Brother, you're so fortunate to have such a good son-in-law! Now that your daughter has met a good man, your heart will be at ease!"

"Eh!" he responded enthusiastically. As he watched his daughter, his mind wandered to when they first met.

Yun Yecheng met her when she was nine. At the welfare center, when he saw her for the first time, she was really scrawny. At that time, she, in tattered and weather-beaten clothes, lay curled up in a corner of the bedroom, looking helpless and lost as she scanned her surroundings warily.

When he approached her, like an injured animal, she desperately retreated further into the corner. Her forlorn look and tired eyes touched his heart instantly.

He was so moved by her vulnerability that he decided to adopt her there and then, ignoring all his wife's protests.

After he brought her home, he cared and looked after her as if she were his own. A paternal bond developed over time.

The fact that both of them did not share blood ties did not stop him from treating her as family.

She relied on him, and he spoiled her like his real daughter.

Everyone had a soft spot. His daughter was immature, rebellious, and often agitated him, while Yun Shishi really treasured their kinship that did not come easy.

When she was young, she once took in a stray dog which was subsequently abandoned by his wife.

She took pity on the puppy when she saw it being bullied by other children. This puppy was adorable and playful. As a stray, it was very obedient and well-trained once taken in by their family.

Perhaps, after being homeless for so long, the dog really treasured the companionship.

She must have felt the same way, too!

Just like how she felt when she was alone—lost and helpless, she wanted to give everything to protect this family, which she could call hers now.

She wanted to treasure it even more because she never had it before.

She finally grew up to stand beside a man with happiness in her eyes.

The life journey that they shared had been long and eventful.

Now, she finally had her family!

He felt so happy for her deep down!

His beloved daughter finally had a chance to be with her other half!

Gong Jie stood quietly at the side as he observed his sister smiling happily; somehow, something seemed to stir inside his heart.

During dinner, the guests came forward to congratulate the engaged couple.

She was pleasantly surprised to receive blessings and kisses from a royal family—ministers, princes, princesses, and a president even.

To think that she could meet these people, only ever seen by her on TV before, in person; right now, they were physically present before her.

In her heart, she wondered if she could ask them for an autograph.

If Youyou found out about this, he would definitely laugh at her!

When everyone was done with their greetings, her brother walked up to her.

Her heart started to pound hard and fast all of a sudden.

By the time she managed to calm herself down, he was already in front of her. Slowly and gently, he picked up her hand and kissed the back of it.

“Sis, I wish you the very best!”

These simple words were his heartfelt wish.

Fixing her gaze long and hard on him, she suddenly grabbed him by the shoulder and gave him a peck on the cheek.

“Thank you, Xiao Jie!”

The bonfire was the climax of the dinner banquet.

Countless stars lit this charming night.

Nine hundred ninety-nine, heart-shaped fireworks were released in the starry sky at once, spreading out into a wondrous display of hearts linked by chains.

The two boys clapped their hands in excitement as they spectated this. Little Yichen, especially, had never seen such beautifully designed fireworks before even though he had seen countless fireworks displays in the past. He was dancing in amazement as he watched hearts form in the sky.

#### **Chapter 1843: Why did you not invite me to your engagement?**

“What beautiful fireworks!”

The woman hooked her arm through his and lay her head on his shoulder. “Did you prepare all this?”

He asked, “Do you like it?”

“Yes!”

“Hm?”

“I like it a lot! In fact, I love it!”

Feeling immensely touched, she gushed, “Thank you, Mu Yazhe!”

The fastidious man, however, latched on her wording and cocked a brow in displeasure as he fired a question at her. “What did you call me?”

“Umph...”

Her face reddened a little, and with a pout of her lips, she bashfully answered, "Isn't it inappropriate to call you 'hubby' now?"

"If not now, then when? Should I wait till my hair turns white before I hear you calling me 'hubby'?" the man jested half-heartedly. "We've already held our engagement ceremony; don't tell me that you're planning to run away from our wedding?"

Still feeling slightly shy, she pushed at his shoulder and fumed. "No... You know that I don't mean it!"

