

Sweet Love 2261

Chapter 2261: Deeply in Love

Lin Boxiong paused for a moment before he continued speaking. “Also, I’m warning you not to pull any funny tricks with me! I won’t fall for them! When we are there, you must showcase all the good upbringing I’ve inculcated in you. You should know best about how you ought to behave! If you don’t follow everything as per my request, I have a way to make you regret your past deeds!”

When Lin Xueya heard the obvious threat in his words, she raised her head harshly, only to see Lin Boxiong’s usually tranquil gaze now filled with bloody ferocity. She realized that her father had truly gotten furious this time, so much so that he could commit underhanded means. She instantly thought of her lover and questioned him with moist eyes, “What’re you going to do to Hua Jin?!”

“He deliberately seduced you into a quagmire! It can be considered as going easy on that chap if I only break his legs! It’s clear that you’ve fallen for his curse—fallen head over heels for him! From what I could see, that lad was born with an exceptionally beautiful face. I really want to see if you’ll still be so caught up with him once he loses his looks after I cut his face up!”

Her father snorted, his tone full of disdain and cruelty.

She instantly cried in fear, “You’re not allowed to treat him that way! Dad, please don’t force me, alright?! I don’t want to get married to anyone; I only want to be with Hua Jin. I love him and want to be with him for the rest of my life. Why couldn’t you just give me your blessings?!”

“That’s because things have never been equal between humans since birth!” coldly retorted Lin Boxiong.

‘Things have never been equal between humans since birth.’

Lin Xueya was born wealthy, while Hua Jin was born poor.

Two people like them could only walk parallel to each other in this world. There would never be a fateful intersection point between them in their lives.

The only reason there was this temporary intersection point between Lin Xueya and Hua Jin was her appearance during his lowest moment.

Lin Boxiong persuaded and guided her patiently, “Xiaoya, I really don’t understand you at all! Tell me: Why are you getting tangled up with a broke actor instead of fighting to be the wife of a young master? There is no future between you two! Don’t you know how many people have played with that chap you love so much before his debut?! He is a struggling bottom figure and has no dignity whatsoever. Being with him will only tarnish your reputation! Did you not check that fella’s past? If we are to speak of this in ancient times, this lad would be equivalent to a moneyboy who specialized in being played by government officials! He was born to be a toy. Being with him will only bring about humiliation. How could he be worthy of you with his lowly status? Wouldn’t you just be seen as a joke? Wouldn’t our family be seen as a joke? Your grandfather sacrificed so much for our family to have its present reputation. We can’t be reduced into ashes just because of your ill-considered actions!”

Lin Xueya’s face turned ghastly pale.

“That’s enough; don’t say anymore…”

She clenched her fists tightly.

How could she not be aware of Hua Jin’s past?

Before entering the entertainment industry, he had indeed been a boytoy like what her father had said. It was not that she had not indulged in a life of luxury and abandoned all restraint, either, but when she thought of those ugly faces, she felt even sorer for the suffering Hua Jin had endured.

Chapter 2262: Do you really love me?

That was why she used her influence later to help Hua Jin leave those murky places.

She did not care about his past!

In her eyes, he was still pure and all that was good. It was out of the question if her feelings for him stemmed from pity or adoration. All that mattered was that the feelings she had now were deep-rooted and could not be swayed.

What was wrong in loving someone?

She was in love with him. Even though the man was as insignificant as dust and negligible, she was willing to let go of her proud status to be with him in the dirt.

She was well-aware that she did not hold a place in the actor’s heart. She knew that his behavior had only been an act to gain her favor and to please her.

She knew that the tender sentiments from him were fake!

Those words of endearment were said against his will, but she did not care because she loved him.

Loving him was enough for her.

As long as she could be with him, it did not matter if everything was just an act.

Seeing how she obstinately persisted in going about things the wrong way, Lin Boxiong exploded in fury. “I absolutely forbid you from tarnishing the Lin family’s reputation!”

Hearing this, Lin Xueya went unexpectedly silent. After keeping calm, she retorted faintly, “Dad, the only reason you refuse to let me be with Hua Jin is that you are afraid of me dragging our family’s name, right? Then, why don’t you chase me out? I will no longer be a part of the Lins, and this way, no matter what I do, I won’t humiliate our family and you won’t lose face for having a daughter like me! Isn’t that what you wish for?”

