

Sweet Love 2231

Chapter 2231: An Important Friend

Their mother had already informed them beforehand that an important friend of hers would be joining them for the reunion dinner tonight.

Mu Yazhe, who naturally recognized the special guest at a glance, hooked up his lips slightly as a gesture of goodwill.

Gong Jie, however, made no greetings, though he wore no look of repulsion on his face. Instead, he consciously shifted his seat slightly to the side to make some space for his older nephew to place a stool the latter had brought over.

“Brother Hua Jin, please take a seat while I get you chopsticks and a bowl!” urged Little Yichen before he nimbly ran to the kitchen for some plate and cutlery.

Meanwhile, the idol was pushed by the woman toward the dining table to occupy the offered seat.

Yun Yecheng studied the young man for a while before he grinned and cheerfully asked, “Daughter, is this friend of yours an actor, too?”

“Yup! We were in the same production team previously! He can be considered my senior; he’s taken good care of me at that time!”

He immediately said, “Oh, my! This chap has such fine looks which make him even prettier than most girls! Nice to meet you, and thank you for taking care of my daughter!”

With just a few exchanges, the mood instantly became harmonious.

Only then did the actor regain a bit of his vitality; his anxiety soon ebbed away as well. He then got the elderly man laughing happily with his sweet greetings and responses.

Yun Shishi joined them at the table. While she got dishes for him, she rebuked, “To think I expected you to come earlier and make dumplings with us!”

He laughed, but when he was about to offer an explanation, Mu Yazhe suddenly turned to ask him, “Do you drink alcohol?”

He shyly replied, “Yes, a little.”

The man immediately poured him a full glass of dry red wine, which got his wife gaping and laughing in amusement. “Hey, are you trying to get him drunk?”

“I don’t think he’ll get drunk with this bit of wine,” answered the man matter-of-factly. “He must have a certain level of alcohol tolerance for him to say that he can drink. Besides, it’s not easy to get drunk on red wine!”

The actor, too, reassured her. “Don’t worry; I’m good at holding my alcohol.”

Only then did she feel at ease.

All of a sudden, her twin brother wryly cried, "Sis, why aren't you concerned that bro-in-law will get me drunk?!"

Glancing at the glass of white wine in his hand, she burst into a chortle as she retorted, "Don't you hold your alcohol very well?"

"I've already drunk two glasses of this! Your husband really holds his alcohol well. I think his aim is to get me drunk."

The other snorted as he picked up the bottle of white wine and filled his brother-in-law's glass to the brim.

Gong Jie: "..."

Mu Yazhe gently said, "You're not allowed to return home unless you're wasted."

Feeling aggrieved, his brother-in-law immediately pouted and clamored, "You must be doing this on purpose. Are you trying to get me drunk so that you can leave me home while you all go release the fireworks?"

This chap is smart, huh?

Trust him to see through my motive.

Arching a brow in provocation, he retorted, "Don't get drunk if you can, then."

Lost for words, Gong Jie's brows twitched for a bit, then he suddenly felt immensely competitive. "Hmph! I'd like to see just who's going down tonight!"

With that, the two men picked up their glasses and engaged in yet another round of drinking.

The dining table was filled with chatter and laughter.

As Hua Jin dazedly watched this scene, his lips involuntarily arched into a slight warm smile.

From what he could remember, he had seemingly always spent his Lunar New Year getting beaten by his drunken father.

While everyone else spent this festive season in a cheery mood, he was always full of fear from getting hurt.

Chapter 2232: The Most Blissful Night

His father's mood always seemed to take a turn for the worse whenever the Lunar New Year came around. He would return home all wasted, then drag him off his bed, and hit him with a belt or a hanger until he was all bloody.

'B*stard! You little b*st*rd!

'You mother and son are equally despicable! Isn't it enough that your mom landed me into this state? Are you trying to do me in, too?!

'You're delighted to see me in this state, huh? Happy now?! I'll beat you to death! I'll beat you to death, you b*st*rd!'

He could seemingly hear his father's voice echoing in his head and see that savaged yet twisted face of his before him.

