

Sweet Love 2321

Chapter 2321: I do not have anything against gay relationships.

That highly unusual reaction made him doubtful of his uncle's sexual orientation at one point.

Previously, a woman with a hot bod had plucked up her courage to strike a conversation with his uncle. The latter, however, merely picked up his nephews and replied fluently in English, "Sorry, but I'm a married man."

While his older sibling might not know what their uncle was saying, Youyou understood every bit of it. The man was using them as a front!

Amid their bantering, the waiter served fillet mignons and snack platters on their table. He then performed a magic trick and produced a stalk of red rose from his fingers before presenting it to Gong Jie.

The man lifted a brow at the waiter puzzledly.

The waiter then stooped down gentlemanly and pointed to where the blondie was seated while politely answering, "This stalk of rose is a gift from the lady from table no. 3, sir! I hope you all enjoy your meal!" With that, he turned around and left.

Gong Jie placed the stalk of rose aside on the table thereafter. His indifferent action, however, earned him a comment from his younger nephew.

"Uncle, you're such an aloof person. Shouldn't you show some appreciation to the lady who showed her liking for you?"

"I'm not interested in women."

Little Yichen choked on his orange juice the moment he heard that answer, his eyes bulging wide in shock as if he were looking at an alien.

His brother, on the other hand, looked between the rose and their uncle's aloof expression and quietly commented, "That reaction of yours is highly suspicious! I'm starting to suspect that you like men."

Cough!

It was Gong Jie's turn to choke this time.

While coughing away, he grabbed the napkin, which was placed at the side of the table, and dabbed the corners of his lips with it. He then shot his nephew a cold look and stated clearly, "I am straight."

"You just said that you aren't interested in women, though."

"I don't like women with big boobs."

"..."

"I don't like those with big butts, either."

His younger nephew remarked, "Men typically prefer women with big boobs and butts."

"Oh? Is that so?" A haughty smirk appeared on his face. "That goes to show I'm not the typical type of man."

Youyou suddenly mischievously asked, "Oh, so does that mean you prefer Brother Hua Jin over women?"

His expression stiffened for a bit, and his gaze was icy when he looked up again. "Get lost."

Sheesh. Out of all things to talk about, I still feel awkward thinking about that night's game.

The boy, however, continued to pepper his uncle with shocking comments. "I noticed your ears turning red when you kissed Brother Hua Jin. You're clearly feeling shy!"

"Get lost!"

He shot the young one a warning look.

If one's look could really kill, the boy in front of him would have long turned into an ice sculpture.

Meanwhile, his older nephew's gossipy nature started to show up. "Eh? Uncle kissed Brother Hua Jin before?"

"Yep! It's a mouth-to-mouth kiss."

His eyes widened in shock as he exclaimed, "When did that happen? How come I know nothing about it?"

His twin replied, "It's still about that fight-the-landlord game we had while you went to bed early on the night of New Year. The losers must accept any punishment proposed. Uncle and Brother Hua Jin ended up losing a game, so they got seriously pranked by daddy, remember?"

He did not forget to tease his uncle by exaggerating a bit. "It's during their punishment that uncle kissed Brother Hua Jin directly on the lips several times, and his ears turned all red from doing so."

"Shut your trap!" hissed the man.

Youyou, however, merely teasingly added, "Come on; don't be shy! I'm an open-minded kid and I don't have anything against gay relationships."

Little Yichen immediately earnestly expressed his stance. "I share the same sentiments, uncle; gays have the right to love, too!"

Chapter 2322: The Reason for Dyeing His Hair Silver

Gong Jie raised his voice slightly as he growled, "I repeat: I don't like men!"

Everyone, including the waiters, in the restaurant had hands frozen in mid-air and conversations pausing as they turned curiously in the direction of that angry growl.

The atmosphere stiffened at that moment.

The man swept a cold, unfriendly look at his surroundings, which cowed everyone into turning their heads away awkwardly, their eyes no longer lingering on him.

While trying his best to hold back his laughter, Youyou coaxed, "Alright, I won't tease you anymore!"

"Hmph."