“Disgraceful thing!”

Grandpa Lin’s rage was heard from the second floor.

Standing a level above them, he glared at his granddaughter with fury. He tapped his cane in unrestrained anger and roared, “How did our family nurture such a rebellious girl like you?! How dare

you abandon your family over a man?! You have no sense of propriety at all! Very well! Since you no longer acknowledge our family, you can just get lost! Get out of this family and never return! Leave as far as you can!”

Lin Xueya turned around and walked to the door without another word.

Lin Boxiong became anxious when he saw this, instantly chasing after his daughter. Who knew that the latter would be so stubborn, leaving just like that?

Behind them, Grandpa Lin scolded angrily, “What are you chasing her for? Let her leave! The faster, the better! It’s fine for us not to acknowledge an unfilial granddaughter like her!”

Fine, I’ll leave!

Lin Xueya also had a temper, so she left her house sans a backward glance.

She roamed the streets by herself for an entire night.

As it was the New Year’s Eve, the originally bustling metropolis had become a ghost city.

She did not know how long she had been walking down the quiet lanes.

Although the night was chilly as snowflakes fell from the sky, she did not seem to sense it at all as she continued walking with her head lowered.

She had actually wandered for an entire night in this huge capital from the east ring to the south ring.

Only when there was a shred of white in the sky did Lin Xueya realize that she had unknowingly walked to the front of Hua Jin’s apartment.

This was probably the last place left that would keep her.

...

“Jin...”

Lin Xueya hugged his shoulders, dazed and helpless like a child.

Hua Jin involuntarily hugged her back, widening his eyes and feeling perplexed. However, in the next instant, the man heard her helpless inquiry. “Do you really love me?”

Do you really love me...

Chapter 2263: His Dark Past (1)

“My dad said that if I continue to be involved with you, he will kick me out of the family, but... Jin, I am not afraid of anything else as long as I am with you!”

Lin Xueya became emotional in an instant and clung onto his shoulders tightly with a flushed face. “As long as I am with you, who cares if I am no longer the Lins’ missus? Who cares if I end up living a dull and poverty-stricken life? As long as I am with you... there’s nothing I am afraid of.”

She paused for a moment before biting her lower lip as tears trickled down her face. She hugged him and begged in an almost petty and low manner, "Now, you no longer have to worry. I left my family due to a confrontation last night. I want you no matter what, so..."

So...

Since she had made such a compromise for him to this point, could he love her even a bit?

She did not care if this love stemmed from pity.

"Jin, let's be together properly, alright? I don't have anything else besides you... so let's be together, okay?"

As Lin Xueya finished her words, Hua Jin continued to hug her with an expressionless face. There was no fluctuation in his heart at all, and it remained unnervingly calm.

She did not dare to ask him again as she understood what his silence meant.

Everything in her world collapsed at that instant.

Her body fell limp, and she gradually sank into the bathtub, her eyes empty and lifeless.

In all honesty, she had already known what his answer was going to be.

No matter how excellent his acting skills were, a meticulous woman like her knew very well that such tender sentiments and adoration were all just pretense.

"Are you... just using me?"

In a daze, she raised her head suddenly and asked while feeling devastated, "I've sacrificed so much for you. Why are you so miserly that you can't even spare me a glance?! I gave up so much for you; I'm even willing to abandon my family, but why isn't there even a small space in your heart for me?!"

Hua Jin's complexion remained sluggish as he continued to look at her with an empty gaze. When his eyes finally fell on her, they only showed pity.

"Why aren't you saying anything?"

She gripped his shoulder tightly; her unwavering eyes remained on his face as she begged, "Hua Jin, say it—say it! I want to hear the truth; I don't want to lie to myself anymore! You don't have to act anymore, alright? Tell me, please. Have you really never loved me before, not even a bit? It's fine even if I only have a very small space in your heart!"

The man remained silent.

"Say it. Say it..." Lin Xueya urged him as she trembled in fear.

However, if he opened his mouth and said that he liked her or cared about her, even if it was just a bit, she would be fearless.

Even if her world were to collapse, she would have no complaints or regrets.

Even if it was just one word from him.

“Yes.”

She was willing to sacrifice everything for him until the end of the world.