Snapping back from his recollection, the actor looked up and, once more, felt himself being enveloped in warmth that he had not felt in a very long time. A smile broke out on his face as he lifted the glass in his hand. "Thank you all for the invitation and warm welcome! I'd like to propose a toast to those present here!"

He had none of that arrogant yet domineering streak of his whenever he was with the production team. Instead, like a humble and polite gentleman, he was on his best behavior tonight, much to Yun Shishi's surprise.

She secretly suspected that this was his true nature—innocent and pure without any pretense.

By the end of the reunion dinner, Gong Jie could feel the alcohol he had drunk rushing to his head. Despite this, he was only feeling slightly buzzed.

As it turned out, his brother-in-law was more capable in holding his alcohol than he was. What was truly astonishing, however, was Hua Jin's unexpected alcohol tolerance.

The amount of wine the actor had imbibed was by no means little. Under Gong Jie's pressure, he had drunk at least one catty of white wine, yet he was unaffected by all that alcohol.

She was startled to see this.

He can hold his alcohol so well?!

Her husband, too, had drunk just as much and appeared to be equally sober as before. It was as though what he had drunk was just plain water.

Done with the reunion dinner, the family was all set to go to the riverside and release fireworks there when Yun Yecheng announced that he would stay at home to look after his brother, instead.

It was cold outside now.

While there was a bit of warm sunlight in the day to help cope with the cold weather, the wind only felt biting once night fell. Yun Yehou's legs would act up to a slightly unbearable state whenever the temperature dipped too low, so there was no way he could go out with them and light the fireworks. His older brother had, thus, decided to stay at home and accompany him instead.

Not wanting to force them against their wishes, Yun Shishi left the elders at home and drove the rest to the riverside.

It was already half past eleven at night by the time the six arrived there.

Many had come to the riverside; while most were there to release fireworks, others specifically made the trip down to watch the upcoming spectacle.

The cities had tight restrictions on releasing fireworks and igniting firecrackers, so whenever it was New Year's Eve, people would gather at the riverside where the restrictions were lax. With no major fire hazards around and a river nearby, the authorities would basically just turn a blind eye to them.

Yun Shishi had bought many fireworks, plenty of which were extravagant with their artistic displays. After her husband and her brother had positioned the fireworks, all that was left was the new year countdown, and they would set off the fireworks on the dot at midnight.

Before that, though, some warm-up activities were needed, of course!

She had also purchased several sparklers, which were used for aesthetic and playing purposes.

Her older son, who had never played with sparklers before, got so excited that he followed her around, clamoring for one.

She, thus, gave him a sparkler, but he stared dumbly at the item upon receiving it, not knowing how to light it up.

His brother muttered, "Have you never played with a sparkler before, dummy?"

"Nope," answered the aggrieved older twin. "This is my first time!"

The chuckling woman walked over, squatted in front, and gently taught him how to light up one. "Hold the sparkler by its end like this... Yes, that's the way to hold it. Don't point its head at yourself!"

"Okay..."

"See this tiny wire here? Just light it up..."

Chapter 2233: Releasing Fireworks

As she spoke, she carefully lit up a matchstick and aimed it at the wire tip, which soon crackled alive and produced fiery sparks.

Little Yichen held the end of the sparkler in great agitation as though he were waiting for the arrival of his enemies. He was so nervous that he dared not move even an inch.

Colored flames and sparks shot out of the ignited sparkler, its flickering glow illuminating his tender visage.

"Wow! This is so pretty!" cried the boy in surprise and excitement.

The woman then handed her younger son a sparkler, too. Unlike his brother who felt nervous and lost due to it being his first time playing with sparklers, Youyou calmly waved the stick in the air.

The psychedelic sparks, which formed dazzling lines as he waved the sparkler in the air, looked beautiful against the night sky.

Seeing that the sparkler could be played this way, the older twin excitedly mimicked his action and waved his piece in the air. The two lads had a fun time playing with the sparklers.

Hua Jin, who was standing at the side, fell into a trance while watching them play around.

Out of the blue, Yun Shishi handed a sparkler to him and smilingly said, "Come, join us."