"There, there. It's all my fault. Don't get angry, uncle!" He hastily began cajoling his uncle.

They still needed to depend on him for financial assistance for the rest of their vacation on this island, after all. Should they go overboard with their jokes and end up truly antagonizing their uncle, he might very well leave them stranded on this island. The thought of it was terrifying enough for the boy to stop his antics.

Upon sensing the shift in the situation, the opportunistic Little Yichen immediately stood on their uncle's side and accused his sibling, "Lil' bro, you shouldn't take your jokes too far! Uncle is clearly straight!"

The younger boy shot his twin an oblique look. "Hmph! How capable you are now, Mu Yichen! Trust you to betray me."

After the trio was done with their lunch, they went to the beach for a stroll.

There were actually plenty of people leisurely sunbathing on the chairs on the beach at this time of the day.

Gong Jie's innate overwhelming presence and killer looks made him become an attractive scenery as he strolled along the seaside.

Even in just a plain T-shirt and beach pants, he could not hide away that extraordinary presence and showstopping looks of his. His silver hair was eye-catching, and his smooth, poreless skin appeared even fairer under the bright rays of the sun, which contributed to his forbidding allure.

Born with naturally fair skin, he had deliberately tried to tan his skin in the past but the effects of the darker skin tone were temporary and would lighten once he stopped tanning himself.

He had rather feminine features that belonged uniquely to a typical oriental beauty—beautiful looks, red lips, pearly whites, fair and delicate skin, high nose bridge, and long yet dense lashes which framed and embellished his deep-set eyes. It could be said that he did not have the typical manly looks.

Being someone who paid great attention to his dressing, he reckoned that, even though he had his tall stature to compensate for his feminine appearance, his original hair color, black, made him look too soft and demure, especially since his features were closely similar to his identical twin sister.

He, thus, dyed his hair silvery-white at the age of sixteen. With his hair color changed, he no longer appeared feminine and, instead, exuded a suave yet extraordinary presence. He had, thus, made it a habit to dye his hair silver since then.

The European women were awestruck at the very sight of his handsome features, for many approached and tried to hit on him during their stroll on the beach. Out of those who had taken the initiative to chat him up, however, none succeeded.

He spared not one of them a single glance and just treated them like air. It was for no other reason other than he preferred oriental women and had no interest in European women.

Chapter 2323: Perfect Vacation

If there were not those frustrating people trying to strike up a conversation with him, perhaps this time would be considered a perfect vacation.

The sun shone brightly in the Maldives, with summer and warm weather all year round. It would be extremely satisfying even if he just lay in the chair and did nothing but quietly bathe in the sun.

There were tall, huge coconut palm trees and windmill palm trees lining the beach, with the rocks piled on top of one another. The style was totally different.

The seawater by the shore was a thrilling light blue and crystal clear—clear enough to see the stunning coral reef.

The sky was blue with white clouds, and the breeze was gentle.

The soft and fine sand beneath his feet was incomparably comfortable.

The scenery was like a painting.

The reason Gong Jie bought the island was so he could conveniently come for vacations.

Usually, his work was arduous as there were plenty of work affairs at Hurricane Group.

He was originally overseeing all the affairs on the European market.

However, after he had seized half of the affairs on the African market previously, the pressure he faced from the heavy burden was unbearable.

The wars in Africa were non-stop and frequent; thus, the orders grew with each passing day.

He flew all around the globe, staying wide awake the entire day. If he was not flying in the air, he was floating on the sea.

Due to the dominance they had in freight transport, the orders for arms frequently employed cargo ships for transportation.

Generally speaking, there were various transportation channels to transport firearms.

Cargo planes, cargo trucks, and cargo ships.

However, the capacity of cargo planes was not huge, and the process was often complicated.

The capacity for cargo ships was big. Adding the fact that many places in the world had harbors, he was often out sailing at sea for many years.

He remembered an incident where he was leading a cargo ship along the Indian Ocean when they bumped into pirates, unfolding an intense crossfire.

The group of pirates had a big force as they were plenty. They came from the Indian Ocean and were notorious for murder, looting, and committing all sorts of heinous acts. When they noticed cargo ships

passing by, they would forcibly block their way, board the ships, and rob them while willfully slaughtering the innocent.