However, after a long bout of silence, Hua Jin finally looked up and said indifferently, “You don’t have to be so persistent.”

As he said that, he reached out to brush away her hand, which was holding his shoulder tightly.

This action of his left her petrified.

Lin Xueya widened her eyes in fear. No matter how hard he tried to pull her hand away, she refused to let go.

Chapter 2264: His Dark Past (2)

She was afraid that her fether with him would break the moment she let go of his shoulder.

“I don’t want... I don’t want...” The missy continued to persist wilfully. “I don’t want to change. My heart is set on you—I just want to be with you!”

“But I don’t like you.”

The man finally spouted his heartfelt thought.

Shocked, Lin Xueya stared hard at him in disbelief.

“What did you say?”

“You heard it loud and clear.”

He was finally able to express his mind, and he was more composed than ever. He reiterated his true feelings to her solemnly. “I haven’t liked you since the beginning. There’s no love between us. I’m grateful for your care and concern, even your infatuation for me, but that’s the only feeling I have for you.”

“Liar!” She found it unbelievable, or perhaps, she did not want to believe these cruel words from him.

“You told me that you love me very much...” mumbled the lady to herself in a desperate act of self-deception.

When they were together, be it kissing or lovemaking, he would whisper a plethora of sweet-nothings to her.

Were those false declarations of love?

Really?

Honestly, she had had her doubts about his sincerity, but he could have just continued his deception, could he not? *Why couldn’t he just keep pretending?*

The man, meanwhile, was exceptionally calm and composed, almost to the extent of being heartless. Looking at her with gentleness in his eyes, he threw back a question at her. “Didn’t you ask for my true feelings?”

“I—”

“That’s why I’m telling you now what I’ve truly felt.” He smiled gently at her.

She lost interest in what he had to say all of a sudden and turned her head away, but the man caught hold of her chin with his hand and forced her to look him in the eyes.

As he fixed his gaze on her teary eyes, he continued quietly. “Xiaoya, we aren’t compatible in the first place. You are a rich missy from an elite family; you come from a respective background. As for me, I’m sure you’ve run a background check on me, right?”

Lin Xueya was jolted into shocked silence as she recalled their first encounter...

She had first met Hua Jin at a private event, which was organized by a friend of hers.

In that event, the guests had their respective ‘partners’. This was when she had first spotted him with a middle-aged man.

Lin Xueya did not know who the middle-aged man was, but her friend did. She told her that the fella was the boss of an entertainment company with influential ties.

She was deeply attracted to Hua Jin’s pretty and delicate looks the moment she set her eyes on him. It was love at first sight.

She liked his misty eyes and that quiet, melancholic presence he held. She adored his lonesome air, which could melt anyone’s heart as he sat quietly in a corner by himself. Many women were unable to resist that kind of charm, which aroused their maternal instinct. He was the kind of man women wanted to hold and hug.

A rare gentleness emerged from this hubristic missy after meeting him. All she could think of was wanting to get close to him, so she could shower him with love and protection.

Hua Jin’s keeper did not know her identity at first, but upon knowing that she was the elite Lin family’s missy, he decided to milk some benefits from his boytoy before he discarded the latter for good. He was, after all, already tired of this pretty face.

Hence, he whispered to the young man, “Haven’t you asked for freedom from me? Alright, then. If you can settle that woman tonight, then I’ll give you freedom. You won’t need to service those men in the future!”

Chapter 2265: His Dark Past (3)

The young chap got the subtle hint right away and agreed with a nod.

Before knowing her, he was a lowly moneyboy. In the olden days, his status would most likely be equated to those male playthings raised by the rich and powerful for private entertainment.

As long as the requestor had the money, regardless of the person’s status and power, he would need to service the customer at his keeper’s bidding.

He had protested and resisted against such inhumane arrangement, but all he got were numerous beatings and imprisonments. Alas, not only did he end up with countless injuries, he had to bow to those contemptuous mockers, too.

In this world, the brighter the place might be, the darker the corners might hide.

He envied those who could walk in the light. As for him, he could only retreat to a dark corner to lick his wounds quietly.

Before he came in contact with the entertainment scene, he did not know that men could be degraded in such a way.

How lowly could one get in front of powerful men?

No one could not imagine the pain and repression he had endured then.