"Okay!"

He took the sparkler from her, and she helped him light it up. Multicolored sparks soon lit his smiling face aglow as he gently waved the sparkler while leaning against a boulder on the riverbank.

Gong Jie and Mu Yazhe took way prettier sparklers for themselves and lit them up.

"Ha ha ha!"

Little Yichen's sparkler soon fizzled out. He could not help feeling utterly envious when he turned around and saw his uncle holding a beautiful sparkler. "Whoa! Yours really pretty! I want one like it, too! I want one, too!"

His uncle walked over, carried him up with one arm, and passed the sparkler in his other hand. "There you go! Hold it properly, and you can play with it!"

"Thank you, uncle!"

With a face-splitting grin, he waved the sparkler around and let it dance mid-air.

By now, Youyou's stick had also fizzled out. His mother, thus, handed her sparkler for him to play.

As the actor watched the actress happily carrying her son while playing with the sparkler, he felt his heart become heating up as though it had been set ablaze.

At that moment, he suddenly felt that Yun Shishi's world, be it the woman herself or her surroundings, was shining brilliantly.

He desperately yearned to enter her world, so much so that he did not realize that each of her actions, which seemingly held the power of a level-ten tornado, was capable of unsettling him.

The strong emotions he felt now was akin to that of a naïve youth experiencing his first love. Those feelings flooded him, causing tears to flow down his face unknowingly as he gazed longingly at the woman's back.

Just when Yun Shishi wanted to call the idol to join them, she incidentally caught sight of him quietly standing behind them; seeing a faint tear streaking down his face, which glowed under the bright lights of the sparklers, shocked her.

Startled, she put down her son at once and approached the actor, only to see him staring dumbly at her face with large, moist eyes.

"Hua Jin... w-what's wrong..." She helplessly reached out to his face and lightly wiped the tear stains away. "W-What's wrong? Why are you crying..."

Crying?

Eh?

Did I cry?

The actor absent-mindedly touched the corner of his eye, only to feel a stabbing pain in his heart upon feeling the cold, moist sensation on his fingertip.

Chapter 2234: How I wish that I were born as your child, too.

“What’s wrong...”

She felt increasingly at a loss.

Hua Jin shook his head at once and explained, “Nothing. I-I’m fine...”

“Then... why are you crying?”

He answered forlornly, “I’m just... a little envious.”

Yun Shishi followed his line of sight, only to see the back of the twins. Her acute senses allowed her to pick up his current mood and understand how he was feeling.

He’s probably envious of my children, I guess.

“Your sons are living so blissfully that I can’t help but be slightly envious of them.”

The slight crook of his lips held tinges of bitterness.

Pursing her lips, she turned to lean against the boulder beside him and silently watched her carefree children play around. For some reason, the little ones seemed to be engaged in yet another fight and were now chasing each other.

As the younger boy chased his brother to beat him up, the latter cleverly hid behind their father. Just like that, they ended up running in circles around the man.

Mu Yazhe, who could not bear to watch this, lifted his older son and placed him on his shoulders.

With this height advantage, the boy started laughing at his younger brother smugly, even making funny faces at him.

Youyou naturally felt indignant about this, so he ran over to his uncle and tugged at his sleeve. It was unknown what he had said exactly to result in the adult lifting him high and allowing him to sit on his shoulders, too.

Like a commander on a horse, he directed his uncle to walk over to his father, then he and his twin brother continued their fight.

Knowing that he possessed great arm strength, the older boy gave in to his brother and let the latter off easily; the younger one would surely cry and complain that he was bullied by him should he hit the other for real, after all. Thus, he capitulated to his brother a lot.

Alas, his younger twin did not show him any mercy and even whacked him so hard that he started yelping in pain.

Gong Jie burst out laughing heartily at the sight and encouraged his younger nephew to bully his older sibling more.

Upon seeing how useless his older son was, Mu Yazhe could not tolerate it anymore and chose to run away with the boy straddling shoulders.

The other adult, thus, chased the father-son duo with his nephew sitting astride his shoulders. The four of them—two grown men and two little imps—had an awfully fun time playing together.