There were many cargo ships that bumped into this gang of pirates, with most of them limited in their capabilities. The only conclusion to that was the assassination of all the captains and sailors, with their bodies tossed into the sea while the ship was robbed away by the gang.

Gradually, the pirates became increasingly infamous and notorious. Many shipping companies were terror-stricken at the news and avoided that shipping route.

Gong Jie was not afraid at all.

What a joke.

How could his cargo ships be compared to those shipping companies' ships?

Everything on board his ships was firearms. The cargo ships were filled with anti-aircraft defense, rocket artillery, and torpedo. Whoever dared to obstruct their way would be seeking death.

As long as his cargo ships had the flag with Hurricane Group's symbol, there were not any tactful pirates that would dare to obstruct them.

Alas, a situation occurred that one time.

There was a strong breeze out at sea that blew the flag away.

Without the flag on the cargo ship, they naturally walked into the tiger's den when they passed through the Indian Ocean as that gang of notorious pirates came to cause trouble.

The troops on both sides engaged in a shootout.

Gong Jie did not hold back against the pirates, but as the crossfire was too intense, several installations on the cargo ship malfunctioned, and they were forced to dock in a nearby island.

It happened to be this then unpopulated island in the Maldives.

Gong Jie thought the scenery was great and that it would be a good place for a vacation if he passed by in the future. Therefore, he bought the island and went through a series of developments before this scenic island was set up.

The man and his nephews bathed in the sun satisfactorily.

Gong Jie was wearing a pair of sunglasses, enjoying the rare and precious tranquil time he had.

Youyou and Little Yichen had put sunblock on their bodies as they lay down as well.

Chapter 2324: Grandma was beautiful when she was young.

Under the sunlight, an extremely eye-catching necklace lay on Gong Jie's collarbone, sparkling radiantly and attractively.

Youyou noticed the pendant.

He saw how his uncle was always wearing this necklace, never letting it leave his side. It must hold a special meaning to him now that he thought about it.

Therefore, he stealthily hiked onto his uncle's side, and since the man was wearing sunglasses, he did not know whether he was napping or wide awake. Therefore, he surreptitiously lifted the pendant.

It seemed that the round pendant could be opened. Youyou opened it, realizing that it was a locket.

Both sides of the locker contained photographs. One photo had two kids snuggling with bright and beautiful smiles.

Youyou instantly recognized the children as his mommy and uncle when they were young.

Seeing their appearances, the two were probably seven years old when this picture was taken.

However, Gong Jie did not look as tall as he did now. He was actually shorter than Yun Shishi by half a head.

She was hugging the seven-year-old boy, posing her hand in a V-sign as she gave a brilliant smile with her pearly-white teeth showing between her rosy lips.

Meanwhile, the boy was a bit camera-shy and hid his head on his sister's shoulder, looking at the camera with a bashful and reserved smile. His crystal clear eyes were bright and beautiful, and his beautiful, soft, black hair went a bit past his ears. Below his fringe was a docile appearance that was obedient like a lamb.

He wore a snowy-white shirt and a small bow tie. He looked refined and adorable as he had an arm wrapped around his sister's waist, while his other hand formed a V-sign, too.

However, it was unknown if it was due to shyness, but the two fingers doing the V sign were curled, which made him look timid.

Uncle was clearly adorable when he was young! Youyou mumbled in his heart.

He actually looked similar to him in some ways.

Genes were truly fantastical things!

Why did he grow up to be the demon king, though? He was not only two-faced and evil but also insufferably arrogant.

Inside his head, he pictured little Gong Jie and devil king Gong Jie standing together. One was adorable and innocent like a lamb, while the other was a silver-haired demon wearing sunglasses, with hands stuffed inside his pants' pockets, his aura lethal and astonishing.

It was as if they were two different people.

Youyou glanced at the other photograph.

In the picture was a young woman sitting on a flower bed, holding a moonflower in her hand as she smiled in a docile manner.

Her complexion was exceedingly similar to his mother. She looked gentle and beautiful, and her face seemed like a woman in a painting. Her eyes were like the mist on a faraway mountain, as gentle as flowing water.