Living was worse than death, and he was sick of such a life.

He was treated as a commodity, sans dignity and pride, by the rich and famous. Despite the humiliation, he still had to greet those immoral and ugly faces with a smile.

Finally, his keeper gave him permission to leave such a hellish life, provided that he could capture this woman's heart. She brought a ray of hope to his desperate situation.

After the event ended, he stood waiting for her outside the door. When Lin Xueya walked out of it, she did not notice him standing in a corner, smoking quietly.

The man reached for her arm and pulled her into a corner. Holding her by the shoulders, he had her pinned in that narrow space. Without using words, he decided to make his move in the most direct way—he kissed her long and hard.

Perhaps it was their proximity or the woman was longing for such intimacy, she did not resist him. As he had just finished his drag, there was still a faint tobacco smell lingering on his lips, but she did not mind it surprisingly. She was known to detest smoking. In fact, she started to draw closer to him the longer they kissed.

After their kiss, the man asked her with a smile, "Pretty lady, are you willing to have dinner with me?"

His smile enchanted her, and she was helplessly, and hopelessly, swooned.

She could no longer care to be reserved; her heart was totally held captive by him.

They checked into a hotel and spent a wanton night inside a presidential suite.

After their lovemaking, he panted into her ear, "Let me be your pet, alright?"

By then, she was no longer her usual self and readily agreed to everything he said.

Hua Jin's keeper came to discuss terms with her the next day.

As for the terms and conditions, these could not be measured by dirty money. The middle-aged man had no lack of money, but he needed some influential network, which Lin Xueya could provide him.

As the matter panned out, the young man was taken in as the woman's private pet.

Being with her made a drastic change in his life.

For one, he could finally move out from that dark and hideous basement.

The woman had a glimpse of the place on the day he moved out.

Chapter 2266: His Dark Past (4)

The dormitory could hardly be called a home; even a dog would wag for something better.

Lin Xueya got him a luxurious apartment in the city center. It had a room and a hall, just right as a couple pad.

Before him, she had no other man. He was her one and only.

She doted on him and satisfied all his needs, be it house, car, and even his acting career. She was the one who pulled strings for him when he debuted in showbiz.

In the beginning, she was not too eager in this relationship.

The missy kept reminding herself to take this as a game of love. She knew her destiny well; it was not for her to determine her marriage. Once she came to a suitable age, she would have to follow her family's marriage arrangement.

The man she was to marry would probably come from another elite household in high society. In any case, there would be no future for Hua Jin and her.

If that was the case, she might as well give herself the permission to play rogue with the man she had taken a liking to.

Unfortunately, even though she had given herself clear warning at the start, she had eventually fallen too deep, too late into this game of love as it went on.

He was like opium to her. She was already too deeply addicted to him by the time she realized she had fallen into this love trap. At that time, she was actually a bit scared. What if she were to end up hurt at the end of this game?

Nevertheless, she chose to hang onto him even though she got a chance to let go.

By then, she could not face reality. Despite giving her all, why... was he unmoved by her love? Since the start, he had never looked her in the eyes.

She could tell that the sweet-nothings that he whispered to her all the time, or even the tenderness he displayed when they made love, were superficial.

He did not love her, and she could not take it lying down.

Since she had fallen into this swamp, her headstrong character wanted to pull him along with her down the cesspool.

She needed him, so should he not need her as well?

Maybe the person he needed was not her?

Hence, when she walked into the hospital room and saw him holding another woman's hand, looking carefree and happy, she was so hurt! In place of his usual, melancholic demeanor, his eyes were full of tenderness and love for a change.

Why?

She did all she could to make him happy, yet he chose to reveal his loving expression to another woman?

Did she really fail to capture his heart despite all her efforts?

She blew her top finally.

That night, she vented all her frustration on him inside the hospital room, raining cruelty at him like a woman possessed.

"All men are low-balls! You disregarded all my kindness and chose to be good to that woman who took care of you for just a few nights?!"

"Rong Jin, why must you trample on yourself in this manner?!"

"Do you really think she's sincere toward you? She's only taken pity on you! That's right! You're pitiful!"

She mocked him relentlessly with her sharp, unbearable, and hurtful words.

She could still remember how the man curled into a corner of the bed, hugging his injured body tightly as he hung his head low. He did not say a word, but she caught a teardrop at the corner of his eye by chance.