Meanwhile, Yun Shishi was huffing at the sight. “Hey, stop fooling around and be careful of falling!”

Hua Jin was tickled pink, though. When his bout of laughter ceased, he told the woman, “Do you know? I’m really envious of your children for having such gentle parents.”

She glanced at him before quietly turning to look at her family. A gentle smile then crept across her face. “I’d shower you with love if I were your mother!”

The unexpected comment stunned the actor for a while as he turned to stare at her in astonishment.

The woman, however, was gazing at her family who were playing around with an unbelievably gentle look.

That was probably the glory of motherhood.

The tenderness, which brimmed in her eyes as she watched her children, could melt even the hardest and coldest heart in the world.

Just then, she heard his sad yet envious voice ringing in her ears.

“How I wish that I were born as your child, too.”

...

‘How I wish that I were born as your child, too.’

Those helpless yet disappointed words pricked her heart. Turning her head over, she reached out for his hands and held them tightly in hers.

“From now on, you’ll join us at every Lunar New Year’s Eve to make dumplings, eat reunion dinner, and release fireworks together, just like today, okay?”

He nodded fervently and did not hesitate to respond with an ‘okay!’

Chapter 2235: Trauma

Hua Jin’s smile and eyes possessed a charm and allure unique to him.

The woman rarely ever saw him reveal a genuine smile.

He would put on a modest smile which made him look like a humble person before the camera. Still, there were times when contempt and weariness would flash across his eyes as soon as the camera panned away, making that smile appear especially ironic.

Like a demon king, his smile would change again to become insufferably arrogant when he was with the production crew. He would behave like a rebellious kid, deliberately antagonizing and spewing expletives at everyone, be they the director, the actors, or even the extras. He would only stop when the other party got upset with him, and that was when a smug expression would surface on his visage.

However, that smugness only lasted for a split second before it was replaced by indescribable sadness and loneliness.

That sort of loneliness was as good as an ostracized child attempting to get others' attention, care, and acceptance for themselves—even if it was all fake—in the worst way possible.

Right now, however, when Yun Shishi turned to look at the actor, she saw him gazing into the night sky with eyes so bright and clear that they seemed to be filled with stars.

This was his true self, it seemed.

Innocent, guileless, and simple like a child who was ignorant of the ugly side of the world. No longer was he wearing those sharp pricks; in fact, he seemed so pure that he could not possibly be sullied.

He said, 'How I wish that I were born as your child, too.'

Even though it seemed like a normal, passing remark, she could hear hints of helplessness and yearning in his voice, which left her feeling immense heartache for him.

She was no Samaritan, and she absolutely abhorred those hypocritical platitudes. However, her concern and heartache for Hua Jin instantly seeped out and flooded her upon seeing that forlorn smile of his.

She could not help tightening her hands around his, wishing to transmit the slightest bit of warmth, no matter how miniscule it may be, to him on this cold night.

The woman looked up at the firework-filled sky—the work of those people who failed to hold back their eager excitement and released the fireworks before it was midnight—and was involuntarily reminded of her younger self, where she spent her first Lunar New Year with the Yun family.

She could still remember that her adoptive father had specially bought plenty of fireworks that year and that they cost a bomb, with some easily ranging from a few hundred yuan while the bigger and prettier ones were priced at around several thousand yuan. The average family could not bear to splurge on them, so only families that were quite well off would buy them for the special occasion.

Her adoptive family was still loaded then with her father's business at its peak, so he could easily afford to buy the prettiest sorts of fireworks available on the market.

Unlike these days, streets were all filled with a festive mood on Lunar New Year's Eve a decade ago.

Releasing fireworks was one of the most anticipated festive activities for the new year.

Many children, the young Yun Na included, yearned to see the brilliant, colorful displays of fireworks up in the sky.

She pestered her father to release the fireworks the night before Lunar New Year, but the man was adamant on doing it the following night.

Thus, that very night, she sneaked out a set of fireworks, dragged her sister out of the house, and insisted on having her release them.