Her black, straight hair was like a waterfall sans any decorations. It cascaded gently all the way to her lower back. There were a few strands that hung on her temples, which made her look even more alluring and charming.

He was amazed once again. Genes were truly fantastical things!

He immediately recognized that this lady was probably his mommy's mother—his grandmother!

He could tell.

Grandma and mommy liked moonflowers.

Perhaps it was because grandma liked moonflowers that his mommy had always meticulously cared for them in their backyard.

Little Yichen took a peek from the side and widened his eyes in surprise.

"Is this when grandma was young?"

"Yeah!" He nodded his head, his eyes filled with warmth.

"Grandma was also a beauty when she was young," commented his older brother.

"Of course! What nonsense!"

He flicked his twin's forehead. "Otherwise, how could she give birth to someone pretty like mommy?"

It was no wonder that their uncle would always keep this pendant with him.

Chapter 2325: A Life of Impecunious Drifting (1)

It was no wonder that their uncle would always keep this pendant with him.

His uncle must be missing his grandma a lot, right?

Little Yichen glanced at his uncle and mother's picture.

Looking at the incomparably bashful Gong Jie snuggling up to Yun Shishi, he suddenly remarked in disdain, "I've never thought that uncle was also a kiddo when he was young, so short and small! It's hard to imagine what uncle ate while growing up to be this big now."

"I also wanna know. It feels like he's shorter than me when he was our age!" commented Youyou bitterly.

"Now, uncle is almost as tall as daddy! Daddy is 189cm tall," said his older brother.

Their uncle heard their conversation and opened his eyes. He took off his sunglasses and glared at them unhappily. "Who said I was a kiddo? I've always been tall since I was young. Some boys weren't as tall as I was even though they were a few years older."

He raised the pendant defiantly in front of his uncle and pointed at the kiddo snuggling to his sister in the picture. "Even if you were tall, you weren't taller than mommy!"

Gong Jie glanced at the photo he was pointing at before his face flushed in an instant. He coughed awkwardly, suddenly becoming shy!

Youyou was dumbfounded by his reaction. "Uncle, why are you being all shy for no reason?!"

Little Yichen took a stab at the man, too. "It's because he was smacked in the face with his lie! He claimed to be tall, but he's obviously shorter than mommy in the picture!"

"The short one there isn't me," muttered the man.

"Ha?" responded his younger nephew.

The older one widened his eyes in shock and caused a din. "If that's not you, then who is it? Could that be my mommy?"

Gong Jie had a strange look on his face as he turned his face away submissively. He helplessly hummed in acknowledgment. "The one with short hair is your mommy..."

Hearing this, the twins' mouths widened to an 'O' as looks of disbelief appeared on their faces.

"Then..." said Youyou dumbly.

"The one with pigtails is you?!" Little Yichen finished his brother's question, clearly in disbelief.

The man closed his eyes and admitted unwillingly, "Yes! That's... That's me!"

"!"

Youyou lay beside his uncle and imagined it out of curiosity.

In his head, Little Gong Jie secretly found a skirt from his sister's cupboard and wore it while checking himself out in the mirror. He then climbed onto his mother's vanity table and clumsily put on lipstick, smearing it on his mouth recklessly.

Youyou had goosebumps in an instant.

Pervert!

No wonder.

It was no wonder he was not interested in women.

He was rendered speechless. "So you, uncle, have transvestism since young!"

Little Yichen took another stab at his uncle. "Pervert!"

Gong Jie commented innocently, "Hmph! How's that possible?! I've never liked wearing skirts, but at that time, I didn't have a choice."

...

In the photo, the one with the pigtails and smiling brightly was actually Gong Jie.

This photo was taken when they were seven years old. At that time, Mu Qingcheng always dressed him up as a girl.

This was not some coarse interest, though.

Speaking of this again brought back a series of bitter yet happy memories.

At that time, a pregnant Mu Qingcheng had left the Mu family without much cash on her.

She first escaped to a town near the capital before finding a job at a hair salon, scraping by with a meager living as she worked.

