

Sweet Love 2331

Chapter 2331: Where is the culprit?

How could he hang on when his dear brother was in such a dangerous condition, though?! The middle-aged man was panicking so badly that tears started to roll down his eyes!

The crippled man was unable to do anything except to watch his brother from afar, clueless on whether the latter was dead or alive.

Finally, the police came, but the hospital said that the ambulance had an accident en route.

Bad luck came in threes, indeed.

Yun Yehou called his wife, then the latter rushed down with their elder daughter. After getting some help, the middle-aged woman finally managed to get Yun Yecheng to a nearby first-aid center. The man's life was further put on the line when the ambulance failed to show up!

The younger brother took a look at his brother's mangled face and fainted from the horrible sight again. The latter's face had been burned beyond recognition!

After he came around, his wife accompanied him to the hospital.

Actually, his wife did not exaggerate the grave danger that Yun Yecheng was in. The medical team had to perform resuscitation twice and put the man on the list of critical patients thrice. Twice, the surgeon had emerged from the operating room to warn them of the worst that might come.

By then, the crippled man was completely wasted after a fretful night of constant fear and worries.

Fifty percent of the man's total body surface area, mostly on the face, head, neck and shoulders, had been burned. He was in an unstable condition and could not be declared out of danger yet. The worst was not his disfigurement, though. Yun Yecheng had ingested and breathed in the acid. The toxic chemical might damage the windpipe and lungs due to the inhalation, while the ingestion could harm his throat.

Even though the surgeon had done a tracheotomy on him, and he was now getting steady oxygen supply from a mechanical ventilator, the probability of the man's liver and kidney functions failing remained very high. All in all, whether the man could survive this dire ordeal depended on his fate.

Even if he did manage to pull through all these, however, he would still have to live in great suffering for the rest of his life.

"Who did this?!" A distraught Yun Shishi gazed with bloodshot eyes at the light fixture on top of the operating room's door. "Who did this to him?! Is there a suspect? Has the culprit been caught?"

Her uncle shook his head in resignation and choked, "N-No... Not yet..."

"As this happened inside the neighborhood, we should be able to catch the culprit through the surveillance cameras, shouldn't we?!" The woman had gotten agitated by then. "Father doesn't have any enemies in the first place, so who could be so cruel to do such a thing to him?"

“H-He was already in such a state when I found him! Up to now, I... I still haven't received any updates from the police! I heard that they brought a few witnesses back to the precinct to take in their statements, but I couldn't get anything out of the authority when I called them! Those who discovered your father said that he was already injured when they found him prone on the ground. They didn't see anyone next to him!”

Gong Jie frowned when he heard that, while the twins looked equally solemn and worried. There was a looming fear that the old man would not pull through this crisis.

Xiang Yu muttered on one side, “The culprit probably escaped! It's obvious that the person was out to harm him, so they of course wouldn't stay around on scene after that!”

Yun Shishi clenched her fists and gnashed her teeth in utmost anger. “D*mn! D*mn!” She stooped helplessly, looking crestfallen and heartbroken.

Her uncle, who was affected by her despondency, tried to console her. “Shishi, don't panic. Let's wait for the doctor to update us on his condition! This is the only thing we can do now.”

“Yes, you're right. Worry isn't going to help for now. Let's just wait for the outcome of the operation!”

Chapter 2332: Burned Beyond Recognition

She remained expressionless and did not respond to her aunt's words of comfort. She was in no mood to hear any consolation and her mind was entirely blank at the moment.

When Mu Yazhe returned after settling the medical fees, he found his wife sitting on the long bench, her expression dim and dark. His brother-in-law, meanwhile, was seated next to her, with one hand clutching hers tightly while his other arm was slung across her shoulders.

He walked toward them and sat down beside her.

Upon his arrival, Gong Jie said, “Bro-in-law, you stay behind and accompany my sister; I'll bring the kids home and watch over them there.”

“Okay.”

The younger twin suddenly chimed in. “I want to stay here with mommy and wait for grandpa to come out of the operating room.”