When the latter refused, for she dared not do so, the former threatened, 'If you don't release the fireworks, I'll get daddy to kick you out of the house tomorrow! What use do you have if you don't even dare to light fireworks?!'

Chapter 2236: I will be your eyes.

She eventually gave a jittery nod under her adoptive sister's threat. Unfortunately, she was inexperienced. Each time she used the match to light up the tip, the wind would quickly extinguish it. By then, only half of the fuse remained for ignition.

That earned some scolding from her sister who wanted her to continue. Left with no choice, she fearfully put her face closer to the firework as she lit it with a lighter one more time. The sudden sparks, which burst forth, almost blinded her. This left an indelible fear in her since then.

Hence, she dared not try any fanciful fireworks again and would only stick to simple spark sticks and the sort.

The thought of that actually made her chuckle. She asked the man standing beside her, "Hua Jin, have you played with fireworks when you were young?"

"I did," he nodded but quickly added, "but I hardly had a chance to go out and play with other kids. Most of the time, I watched my peers play with their fireworks from the balcony."

"I got a fear of fireworks, though."

"Why is that so?"

"That's because I almost burned my eyes while playing with fireworks when I was a child." She paused for a bit before continuing in half-jest. "That's why I don't dare to play with extravagant fireworks ever since. I'm afraid I'll burn my eyes again."

The man turned to look at her all of a sudden and reassured her with a wink. "Actually, playing with fireworks isn't scary at all. You just have to be careful and all."

The woman muttered sheepishly, "That's true, but the fear is still there even after I reassure myself in my head."

He flipped his hand and grabbed hold of hers this time around. "Don't be scared. If you hurt your eyes, you still have me."

"You?"

She did not know what he was driving at.

The man told her solemnly. "Yes! I'll be your eyes if you can't see a thing."

'I'll be your eyes if you can't see a thing.'

She was taken aback by his declaration. Staring at him with eyes wide open, she then gave a gentle smile. "Sure, but there won't be such a day."

At this time, she did not take his words seriously, reckoning that he had said them casually, but long after this conversation on this Chinese New Year's Eve, when she randomly recalled it, she could not help sighing at his sincere intention for making such a promise. Only then did she realize that every promise he made to her came from the heart.

Of course, this happened much later in her life!

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At 11:15 PM, countless people were already gathered close to the riverside.

Many had opted to usher in the new year at this place, and they were here for the countdown by the hour. Some happily came along with their kids and elderly parents, while young, loving couples could also be observed. All were looking forward to the same thing; they wanted to catch the brilliant fireworks that would light up the sky later.

Gong Jie raised his wrist to look at his watch. As the time steadily edged closer to midnight, a look of cheerful anticipation appeared on his handsome face.

"Sis, it's almost midnight!"

The twins looked at each other with a smile. They, too, were getting excited.

Their mother asked smilingly, "Who's going to light the fireworks later?"

"I don't play with this stuff very often, so I'm not good with it." Just as her brother finished his statement, her older son raised his hand eagerly. "Me! Let me do it!"

His younger twin reminded, "Hey, you're too clumsy for this stuff. It's dangerous; you may get hurt."

His gentle cautionary words were unlike his sarcastic remarks.

He snorted, then smirked. "There's nothing difficult about lighting a firework! You just need to ignite the fuse, right? Mommy's already taught me what to do moments ago!"

Chapter 2237: Madam, Happy New Year!

It was just setting off fireworks. He was not afraid.

Instead, he looked forward to lighting them himself.

Lighting the fireworks himself and seeing them fly up into the night sky would bring him a great sense of achievement.

Moreover, these were just fireworks!

He had even played with rocket artillery before. Hence, to him, fireworks were just interesting toys which were a cinch to play.

Youyou raised his eyebrows. He suddenly remembered how this brother of his could not be placed on par with ordinary kids.

He had seen his sick prowess before. Lighting fireworks was indeed nothing much to the other.

“Alright, then. You’re in charge of lighting the fireworks while we watch!” He felt reassured but still told his older twin to be prudent. “Please be careful, though, alright? The fireworks’ power is formidable, so don’t underestimate them.”