This was when she realized the terrible pain she had caused him and she quickly apologized. She held him in her arms, but despite her profuse apologies, his body and expression remained cold and unmoved.

Chapter 2267:

We have never been equals.

Instead, the actor flashed her a forced smile. "You don't have to apologize."

"Why?"

"Because your uttered words are nothing but facts."

The heartwrenching sight of him looking up at her with that forced smile on his face cut the young lady's heart deep. "I'm a pitiful, lowly, and cheap person... Haven't I all along been humbly pandering to you people?"

His words struck the young missy dumbfounded.

“In your eyes, I’m nothing but a possession that can be trampled on. She, in contrast, has always treated me like a decent human being... and has, at least, let me salvage what’s little left of my pride.”

“...”

“It’s all because I’m a cheap object, so the rest of you can be unbridled and act high and mighty in my presence. Likewise, aren’t you treating me so well because of the pleasure and warmth I give you and your desire to keep me by your side? She, in contrast, has never wanted or even expected anything from me. While her actions might come across as hypocrisy to you, I managed to find dignity as a human being from her at the very least.”

He smiled at her again. “Perhaps for you, dignity is something at the reach of your fingertips. It is, however, a luxury to me.”

...

That was indeed so.

Dignity, which was deemed worthless by Lin Xueya, was something extravagant to Hua Jin. This was why he usually behaved like a haughty tyrant in any production team; he just wanted to salvage that pathetic pride of his in this dog-eat-dog world.

...

As she gradually regained her senses, she looked up, only to have tears involuntarily brimming in her eyes when met with his calm yet aloof orbs.

“I’m sorry... I might’ve done and said many things that hurt your feelings, but... I didn’t mean to do any of them.”

“Xiao Ya, we’re unsuited for each other; there’s no way that I can be with you no matter how much you wish for it. Even if I do love you, what of it? Will your family accept a worthless scum like me?”

“You’re no worthless scum!” She screamed in a bid to stop him from demeaning himself.

“At least, in their eyes...” the actor inhaled a deep breath, saying with much difficulty, “I am.”

Not wanting to hear him go on, she covered her ears and shook her head in helplessness. “Shut up... Stop it... Don’t say anymore...”

“One shouldn’t force their loved ones to act against their wishes; isn’t that so?”

“Shut up...”

“See, you’re still ordering me about even now. We’ve never been equals from the start.” He paid no heed to her mental breakdown and, instead, let out an indifferent laugh. “I wish I could return your feelings, too, but I couldn’t seem to do so.”

“SHUT UP!”

Her scream reverberated endlessly in the empty bathroom.

The young lady then forcefully tugged on the vulnerable actor's arm, making him fall right into the bathtub; his slender body was, thus, soaked by the warm water.

"Don't say anymore!"

Seizing the moment of his vulnerability, she climbed on top of him and pressed herself against his wet torso.

Hua Jin basically did not put up any struggle at all. Instead, he allowed the warm water to soak his shoulders and chest until they seeped into his eyes, nose, and ears. Even then, he remained motionless and kept his breathing still.

In her frantic craze, the missy landed her kisses messily on his eyelashes, nose tip, and cheeks before eventually and desperately sealing his lips with hers...

Chapter 2268: Be careful of squeezing the life out of daddy!

It was one, fierce kiss.

"You're the only person I have by my side now, yet even you want to desert me. Why?!"

...

It was already afternoon by the time Yun Shishi woke up.

When her eyes fluttered open, she was greeted with the sight of the warm, afternoon sun rays that shone through the clear French windows and spilled into the room. She had no idea when the curtains in her bedroom had been opened.

When she turned her head to the side, she realized that the space next to her in bed was empty; her husband was already out of bed.

Why didn't he wake me up?

Despite that question in mind, she yearned to lie under the warm, comforting blankets longer. *Nevermind, let's just lie in bed for a while more!*

The woman, therefore, turned around, only to see her sons leaning against the edge of the bed with expressions of cuteness and disdain on their tender, little faces. The one looking cute was the older twin, while the one with the disdainful expression was, of course, a certain black-bellied rascal.

"..."

She nearly stopped breathing from the shock she received.

"Mommy sure can sleep!" commented Little Yichen.