"What should you be calling me, then?" He patiently tried to draw out the answer he wanted from her.

With a pout of her lips, she stole a meaningful glance at him before mustering up her courage and calling out, "Hubby!"

"That's my dear wife!"

He then enveloped her in a hug and kissed her under the fireworks-filled sky and the surprised stares of the crowd.

A firework slowly shot up and exploded in the night sky.

A romantic scene was seemingly captured at that moment.

It was getting late at night.

While he continued to entertain the guests at the reception, she retired to their room first to rest for the day. She had just changed into her nightgown and wanted to go to the bathroom to wash off the thick and heavy makeup on her face when her phone rang at that untimely moment.

In a chirpy mood, she floated to the sofa while humming a song and retrieved her phone from her bag. However, at the sight of the name on her phone's display, her heart could not help but skip a beat.

She felt stifled.

The name danced along to the playing ringtone.

An inexplicable, panicky feeling surged through her. As she picked up the phone, she shot a glance at the doorway to make sure that no one was around; her heart rate instantly accelerated.

"Hello, Xingze..."

"Shishi, where are you?"

The superstar's heavy and tired voice came through.

"I-I'm at..."

"I heard that you have something on, so you postponed our first roadshow, which was scheduled for today." He continued.

She got reminded of this just then. 'The Green Apple', which had officially entered its publicity period, had begun the nationwide promotional tour. Their first roadshow was originally scheduled for today,

but because of her leave application, Lin Fengtian had no choice but to push back the show for a few days.

She felt pretty awkward and immensely guilty that her personal affairs affected the entire team's schedule, but the director told her that her presence was of utmost importance to the roadshow as she was the main female lead, so he would rather bear any loss incurred and postpone the premiere than to have it while she was away.

She felt grateful and guilty to him when he smilingly assured, "Nothing is more important than your engagement! Don't worry about this matter; it's fine."

Hence, when she received her co-star's call, she felt immensely remorseful.

"Mhm..."

Through the line, the man slowly said in a strangely calm voice, "I also heard that you've gotten engaged."

"..."

"You didn't invite me, though. Why?"

The resignation in his voice made her even more flustered than before.

He was asking why he had not been invited to her engagement, and she did not know how to answer his question.

#### **Chapter 1844: Equally Disconcerted**

Fear. It was out of fear.

She was afraid that he would decline her invitation and, at the same time, afraid that... Mu Yazhe would be upset over it.

Yun Shishi fell into silence, not knowing how to respond to him.

The superstar kept mum for a while as well before speaking in resignation. "I thought I shouldn't be absent from such an important event in your life! In the end, though, I didn't receive an invitation from you..."

He suddenly took a deep breath, seemingly mustering up all his strength to question her. "I may not have the chance to be with you, but are you so stingy not to spare me a chance to give you my blessings?"

'Are you so stingy not to spare me a chance to give you my blessings?'

Her mind instantly went blank upon perceiving the bitterness in his voice.

"I... I thought that you wouldn't want to come! I thought... you mightn't want to give me your blessings."

"Hah... " An apathetic laughter escaped his throat, and in a self-deprecating tone, he said, "I don't wanna hear such pretentious words from you. Aren't you too full of yourself? What do you mean by 'I thought'?"

With that, he continued to shoot at her. "If you're truly happy, what reason will I have not to give you my blessings... and not to give up on you?!"

The last, few words seemed to have been uttered through clenched teeth.

Surprise was written all over her face despite her feeling of disconcertion and astonishment!

"You should at least allow me to give up on you properly! Let me witness how happy you are, so I can truly let go of my feelings for you!"

He suddenly broke down in tears as he said in a heart-wrenching voice, "You should at least give me the chance to give up on you!"

"I..."

Her teeth pressed down hard on her lower lip flap as she inhaled deeply. However, the guilt and remorse she felt toward him was akin to a flooded dam.

"I-I'm sorry... sorry, Xingze..."

Besides that, she truly was at a loss on what to say to him!