“I know!” Little Yichen was not grateful at all. “Why are you such a busybody?!”

Hearing that, the younger boy felt unwilling and coldly retorted, “Hmph! You’re so ungrateful! If you hurt yourself later, don’t cry about it as I won’t feel bad for you!”

With that, he ran to his mother’s side and coquettishly hugged her arm as they waited for the countdown to start.

11:59 PM.

It was the final minute.

All of a sudden, an increasing number of city residents gathered at the riverbank as they began to count down together.

“Ten...

“Nine, eight, seven...”

“Daddy, it’s time to light the fireworks!” yelled Little Yichen excitedly.

Mu Yazhe, who had been leaning against the railing by the riverbank, heard his son’s voice, and his lips curled into a smile as he took out the cigarette he was smoking. He then walked over and knocked his son’s head before passing the lit stick to him.

Little Yichen grabbed the cigarette and rushed him to the side. “Daddy, be careful!”

The man walked to his wife’s side, gripping his younger boy’s shoulder with one hand and circling Yun Shishi’s waist with the other.

“Three, two...

“One...

BANG!

Woosh!

Just as the clock struck midnight, countless fireworks rose to the sky. It was as if there was mystical chemistry between them as the fireworks boomed in the night sky!

Little Yichen covered his ears as he ran back. Behind him, showers of fireworks lit up almost half the starry sky.

More and more people gathered by the riverbank.

The boy stood on his tiptoes but could not see anything clearly.

Behind him, a pair of hands suddenly reached out.

Gong Jie picked the lad up and placed him on his shoulder as he held him stably with one arm.

“Can you see them clearly now?”

“Yes! They are clear now!”

His uncle smiled before muttering wistfully, “Little fella, you sure are heavy!”

However, brat rode the left side of his shoulders with a clear conscience while being supported by his arm. He gazed excitedly at the countless fireworks being lit by the riverbank.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

Yun Shishi was engrossed in the view when Mu Yazhe pulled her toward his chest without warning and planted a deep kiss on her forehead.

“Madam, Happy New Year!”

Her heart skipped a beat over his sudden, tender sentiment.

She raised her eyes, only to be met by his gaze which was as gentle as water. She flushed as her eyes were laced with a trace of seduction.

“Mm!”

Just as she gave this affirmation, the man, unable to control himself, kissed her on the lips.

“Mmph...”

Chapter 2238: Provoking His Son

Witnessing this intimate scene from the corner of his eyes, Youyou’s face turned beet-red. He then covered his eyes bashfully as he forced himself not to look.

See no evil, hear no evil!

Although he kept warning himself, the boy could not contain his curiosity and peeked through the gaps between his fingers to see this tender moment.

Little Yichen had also witnessed this scene. He tugged on Gong Jie’s hair and said excitedly, “Uncle, look!”

The man hissed in pain as he looked in the direction his nephew was pointing, only to knit his brows when he saw this heart-skipping moment.

He walked over unhappily. Just as his brother-in-law was about to give his sister another kiss, he stretched his hand between the two faces.

Mu Yazhe, who was caught off guard, planted a kiss on his palm, instead.

“Ha ha ha!”

Seeing this, Youyou held his belly in laughter.

His father raised his gaze and sent the younger chap a vicious glare, asking coldly, “What are you doing?”

“Hey! Don’t you know how to mind your image in public, brother-in-law?” mocked the other hostility.

Hmph.

How dare he kiss my sister secretly when I wasn’t paying attention?

They should at least avoid this siskon if they wanted to be intimate!

Spare a thought for his feelings, alright?

Yun Shishi flushed in embarrassment from her neck up when she heard this, turning her head away and clearing her throat as if nothing had just happened.

“What image?”

“It’s none of your business when I kiss my wife,” said her husband self-righteously.

His concise and comprehensive words rendered Gong Jie speechless.

The younger of the two lads laughed dauntlessly, almost falling off his father’s shoulders.

His father patted his bum unhappily. “Behave a little!”