From the side, her other son shot her a look of disdain and airily said, "Daddy is already a very busy person. Mommy, you're gonna squeeze the life out of daddy sooner or later if you continue acting so willful!"

Her face immediately burned.

“W-What... nonsense are you saying, Youyou?!”

Am I the one with dirty thoughts?

Somehow, I get the feeling that his words have a double meaning.

‘Squeeze the life out of daddy...’

I’ve never imagined that I’d ever hear such a statement from my darling son’s little mouth.

The thing is...

What did he mean by that? Surely, it isn’t what I’m thinking, is it?

At the thought of it, her cheeks turned a shade redder.

The older twin assured his little brother. “Don’t worry! Daddy is an exuberant man with boundless stamina. Even ten of mommy won’t be able to deplete his energy.”

“Hey...” Her face flushed red as she demanded, “where did you two learn such terms?!”

Little Yichen let out a wicked laugh at that. “From uncle!”

The woman asked out of perplexity, “What did he teach you?”

“We wanted to wake you up earlier at first, but he told us not to do so! He said that daddy and mommy must’ve been busy ’till very late at night, so we should let you sleep in more. Otherwise, daddy is going to suffer from having weak kidneys, and mommy can’t be satisfied as a result...”

The more he spoke, the more excited he got. His mother, on the other hand, was blushing so hard that her cheeks were almost dripping with blood; a terrifying look was also slowly surfacing from the depths of her eyes.

“Pfft!”

Youyou hastily covered his brother’s mouth with his little hands and chided, “How could you sell uncle out?!”

“Umph...”

The twins suddenly felt a cold gust of wind blowing at them and could not help stifling a shudder. By the time they snapped back to their senses and turned to look at their mother, she was already sitting upright on the bed with her fists and teeth tightly clenched. “Gong Jie, that brat...”

The nerve he’s got to instill my sons with thoughts that are inappropriate for their age!

Yun Shishi hopped off the bed right away and went to change her clothes. She did not even bother with washing herself and just went storming out of her bedroom.

Meanwhile, Gong Jie was playing video games with his brother-in-law in the living room when he looked up to see her charging at him. He smiled and greeted, “Good morning, sis!”

The woman pounced on him the next second and gave his ears a good wringing for about one hundred eighty degrees.

“Ow!”

“Xiao Jie, what on earth have you been saying to your young nephews?!”

Chapter 2269: Do you not feel ashamed, mommy?

He yelped in pain as he held his hurting ear and shot his sister a piteous look. “Sis... why did you wring my ear for no rhyme or reason...”

The woman glanced sideways, and when she realized that her husband was dumbfounded by her fierce display, she immediately pulled her brother to the side and questioned softly, “What nonsense have you been telling my sons?”

Still feeling baffled, he shook his head blankly at her.

She gave him a good plummeting. “Are you still not going to tell me the truth?”

“I-I... really don’t know what you’re talking about!” Feeling immensely wronged, he blinked his doe eyes at her; the sight of which could almost make one’s heart turn into mush.

Alas, she did not buy his words.

“Spill it!”

Little Yichen and Youyou were secretly stoked to witness this scene as they peeked their heads out from a wall corner. Feeling very much satisfied, the brothers shared a smile and even cheerfully did a high-five.

The poor man had been seriously pranked by his evil nephews.

To be honest, he was truly an innocent party.

He had said no such things to the little ones at all, yet because of them, he was deemed guilty by his sister.

He ended up getting a good whacking from her when he could not give her an answer.

Meanwhile, Mu Yazhe beckoned a finger at the two young lads, who were secretly giggling away at a corner, upon noticing them in his periphery.

Like summoned beasts, the twins advanced toward him and snuggled up in their father’s chest.

Giving each of his sons a pinch on the nose, he questioned, “What naughty things have you little imps done?”

“Ow! We did no such thing,” answered his younger son all righteously.

The older twin snickered behind his hands. “How aggrieved uncle must be feeling now after getting pranked by Youyou! He won’t be able to clear his name.”

With him being a meticulous person who had excellent chemistry with his sons, he got a rough understanding of the entire matter after his son's brief explanation.

Gong Jie could only chalk it up to his bad luck for having a 'ball' dropped on his face.

Up until the end, he still could not figure out how he had offended his sister or why he was punished by her.