The man, however, felt inexplicably distraught and irritated. He raised his voice slightly in anger. "I didn't call to hear you say such words."

She pursed her lips, feeling stumped for words.

The other end of the line was deadly silent, too. Finally, the man inhaled a deep breath and forced words out with a wobbly voice. "Listen up; Shishi, I've let go of my feelings for you. You should be satisfied now... You don't have to be on guard against me from here on. I've let go of my feelings for you, and I... will neither love nor pester you again, alright?"

"..."

"I called to give you my blessings for your engagement and nothing else, so don't overthink it!"

Feeling grateful, she replied smilingly, "Thank you, Xing—"

Before she could finish speaking, the call abruptly ended.

*Du, du, du—*

That rhythmic tone made her all tense.

Her face sank in dismay at the outcome of their conversation, and she fell into a daze for a long time.

In the City Apartment.

Gu Xingze collapsed on the sofa behind him, and his grip on his phone slackened; it was as if he had been completely sapped of his energy. The phone slid down and, with a *thump*, hit the floor, its glass display shattering into fragments!

He had no intention of giving her his blessings through that phone call.

Instead, he actually wanted to ask her, 'Why is it only Mu Yazhe?'

'Can't you consider me?

'I, too, can bring you happiness.'

At the same time, though, he asked himself, *Why is it only Yun Shishi for me?*

*Can't I consider other women?*

The more he pondered on these questions, the more disconcerted he felt.

### **Chapter 1845: Physically and Emotionally Exhausted**

It got so bad that he had even forgotten what he wanted to say to her; thus, he pretended to give her his blessings and hastily ended the call. If he had to listen to another minute of her voice, he would surely crumble and fall apart.

With his head raised, he stared vacantly at the ceiling with soulless eyes the ceiling seemed to almost be penetrated through.

It was his first time loving someone with all his heart; alas, he was pushed away by her.

This was what it felt like to be abandoned, huh!

He clenched his fists in indignation, his fingernails digging into his flesh, but the man seemed to have lost all of his senses, for he could not feel even a sliver of ache.

It might also be that his heart was in such excruciating pain that he had become numb to all other senses; hence, he no longer felt hurt at all.

He eventually lost... even the chance to work and develop the relationship!

Outside the house, Qin Zhou had been knocking on the door for a long time. Seeing that no one was responding, he simply fished out his duplicate of the house keys and let himself in. Upon entering, though, a dark living room greeted him.

When he switched on the lights, he found the superstar lying on the sofa, expressionlessly and apathetically staring at the ceiling with his shattered phone on the floor. He approached him immediately.

"What's wrong?"

Gu Xingze kept mum.



He knitted his brows at that, not knowing what had happened to the man, so he half-jokingly asked with a wry smile, "Why do you seem soulless today? What's the matter?"

"It's nothing!"

The actor turned grumpy and irritated as he shot his former agent a glare. "What can be wrong with me?!"

With that, he got up from the sofa and stumbled his way to the table.

It had been two days and two nights since he properly shut his eyes for a rest.

Hence, he was feeling all groggy and absentminded. With one hand holding the table for support, he struggled to hold a cup of water in another. His back seemed somewhat stiff and cold.

The manager behind him felt a momentary sense of loss when he saw that. Feeling awkward, he tugged at his lip corner and asked, "You appear to be... in a bad mood today?"

"Shut up!"

He suddenly lost his cool and smashed the cup on the floor as he turned around and faced his former agent. "I told you to shut up!"

"..."

Qin Zhou was beyond shocked.

This seemed to be the superstar's first time flaring up at him.

In the past, his former charge, albeit a little aloof, would only keep to himself even when he was in a bad mood and would never throw such a huge fit.

This hysterical shout completely rendered him dumbfounded.

He was about to yell back at him when he saw his body swaying and immediately stepped forward to support his arm, instead.

The overwhelming stench of alcohol hit his nose as soon as he got close to the man.

"You... Have you been drinking?"

The other annoyedly pushed him away, replying curtly, "It's none of your concern!"

"What do you mean by that?! How can it not concern me when you're in such a state?!"