The older of the twins pouted as he ridiculed, “Daddy, this is wrong! Shouldn’t your first kiss during the new year be for your son? You kissed mommy, then what about me? I want one, too.”

His father’s lips curled into a smile as he casually acquiesced, “Alright.”

With that, Mu Yazhe suddenly leaned forward and reached out. He gently raised his son’s jaw with his slender fingers and leaned slightly to the side to plant a soft kiss on the latter’s lips.

BOOM!

His son’s face turned so red he seemed to be bleeding!

It was just a casual remark, but his dumb daddy took it for real!

He even gave him a kiss like that. His every movement was charming and even more alluring than the Greek gods in idol dramas!

Especially that smile in his eyes, it was enough to take anyone down in an instant!

Had anyone seen a father provoking his son before?!

Has anyone?!

Little Yichen let out a yelp as he jumped off Gong Jie’s shoulder and ran away bashfully. “Daddy, you’re so annoying! Teasing other people like that!”

His father remained silent.

Yun Shishi laughed loudly out of amusement with tears forming at the corner of her eyes.

Was this lively little fella sent from the heavens specifically to humor them?

Seeing her smile, her brother felt even more vexed. He huffed coldly as he said, "Sis is so biased. You let brother-in-law kiss you but not me."

"You are not a child anymore." The woman was rendered exasperated by his words.

"No, sis. To be fair, you have to kiss me quickly." Her twin acted coy.

With that, he closed his eyes and moved forward with his clean face. He pointed at his cheek and said, "Kiss me here."

Her lips twitched harshly at that.

Chapter 2239: Daddy, run!

Her lips twitched harshly at that.

However, in the next second, her husband turned toward her brother and reached out to grip his jaw. He then leaned forward and smacked his lips on the latter's cheek.

Gong Jie's eyes widened at this. When he spotted the culprit before him, he jumped up in fury as he held his cheek and yelled with anger and resentment, "What did you do?!"

Mu Yazhe gave him a sinister smile, then spoke seductively to provoke the other. "Uncle, was that kiss satisfactory?"

"You—"

Furious and embarrassed, his brother-in-law spat 'pervert' harshly, then threw a punch at him.

He dodged it nimbly while commenting in disdain, "Hah! You missed."

Seeing that his uncle had truly gotten angry, Youyou hurriedly held his father's hand and pulled him for a run out of protection.

"Daddy, run! Uncle is going to beat you up!"

"Pervert! Stop right there!"

The chap gave chase as he waved his fists.

Yun Shishi and Hua Jin, who were left behind, stood rooted to the ground with their mouths agape. They finally came back to their senses after a while and roared with laughter as they held their stomachs!

"Ha ha ha!"

The night view of the fireworks by the riverbank was truly enchanting.

...

By the time they returned home after the fireworks, it was already 2 AM.

The actor originally wanted to head back earlier, but she stopped him and suggested that they stay up late together.

When they reached home, the two little fellas were naturally exhausted after causing a din.

In contrast, Gong Jie and Mu Yazhe were still energetic and in great spirits despite causing a scene earlier.

Therefore, she was dragged by the two to play cards, with Hua Jin naturally added to the group.

After playing a few rounds as a warm-up, they all knew one another's abilities.

Of course, some of them were still holding back.

Little Yichen had already fallen asleep, but Youyou lay wide awake in bed. Hearing the lively noise coming from the living room, he walked out curiously. The moment he saw that they were playing 'Fight the Landlord'[1], he clamored to join the game.

How could they play 'Fight the Landlord' with five people, though?

"Five people can play with an open and a secret landlord!" suddenly said Hua Jin.

An open and a secret landlord.

The rules were that, after shuffling the cards, the landlord who received the open card would play a card suit and draw out the secret landlord.

With two decks of cards, there would be two cards of the same suit.

The secret landlord with the other card suit would have to remain calm and collected. After confirming his teammate's identity, they would hide as a peasant and secretly help the open landlord to win the game.

The rest of them did not have any issues with the new rules.

"What happens to the person who loses? It won't be interesting if there's no penalty," remarked Gong Jie faintly.