Chapter 2326: A Life of Impecunious Drifting (2)

The work was exhausting as she had to come in early and return home late every day. Once, she overworked herself until she bled below, almost suffering from a miscarriage.

Mu Qingcheng gritted her teeth and took a few miscarriage prevention jabs at one go before she managed to keep her two children.

From then on, she did not dare to work so hard anymore.

The hair salon's boss pitied her and reduced her workload as well, though this was out of some ulterior motive he had toward her!

After all, she was a single, young, and beautiful woman. Although she was pregnant, she still could not escape from men's lecherous desires.

A few months later, Mu Qingcheng gave birth to a pair of twins.

In the hospital ward, the hair salon's boss attentively and diligently took care of her, then he held her hand and confessed solemnly that he wanted to make her his second wife.

Mu Qingcheng naturally refused.

Therefore, blood rushed into the hair salon's boss's head, and he divorced his wife.

Finally, during the month following her childbirth, the hair salon's boss actually caused a scene at her rented apartment, even destroying everything inside it.

She steeled her heart and left the town with her babies who were less than two months old.

It was hard to imagine how tough life was for a single mother with two children.

As she did not do it properly following the month after her childbirth, Mu Qingcheng's body took a drastic turn for the worse.

She was in financial straits after giving birth. Therefore, she could only fill their stomachs by working at nightclubs with her sweet, singing voice.

Unfortunately, with the debauched and corrupted environment she was working, it was inevitable for her to be disturbed by all types of men.

There were company bosses and ordinary salarymen, but most of them were parvenu.

This was nothing, though.

Mu Sheng did not give up looking for her all those years.

To avoid the Mu family's eyes, she and her children drifted from city to city. If she were to count how many times they had moved houses in those seven years, she would be unable to count them using both hands.

From as long as he could remember, Gong Jie's childhood was more profound than his homeless and miserable life.

Not long after stopping in a city, they had to move to another again like refugees.

His impression of their house was blurry.

He remembered once when his sister and he were woken up in the middle of the night. Mu Qingcheng disregarded everything and carried them, leaving everything they had behind except for their identifications and some cash in her rush.

At that time, they had just been to that city for three months. Since they had only just moved, they only had one bed in the rented apartment and other scattered appliances as well as small devices. All of their daily necessities were bought at the last moment.

Naturally, these were all not new.

They were bought from second-hand market places Mu Qingcheng brought them to.

The table lamp they had had an unstable electric current, causing the light to flicker occasionally.

Their CRT black and white TV needed a pat to the back, or it would not receive any signal at all.

At that time, Mu Qingcheng scrimped and saved. She would buy fresh vegetables from the wet market in the morning for her children, while for herself, she would pick up those unfresh vegetables thrown out by the stall owners before the wet market closed for the night. She brought them back and fried them, eating them deliciously with what she bought for her children in the morning.

In three years' time, Mu Qingcheng had become skinny beyond recognition.

However, that night, they did not know what had happened.

Mu Qingcheng carried them as if they were being chased, abandoning everything in their rented apartment and hastily boarding a long-distance bus overnight.

Little Gong Jie was terrified, crying about wanting to go back home. He had left his beloved teddy bear at their rented dwelling, as well as a meager amount of money he had sneakily accumulated.

Chapter 2327: A Life of Impecunious Drifting (3)

That was money he had saved up from selling discarded mineral water bottles and cardboard boxes, together with a few of his newly met buddies.

He was saving up to buy a pair of pretty high heels for his mother.

At that time, a pair of heels cost thirty yuan, and he had saved up five yuan so far.

These were probably all that he owned, then.

His sister, equally young, naïve, and helpless, could only hug him with tears in her eyes.

As they had left in a hurry, she, too, had to leave behind her prized possessions—books, pencils, and pretty dresses that her mother had bought for her from bargain stalls at a marketplace.

The dresses had looked good on her despite their cheapness, so much so that young Xiao Jie would twirl around her, chanting, ‘Sis is like a fairy! You’re like a fairy!’

She could not bring any of those dresses with her when they escaped in a hurry.

“Mom... why are we running away?” he asked quizzically.