Undaunted by him, the manager approached him once more and steadied him by the arm, only to have the superstar's body sway and slump feebly against him as if drained of energy.

Even then, the latter stubbornly pushed him away. "Let go of me! Leave me alone!"

Helpless about the situation, he patiently coaxed him between laughter and tears like how one would pacify a willful child. "I do want you to go, but right now, you're the one who's clearly leaning against me."

A violent coughing fit suddenly seized the man when he moved to speak. “*Cough—cough! Cough, cough—*”

The seemingly light coughs eventually got so bad that he was practically doubling over.

### **Chapter 1846: Guilty Conscience**

The seemingly light coughs eventually got so bad that he was practically doubling over.

The manager’s lighthearted expression instantly changed as he supported the artist. To his horror, the superstar’s fair face had turned into a deathly pallor.

“What’s the matter with you?!”

Qin Zhou was worried sick.

By the looks of it, the former seemed to be having gastric pain.

He suffered from severe gastritis, so he would usually stay away from alcohol. This alcohol abstinence was not because he was a lightweight but because it evoked his gastritis when he overindulged.

He once fainted from gastric pain at the doorway of a hotel just because he had drunk a few glasses of liquor at a social function. He was rushed to the hospital, and only then did they realize that he had gastrointestinal bleeding.

His symptoms were exactly the same as back then; hence, the manager could not help but suspect that the superstar had been consuming an overwhelming amount of alcohol sans food or water for the past two days and nights.

At the thought of this, he swiftly helped him up and resolutely pulled him to the door.

Gu Xingze pushed him away with a frown. “What are you doing?”

“I’m sending you to a hospital! From your current state, I suspect that your gastric is acting up!”

“Go away.”

The annoyed man attempted to get away from the manager again. “Why won’t you get lost?! Did I ask for your concern?”

“Stop being a brat! Your body is already in a wreck, yet you’re still drinking. Have you ever given a thought on what would happen to your body at this rate?”

“No! I just want some peace without anyone, be it you or anyone else, bothering me! Just stay away from me!”

Upon saying everything he wanted with an emotionless face and frantic eyes, his body swayed and eventually collapsed. Darkness descended upon him, and he soon lost consciousness...

...

On the other side, the dumbfounded Yun Shishi stared at her phone screen, where it showed that the call had ended. Her emotions had yet to settle when she heard a devilishly charming voice from behind her.

“What are you doing?”

She jumped in shock at the voice. In her astonishment and nervousness, the phone slipped from her hand and dropped to the ground with a *thud*.

“Ah!”

She turned around at once with wide eyes, only to see Mu Yazhe standing behind her since God knew when. Feeling somehow panicky, even her expression could not help but tense up as well.

“You... When did you come in?”

The man calmly looked at her with his penetrating gaze and smiled. “I’ve just gotten here!”

“Just?!”

“Yes.”

“Why didn’t you knock at the door before entering?”

He lifted his head at that and gracefully surveyed the bedroom before calmly retorting, “I don’t see a need for me to knock on the door when this is our bedroom.”

“...”

The frightened woman’s eyes flashed with panic as she patted her thunderous chest. Apparently receiving quite a shock from his sudden appearance, she grumbled, “Why do you walk so silently like a cat? I didn’t even notice that you’re standing behind me.”

“You were too engrossed on your phone call.”

He paused for a second and glanced puzzledly at the fallen phone. A flash of suspicion appeared in his eyes. “Who were you talking to?”

“No one.”

She felt quite alarmed and, with a guilty conscience, immediately leaned down to pick the phone up.

Alas, before she could get it, the man bent down and picked it up for her.

### **Chapter 1847: Are you lying to me?**

Somehow, her heart started racing and beating erratically when her phone landed in his hand.

“You...”

“What about me?”

“Erm...”

Mu Yazhe burst into laughter. “Why are you stammering for? You seem to have a guilty conscience!”

Her heart thumped harder as she stared at him in disbelief.

The man pretended to conduct a serious examination of her facial expression before he suddenly asked, “Judging from your tensed look, you must’ve done something bad behind my back, hm?”