"Eh?"

Seemingly realizing something now, Yun Shishi turned her head and saw the little ones snuggling in their father's embrace. Her face darkened the moment she understood what was going on. "You boys—"

"Mommy, it's already very kind of us that we didn't call you a lazy bum for waking up so late," Youyou grinningly said.

She faltered and lost the urge to scold them as a pang of guilt washed over her!

Poor Gong Jie! Not only was he unjustly blamed, he also suffered under his sister's hands for nothing!

"Eh? Where's Hua Jin?"

Youyou replied, "He left right after answering a call, saying that he has an urgent matter to attend to."

"Oh..."

His older brother suddenly cried in disdain, "Mommy, you're lucky that lil' bro knows how to cook, or else given how late you woke up, we'd have long starved to death by the time you woke up and finished preparing our meal!"

The woman turned her head away guiltily and feigned ignorance.

"Speaking of which, Youyou's cooking is really impressive! I wonder from whom he inherited his talent..." As Gong Jie spoke, he allowed his gaze to volley between the married couple for a good while. In the end, he supposed, "Perhaps, two negative traits make a positive trait?"

Cough!

Clearing her throat in awkwardness, Yun Shishi tried to defend herself. "My culinary skills aren't too shabby, so he probably inherited his talent from me."

Her son immediately piped up from the side. "Don't you feel ashamed for saying that, mommy?"

Chapter 2270: He did not believe that he had a fated lover.

Her son immediately piped up from the side. "Don't you feel ashamed for saying that, mommy?"

She waved her fist in the air at him. "Must you always expose me?!"

"Even without me exposing your lie, you'll give yourself away sooner or later," Youyou coolly retorted.

Yun Shishi: "..."

The boy patted her shoulder sympathetically. "Just like uncle said, two negative traits make a positive trait. Maybe it's because you and daddy are noobs at cooking that I developed such extraordinary taste buds; I should thank you both for this, in fact."

Mu Yazhe: "..."

He felt that he had been unjustly implicated in this matter.

Right then, Yun Shishi suddenly spotted a platinum necklace on the sofa. She walked over and picked it up, asking curiously, "Whose necklace is this?"

Her brother shook his head. "Not mine."

She surveyed her surroundings again but did not recall her sons having such a platinum necklace.

"Hua Jin probably left it behind."

She then picked up her phone and gave the actor a call...

...

It was silent in the bathroom, save for Lin Xueya's muffled yet tremulous crying. Despite her best effort to contain her emotions, one could easily detect her despair.

Warmth spread across Hua Jin's exposed chest, which was above water level, as he lay under her while staring vacantly at the ceiling.

He had no idea whether that warmth belonged to the rising bathwater or the young missy's tears.

Water was still running in the bathtub, where it overflowed to the ground. The sloshing sound of it was particularly loud and clear in this quiet space.

He slowly shut his eyes.

He was not indifferent to her crying; it was just that he only felt heartache for her.

That was all.

What was the most tragic thing in life?

To him, it was none other than that he could never fall in love with any woman in this life.

Love was nothing but the product of desire.

He had no expectations or fantasies about love; it might have been because he had been so exhausted over the years that he lost the energy to love someone.

Maybe, if he did not possess such traumatic memories... or if he had met and dated her under normal conditions, he might have fallen for her without qualms or concern.

However, he believed that he had lost his faith in love and marriage.

The fetters between individuals arose from desires, right?

Humans were selfish beings; thus, what they loved the most was ultimately themselves. It was why they would fall in love with someone who could satisfy their desires.

Likewise, Lin Xueya loved him because he could fulfill all her desires.

She was different from the other young ladies.

Because of her superior family background, she had always lived in the lap of luxury; this was why she did not care for the riches and power that some other girls were fond of, for they were at the reach of her fingertips.

It just happened that his appearance was sufficient to fulfill her fantasies.

She was like a princess who was trapped in an ivory tower; due to family's restraints, she always had to follow their rules and arrangements strictly.

She was desperate to break free of those restraints. Meanwhile, he was nothing more than a source of comfort and escape to her—someone who could be easily replaced by others.

After all, only a few were fortunate enough to become fated lovers like Yun Shishi and Mu Yazhe.

He did not believe that he had a fated lover.