“That’s because... that man came looking for us.”

“Is he a baddie?”

“Yes! He’s a big, bad wolf.”

“Then, what about daddy?” Little Gong Jie broached this subject carefully with his mother. “When will daddy come and find us?”

He was startled to see tears rolling down her face just as he finished posing his questions. Quickly, he used his small hand to wipe away the sparkling droplets from his mother’s eyes, and since then, he dared not bring up the topic which had caused his mother to weep.

After that incident, Mu Qingcheng brought her two young children to settle down in a remote village.

It was a desolate place which was more than a thousand kilometers away from the capital. As it was an underdeveloped rural area, the villagers did not even have telephones. There was only a public telephone booth at a mini provision stall. It cost one cent to make a call each time.

This place was called Ewha Village, with agriculture as its main form of sustenance. Every household had dozens of acres of land, and most of the people in the village were simple and honest. Almost everyone over there was self-sustaining. If it was something they needed, they would ride their rickshaws to a faraway town to buy.

Mu Sheng had been unable to locate them since then.

The village head took pity on Mu Qingcheng—a woman alone with two small mouths to feed, and rented out his backyard to her at a very low rate. It came up to a hundred yuan a month.

The woman was absolutely delighted.

This was because there was a large piece of land behind the backyard, which she could convert into a small garden. This had always been her dream, so she started to plant moonflowers within the fence that she built.

She still had a couple of thousands with her, money that she had earned from moonlighting at nightclubs.

After settling down in Ewha Village, their lives turned peaceful and there were no more troubles.

Mu Qingcheng used to work at the hair salons, so she had picked up hair-cutting skills as well. Eventually, she partitioned the rented house and turned one side into a small hair salon.

Soon, the village women noticed this pretty and modern lady in their midst. Hoping to be more fashionable, they started to patronize her hair salon. In fact, her hair salon was the only interesting thing in the entire village.

All the young and old were her customers. Sometimes, a haircut would get her three yuan; at other times, a bag of rice or a bucket of cooking oil.

She would keep the bartered items for their consumption. When she had an oversupply, she would ride her rickshaw to sell at the town. When business was good, she could earn a few hundred yuan a month.

Gradually, their lives became better.

Of course, this came much later.

When they first settled down at the village, they had nothing.

Her two kids did not even have a change of clothes with them.

Chapter 2328: Something happened to Yun Yecheng. (1)

Coincidentally, the village chief had two daughters and a son. Feeling sorry for the two, lonesome kids, he kept donating hand-me-downs from his children to the songstress. These clothes were never torn or tattered.

The funny thing was, the village head's son was only five or six years old, while his daughters were already twelve and nine respectively.

Hence, it turned out that the boy's outfits were far more suitable for Yun Shishi rather than little Gong Jie with her small build. In return, the twin brother could fit better with the girls' clothing. The sleeves would be too long for his sister but at just the right length for his lanky build.

Their mother thought they looked interesting with these outfits, so she got her daughter to wear the boy's clothes while her son wore the girls' dresses. She even got her girl a crop cut and braided the boy's hair.

Once, the son from a well-to-do household in the village got into an overseas university. The wealthy man decided to reward his son with a camera and pager for his good efforts. At that time, cameras were still a novelty in this rural village.

The village head decided to take a family portrait for the three of them. Besides family portraiture, they also took a few pictures independently.

The boy had lost all the photos of the three of them except for these two. Having kept these inside his pocket at all time, they remained well-preserved even to this day.

After he joined his paternal family, he had the pictures resized to fit into a locket that he could always wear with him for commemorative reasons.

This was probably his final attempt to hold onto the memory of his mother.

The man recomposed himself from his childhood recollection and gave a resigned smile. "At that time, we were poor and had to wear hand-me-downs. The girls' outfits were rather large and could only fit me with my height. That's why..."

Youyou smothered a chuckle. "Uncle, I'm sorry for wronging you. I thought you're into crossdressing."

Gong Jie: "I'm not sick, alright?"

His twin nephew chipped in as well. "That's right! Youyou is the sick one here!"

"Mu Yichen, are you with me or against me?" To which his older brother replied with a cheeky smile.