“Nope!”

Yun Shishi swiftly snatched her phone back from him and instantly came up with an excuse. “I just wanna check if my phone is spoiled.”

As she spoke, she carefully examined her phone’s screen for any scratches or crack lines.

He looked between the phone and her, asking thereafter, “Who called you?”

“Erm... I...”

“Hm?” He furrowed his brows. “It’s confidential?”

“It’s not that...” she awkwardly explained. “It’s from Qin Zhou! He called to inform me about my upcoming schedule and that he wants me to prepare for the premiere of ‘The Green Apple’!”

His lips pursed tightly as he scrutinized her. All of a sudden, his lips curled up and he breathed, “Are you lying to me?”

“No!”

Despite feeling immensely guilty, she confidently stood straight up and stared back at him. “What lie? I’m telling the truth.”

“Alright; I’m just teasing you!”

Hearing that, her pale face slowly regained its color and her heart, which was hanging suspended, finally settled. She heaved a sigh of relief, only to realize with a start that she was covered in cold sweat.

He, however, gently smiled at her as if he had not detected her peculiar behavior even a tiny bit and quickly admonished, “It’s getting late! Hurry up and go take a bath.”

“Oh...” She nodded absentmindedly at him in response. Her head was in a mess right now, and she did not know what she was thinking at all!

*Gosh.*

*I just instinctively lied through my teeth.*

The call was from Gu Xingze, and nothing happened, too, but for fear of the man getting upset and angry, she instinctively said her manager’s name instead of the superstar’s.

The confrontation between the two men on set that day remained fresh in her mind, and she actively tried to avoid a repeat of such a situation!

Her husband was a shrewd person, though. Besides, she had no idea when he entered the room, when he stood behind her, or even how much he had heard from that phone call!

It was also unknown if the man had actually seen through her lie.

If he did, the matter would become worse. Nothing happened between her and the superstar, but she was truly afraid that it would cause a misunderstanding between them!

In her momentary disarray, she dared not bring up that guy's name in front of him despite wanting to come clean!

With him dropping the matter and having her take a bath, she quickly strode to the bathroom as if she had received a great amnesty from him.

However, she had just taken a step when the man suddenly wrapped his arms around her waist from behind and scooped her into his embrace.

The woman could not help feeling like a nerve-wreck, afraid that he had discovered something and wanted to force a confession out of her!

In the next second, though, he dipped his head slightly and placed a kiss on her shoulder. His warm breath tickled her cheek as he glided his lips up to her cute and tiny ear, sucking and nibbling at it.

## **Chapter 1848: Premiere (1)**

"Don't take your time! I'm waiting for you," he gently cooed.

He slid his hands further up and lingered on her chest, fondling her ample bosoms. With a slightly hoarse and seductive voice, he breathed, "Don't make me wait too long."

Her heart seemed to stop right then and her face became steaming red!

"What are you saying?!"

The blushing woman pushed him away and escaped to the bathroom with her head tucked down. It was unknown whether she was too nervous or shy, but upon entering the bathroom, she bumped right into the doorframe and got herself moaning in pain.

The corners of his lips stiffened as he watched her yelped in pain with her hands over her forehead and dashed into the bathroom.

However, when the door to the bathroom closed, the smile on his face slid off instantly!

His eyes gradually narrowed with a flash of iciness in them.

...

At the end of her engagement ceremony, she spent two more days on the island with her husband before rushing back to report to the production team.

She was immensely grateful to the crew for giving her a seven-day leave; hence, she decided to return to the filming site two days later after her engagement.

Thus, for the next two days and nights, the artist gritted her teeth and toiled through the filming to catch up on the shooting schedule and make up for those days that she was absent.

As soon as she was done with all her pending scenes, she took another week of leave to accommodate the schedule Lin Fengtian had arranged for her.

Of course, he specially informed Gu Xiaoyang and the team of 'Lethal Beauty' about this beforehand.

The two directors were on good terms, so with just a word from the one, the other immediately acquiesced.