At this moment, it was Yun Shishi's turn to look miserable. "Can we not gamble with money? It is the new year, and I am as poor as a jingle, so I can't afford to lose."

The four of them coldly cast their glances on her.

Her son was even slightly exasperated. "Mommy, why are you talking as if you are definitely going to lose?"

"That's because our capabilities aren't balanced! The four of you look like gambling veterans while I am a rookie. If we play with real money, I will definitely be bankrupt fast."

The rest were befuddled.

Veterans?!

“It’s alright; I am even worse than you, so I can be your scapegoat,” comforted her son.

Yun Shishi was satisfied when she heard his reassurance.

Chapter 2240: Fight the Landlord (1)

“The loser must be carried by Youyou for one round,” suggested Gong Jie wickedly.

The boy was unhappy for being implicated. He threw the cards on the table and said, “Hey! Are you punishing the loser or punishing me, uncle?”

The adult whistled. “Then, the loser will take brother-in-law’s clothes off.”

Mu Yazhe glanced at him coldly. “Sure.”

What was there to be embarrassed about?

The heater in the living room was turned on, after all.

His son was speechless. “Since there are only men here apart from mommy, daddy won’t be embarrassed.”

Gong Jie gave an eerie smile. “It isn’t that simple. You have to run naked outside for one round.”

Everyone was silent.

How much resentment did he have?

Was this not too heartless?

It was terribly cold outside as it had just begun to snow.

Mu Yazhe threw his cards at the man’s face. “If you like running around naked so much, do it yourself.”

The young chap could not rebut this time around.

Hua Jin sniggered at that.

Gong Jie swept his icy gaze over at him.

Everyone instantly felt chilled to the bone as if they had been hit by a gust of cold wind from Siberia.

“How about this: Whoever loses will have to jump from the second floor of the villa?” Gong Jie proposed another sort of punishment.

Yun Shishi flicked his forehead. “We are just playing cards. Why are we risking our lives?”

The idol suddenly realized how horrifying the actress’s twin brother was.

After being flicked by his sister, the chap said indignantly, “That’s how we play cards!”

“You are not human, so you can’t compare yourself to us,” replied his sibling.

“Sis, we came from the same womb. If I am not human, then are you a mutant?” he retorted.

The little lad burst into laughter at that. "That's right, mommy. I came from your tummy. If you are a mutant, then what am I?"

"The both of you are not humans," she ridiculed.

Youyou: "..."

"Personal attacks are prohibited!" declared her brother.

"Why don't we hold a truth-or-dare session?" suggested Hua Jin out of the blue.

Hearing this, no one had any objections.

The first round began.

Gong Jie shuffled the cards, his technique smooth and proficient. A glance, and it was clear that he had mixed around a lot in casinos.

Yun Shishi realized chillingly that her younger brother, who used to be a mess with cards, had become proficient with his card skills after being abroad for years.

With how clean his technique was in cutting the deck, it seemed that he had practiced before.

There was one secret and one open landlord in the game.

The person who received the open landlord card would shout for their secret landlord with the same card suit. The secret landlord among the other four would cooperate with the open landlord discreetly like a 'traitor' to achieve the ultimate victory.

The open landlord for the first round was Gong Jie. He shouted for the secret landlord delightedly, examining the other four's expressions from the corner of his eyes.

Each of them sure could act! There was not a shred of change in their expressions.

His cards were great. Soon, he was left with only one.

The rest of them eyed one another covetously. The next player, Yun Shishi, sealed her cards tightly.

However, the interesting thing about the game was that, apart from the open landlord, the other four players did not know who the secret landlord was, so it was easy to be a tyrant.

Originally, she was about to win, yet she was bombed by Hua Jin.

Seeing that there were not many cards left, the secret landlord would be revealed soon. Due to the king card played by Youyou, the preceding player before Gong Jie, he secretly managed to let his uncle play his last card, thus allowing the landlords to win.

The woman was rendered momentarily speechless as she looked at her son gloomily. "How could this be? The four king cards were all with you? Xiao Jie, did you cheat when you were giving out the cards?"

How could the first card in line be the king?