Cocking a brow, the man's gaze fell on the images inside the locket again and his lips curled into a gentle arc. He used his fingers to caress the glossy picture as his eyes lingered on the image of his mom.

Just then, his phone rang.

He was jolted back to reality as he put the call through. "Hello?"

"Xiao Jie!"

His sister's panicky voice could be heard from the other side of the line.

The young man immediately sat up from the reclining chair as her flustered and worried tone agitated him, somewhat. "What's wrong, sis? Did something happen?"

"Where are you?"

"We're at the hotel."

"I have to take the first flight out of this place now; what about you? Are you going back with me or—"

"What happened?" The man was starting to feel uneasy by then.

There was a pause before he could hear her harried answer. "Something happened to my father... He's been rushed to a hospital, so I got to go back!"

"What's the matter?"

As the twins watched unfathomable expressions play out on their uncle's face while he spoke over the phone with their mother, they exchanged quizzical looks.

They could not wait to throw their questions at him once he hung up the call.

"What happened?" asked one of them, with the other quickly adding, "Was it from mommy?"

Their uncle nodded with a look. "Something happened to your grandfather. He's been brought to a hospital, so we need to return home as soon as possible."

The two lads were stunned.

"Something happened to our grandfather?"

He's been brought to a hospital?

What could be so serious?!

For some reason, Youyou's eyelids began to jump with a sense of foreboding.

Chapter 2329: Something happened to Yun Yecheng. (2)

Yun Shishi and Mu Yazhe were taking a stroll on the beach when she received an overseas call that scared her out of her wits.

"Shishi, I'm your aunt... Where are you now?"

The moment she realized that it was her irritating aunt who had called her, she wanted to hang up without further ado. She felt no goodwill toward the older woman; thus, her tone was especially unwelcoming as she responded, "I'm overseas, having a vacation."

The other woman did not seem to notice the girl's detachment in her anxiety. "The reason for my call is to tell you that your dad is in the hospital right now. Are you able to return as soon as possible? Your uncle and I have tried to come up with some money to pay the medical bills, but... we really couldn't gather enough. The hospital is chasing us to pay, so... can you return soon?"

The young lady was taken aback. "Hospital? Has my father fallen ill?"

Her aunt seemed to be mortified by the experience still, for she tried to explain in jittery, "No... I only found out what had happened to your father after I received a call from your uncle. As your uncle isn't mobile, I rushed over with Qingmiao to send your father to the hospital myself... He he..." She laughed nervously as she emphasized that it was their mother-daughter trio who had brought her niece-in-law's father to the hospital.

The actress had gotten distressed by then. "What happened to him? Can you be clear?!"

"Shishi, don't panic! What happened was this: Someone splashed concentrated sulfuric acid on your father when he was on his way home from work in the evening. He's still in the emergency room as of this moment! The doctor said that your father had received severe burns in several parts of his body. His face was especially bad as it seemed that the acid had been aimed at his head. He's still in a critical condition even now..."

The young woman's breathing quickened after hearing that.

Acid... and it had to be concentrated sulfuric acid of all things?!

Who could be so vicious?!

Her father was known to be friendly and kind to everyone. He had never held any animosity, nor was he the type to offend anyone.

Who could be so ruthless and sadistic?!

Her husband knew the severity of the matter at hand and immediately arranged for them to board the earliest flight out of this vacation destination without another word. After meeting up with Gong Jie and the twins, the five of them flew back to the country.

As there was no direct flight back to the capital, they had to land in Sea City before taking a connecting flight back to the capital.

By the time they arrived there, it was already 7:30 PM.

Unfortunately, they were right smacked into a traffic jam as it was the peak hours; hence, they wasted a lot of time on the road before they reached the hospital.

Yun Yecheng was still inside the operating room when they arrived at the hospital.

The woman dashed ahead of her husband and brother to board the elevator bringing her to the operating room.

When she reached the place, she saw her aunt and uncle keeping watch outside the emergency room. Yun Yehou lay slumped in his wheelchair, looking worried and downcast.

“Uncle!”

“Shishi!”