Due to Director Lin's perfectionist nature, the movie's post-production dragged on for a long time before it finally got completed, further piquing the fans' interest in it. Many netizens expressed a particularly strong interest and high expectations for the show online.

A movie preview was held before the premiere for a hundred or so people. Many fans of the original novel sincerely lauded the movie after watching the preview.

The nationwide promotional road tour was about to commence. For the sake of promoting the movie, the famous director put all his focus and effort into arranging twenty-four roadshows across the country for the artists to attend.

In addition to the major provincial capitals, some economically prosperous, second-tier cities were included on the list.

Brimming with confidence for the success of this film, he vowed to rank first on the category of romantic shows for the Christmas and year-end. With this ambition in his, he was fully prepared to launch explosive publicity during the initial stage of its promotional period. Five movie trailers were even made, and with his deep resources, he had various satellite TVs playing them to the point that the theme song shot straight to the top trending song of several radio stations.

Many celebrities even recorded a VCR of themselves wishing the movie successful box-office sales to show their support for the director.

Despite holding the nickname of 'demon director' and having everyone on set fearful of him, he was overwhelmingly popular with the others. Besides the various big-name media attending the premiere, the confirmed attendance of several famous directors and A-listers alone was enough to boost the movie's popularity.

The movie's release date coincided with Christmas. As such, the director threw down the gauntlet and vowed to top the box-office sales on that day. His ambitious spirits were self-evident.

One must know that it was not just his movie which would be released on that day of Christmas.

There was fierce competition among the many Hollywood blockbuster films for that golden primetime to hit the box-office sales at Christmas and year-end.

## Chapter 1849: Premiere (2)

The airing period of a movie in a cinema would generally last about twenty days to two months.

Powerful and influential directors tended to have higher filming rates; hence, the airing period of their movies would also be longer.

Furthermore, with the superstar starring in his movie, Lin Fengtian was fairly confident of the movie's box-office sales!

Yun Shishi, in contrast, felt a mounting pressure press down on her!

This was her debut film where she, a rookie actress, starred as the female lead. Should her popularity not be high enough to secure box-office sales and, instead, become a hindrance to the entire production team, she would surely feel devastated.

Knowing how she felt, her manager reassured her by saying that they had the acclaimed director and the superstar around to secure high-ticket sales. Even if she had low popularity, the movie would still not perform too badly.

The production team had prepared several gowns for her to wear during the premiere, but as her weight had been on the rise recently, Qin Zhou urged his artist to go on a diet, lest she be caught in an awkward and embarrassing situation, whereby she could not fit in any of the gowns.

Of course, the so-called method of dieting was rather crude to achieve weight loss in such a short time.

For the sake of the premiere, she had to starve herself for two whole days before she could perfectly fit in the gown.

The director was satisfied to see this.

However, when she arrived at the venue on the day of the premiere, she realized that every member of the production team was present sans her male co-lead.

He was nowhere in sight.

Was he going to be absent from the premiere?

Thus, she tried asking her manager about the superstar out of concern that something might have happened to him.

The man only gave her an ambiguous reply, though. "He'll be here, but due to a slight situation, he may arrive late! Don't worry; he'll still arrive in time for the premiere."

Her forehead creased when she heard that, but despite her concern, she did not show it on her face.

With slightly more than half an hour to the start of the premiere, Gu Xingze finally arrived at the venue. His appearance, however, was rather grand with four bodyguards leading the way and a private doctor, stylists, and assistants trailing after him...

He entered the dressing room with a dozen people surrounding him.

Right then, the woman received a call from her younger cousin.

“Cousin, I heard that it’s the premiere of ‘The Green Apple’ today! Will the superstar be there?”

“Yes.”

“Then... could you ask him for a signature on my behalf? Please! I’m begging you! I’m a die-hard fan of his. It’s not a difficult request—just a signature will do!” pleaded Yun Qinli repeatedly.

She only gave her a cursory answer. “I’m very busy right now; I’ll get his signature for you if I have the chance to do so.”

With that, she impatiently hung up the call as she sat in the dressing room with her thoughts all over the place.

Her co-lead exited the dressing room after his makeup was done some ten minutes later.

She looked at the man, only to see him with a morbidly pale face.

His handsome face, even after the stylists’ exquisite touch, still revealed his weary condition.

His face was devoid of color with cold sweat constantly seeping from his forehead. His lips were tight and dry despite having applied lip balm on them, which could not hide his weak breaths.

In particular, his tight brows revealed that he was in a terribly bad shape.

She could not help asking her manager, “Qin Zhou, what’s wrong with... Xingze? His face is sickly pale!”

The agent’s brows furrowed at that, but he kept mum in the end.

After a while, he slowly spoke, “He’s attending this premiere because this may be the last movie he’ll appear in!”

Her eyes widened in shock as she stared at her agent incredulously. “His last movie?”

“...”

The man did not further explain himself.

### **Chapter 1850: Premiere (3)**

“What do you mean by that? I don’t understand you!”

“It’s nothing!” He gave her a calm and resigned smile. “His physical condition has been quite worrisome lately. Just a while ago, he was sent to the hospital from overconsumption of alcohol. Not only was he diagnosed with gastrointestinal bleeding, his gastritis worsened as well, so he’s been in the hospital for the past few days on an IV drip. His body is quite weak now.”

“Gastrointestinal bleeding?!” The news aghast her.

“Well, yes! Don’t you know?” The man glanced at her. “He has a severe case of gastritis, which will act up capriciously because of his imbalance lifestyle. His daily three meals are of utmost importance, but



that rascal actually went and drowned himself in alcohol a few days ago. I don't know what's wrong with him, too! By the looks of it, he's unconcerned of that body of his!"

Yun Shishi's heart suddenly skipped a beat.

"He's been very depressed recently. He used to be a very cold and aloof person, who liked to keep to himself, and only after being friends for so long did I manage to open half a door to his heart. Now, it's closed again, and he returned to how he once was!"

The further ranting Qin Zhou spouted, the more exasperated he felt. "He's really a disappointing b\*st\*rd!"

"He's truly... being worrisome for not knowing how to take care of himself.

"When I told him off, he still asked me to leave him alone—that he doesn't need my concern and he can take care of himself! In the end, though? His gastritis has worsened, and according to the doctor, he'll be at risk of getting cancer if this goes on!"

He let out a sigh at that, apparently feeling very helpless and exhausted.

Gu Xingze used to be his partner, a celebrity whom he had spent much effort grooming into a superstar and a friend whom he was most concerned and closest with.

Seeing him behave like the melancholic and depressed wastrel that he was now, with no regard for his health, the agent could not help wishing to give him a good thrashing and see if he could knock some senses into the man!

The female artist, on the other hand, was feeling disconcerted, worried, and perplexed. She did not understand what her manager meant by 'his last movie'.

Was the superstar quitting showbiz?

That might be a good thing for him.

Having been in showbiz for so many years and having amassed a remarkable amount of assets as a corollary, it did not seem to be a bad thing for him to exit the industry now and return to an ordinary life.

He would be in a much better state to care for himself and his health that way.

She supported the decision to leave showbiz.

Her manager saw through her thoughts, though, and aired his opinion. "I think otherwise!"

"?"

"He made his debut at a young age and has devoted most of his life to his career. Should he withdraw from the industry, it'd be as good as losing his meaning of life."

As he spoke, he put out the cigarette in his hand on the ashtray, feeling troubled with worries.

The manager rarely smoked, but his addiction had been coming on strong these days, and he smoked one pack per day. The ashtray was already filled with cigarette butts in fact.

Having things put into perspective for her, she was at a loss on what to say in response.

The premiere soon began.

Not only was it a battle of fame and fortune, it was also a campaign of ambitions.

All the main staff involved in the movie took their seats on high stools on the stage and gave their respective speeches according to the questions raised by the media.

As the actress sat beside the superstar, she could feel the slight, uncontrollable tremors of his hand when he held the microphone. Her heart tensed up along with it.

She could tell that he was fighting to contain it.