The man looked up at his niece as if she were a savior.

Yun Shishi hurried over, glanced dazedly at the glowing signage, which indicated that the operation was still in progress, and asked, “Hasn’t father been released from the operating room yet?”

He was about to speak when his wife interjected with tears in her eyes. “Shishi, it’s good that you’re here! Your father is still in critical condition. The doctor has come out twice to warn us to be prepared that he may go anytime!”

The young woman’s countenance changed the moment she heard that!

Yun Yehou was aghast and quickly reprimanded, “These are unlucky words! The doctor is still trying to save my brother; you’re bringing bad luck by saying such things!”

Chapter 2330: On Dangerously Ill List

Yun Yehou’s wife felt wronged by his rebuke, but his angry glare stopped her from saying anything more. All she could do was go to one corner and sulked there!

Mu Yazhe, Gong Jie, and the two kiddos arrived shortly after.

The man walked over with a solemn look on his face. Upon seeing his wife’s dispirited expression, he was about to inquire about the situation when the door to the operating room was flung open.

The doctor came out and, upon seeing the group hustling in front of the door, asked, “Who is the patient’s family member?”

“Me! It’s me!” Yun Shishi rushed forward and anxiously checked with the doctor. “I’m his daughter! How is my father’s condition now?”

Sounding fatigued, the surgeon explained Yun Yecheng’s situation to her. “It’s hard to assess if he’s able to pull through this crisis; we’re still doing our best to save him. Why don’t you settle his medical bills first so that we can continue with the rest of his surgery?”

The young lady nodded. "Alright."

"I'll go make the payment." Her husband stepped in immediately.

"Eh... okay..." She could only nod her head dully as her face turned crestfallen.

She looked so lost and subdued that her brother could not help feeling sorry and worried for her. Gong Jie walked up to his twin, hugged her around the shoulders, and comforted, "Don't worry, sis! You must stay calm right now, or you won't be able to handle this matter."

"Eh." The woman nodded with a heavy heart.

She knew that she had to calm down.

Her uncle also chipped in, "Yes, that's right. Your father is still in a critical condition. I know he's not out of danger yet, but we have to stay calm now no matter what. We need to support him, so we must not lose our footing and remain strong, instead."

Heartwrecked, the woman cried, "What happened?! Why did someone throw acid on him for no reason at all?! Who the hell did this to him?!"

Yun Yehou gave a long and heavy sigh, then shook his head. "I really don't know! I actually can't think of anyone who would do something so b*st*rd and ruthless! This is just too cruel!"

Apparently, this happened last night.

Yun Yecheng did the mid-day shift yesterday; hence, he only finished work at about 10 PM.

As usual, his brother was waiting at home for him.

However, there was still no sign of the man despite waiting up to midnight. By then, Yun Yehou had already made a few calls to him in vain.

Finally, his brother could no longer stay put at home and, with some difficulty, managed to wheel himself out of the door to look for Yun Yecheng.

He had not ventured far when he heard a commotion nearby.

Out of curiosity, he went over to look and found people crowding around a man lying on the ground. The onlookers were animated as they sighed and shook their heads at the scene. A couple of them were even making police reports. Not wanting to be nosy, he was about to leave when he heard an exclamation.

"Hey, isn't this man from Unit 203? I've seen him a couple of times before. His surname is Yun something..."

Alarmed, he quickly pushed his way through the congested crowd only to discover his brother, who was unconscious by then, lying prone in a puddle of blood.

Nobody dared to touch him or move him away.

Someone said that the small foamy bubbles surrounding the unconscious man were actually concentrated sulfuric acid. Anyone who touched that would be burned; hence, they had to wait for the police and ambulance to do the necessary, emergency treatment.

The crippled man's face turned pale with shock instantly.

Concentrated sulfuric acid?!

Shaking with fear, he took a second look and almost fainted at the gruesome sight on the ground!

"This is my brother! He's my brother! Quick—somebody help, please! Someone, please help to save him!" He screamed and begged for help desperately.

The onlookers quickly reassured him when they realized that he was the victim's family member.

"We've already called the police and ambulance! They should arrive soon. Please hang on!"