His brother, too, shared the same thoughts. “I, too! I, too! I don't want to go home! I want to accompany mommy!”

Little Yichen basically did not have much of an emotional attachment toward that grandpa of his, but upon seeing how sad and agonized his mother looked, he felt some heartache for her and could not bear to leave her side.

Their father conceded to their request. “You two'd better behave yourselves, then.”

“Okay.”

As time slowly ticked by, Yun Shishi experienced what seemed to be the most grueling and agonizing wait of her life. Every hour that her father remained in the operating room felt like a century to her.

Then, in the wee hours of the morning, the operating room's doors finally opened.

The woman jumped out of her seat at once upon hearing the noise and dashed forward frantically. "How's my father, doctor?! Is he okay?"

The doctor removed his mask and let out a heavy sigh. "While the patient isn't in a life-threatening situation at the moment, he isn't fully out of the woods yet and may fall into critical danger anytime. He needs to be transferred to the intensive care unit immediately for further observation."

"H-He..." Her mouth dropped in shock as she drew in a sharp breath. She then asked dumbly, "He's in such a serious condition?"

"This is the most optimistic diagnosis I've got!" The doctor shook his head. "The patient was severely burned! Due to having concentrated sulfuric acid splashed on him, his eyelids and nose have melted off and his features are seriously deformed. Not only his face was burned beyond recognition, his internal organs received quite some serious damage as well. We've already done our best to save him!"

She stood frozen in place for a long time; when she finally snapped back to her senses, she bit her lower lip and weakly mumbled a 'thank you' to the doctor while she tried her best to keep her emotions in check.

The operating room's doors opened once more, and out came a group of doctors and nurses pushing a sickbed toward the elevator as they headed for the intensive care unit.

The actress and the rest of the group followed them at once. Alas, they could only stand outside the ward and look through the window as they watched the hospital staff get busy.

Yun Shishi finally caught a glimpse of her adoptive father's condition. Her eyes widened in shock and her breathing sped up at the sight of him lying on the sickbed with a ventilator attached to him. His face was charred, and there was no sign of life in him.

He had tubes running all over his body and his exposed skin was smeared with a thick layer of white medicated cream. One could guess just how horrible a sight his skin looked without the applied cream. The actress dared not imagine the bloody and mangled state her father was in.

When Xiang Yu came pushing Yun Yehou over, the elderly man could not stop his tears from flowing at the sight of his brother looking unrecognizable as he lay on the sickbed in the intensive care unit.

"God bless! He's still alive! God bless!"

His wife comforted, "Don't worry, Yehou. The heavens will surely save your brother! He will be fine!"

Although her consolation sounded slightly pretentious, she finally said something humane!

He merely quietly spared her a glance.

Gong Jie then said, "You should go back and take a rest, sis. I'll stay behind to look after your dad."

His sister stubbornly shook her head in refusal. "No. I want to stay by his side."

"Your emotions must be all over the place right now. You won't be of much help here."

Chapter 2333: Highly Questionable (1)

He tried persuading his sister to leave and take a rest.

Even his brother-in-law felt the same way. "I'll stay behind with your brother, instead. Our children are tired even if you aren't. The kids will only worry about you if you remain here in your current state."

Hearing that, Yun Shishi glanced at the twins, who were sitting at the side and, upon noticing the heartache on their faces, she nodded in acquiescence.

"I've booked two rooms at the hotel next to this hospital. Here are the room keycards," said Gong Jie as he handed the cards to her.

After she took the keycards from her brother, she could not help reminding her husband out of worry, "Be sure to notify me immediately once he wakes up or should something happen to him."

Her husband nodded. "Don't worry; I'll let you know if anything happens. I'll be coming down to the police station later to find out more about the case."

Only then did the woman feel slightly at ease. Nevertheless, she kept turning her head back as she left the hospital, full of reluctance, while the twins' hands.

It was not until the trio had vanished into the distance that the comforting smile on Gong Jie's face slipped off and his phoenix eyes narrowed slightly.

"It's suspicious. Something's really fishy about this."

"Hm?" His brother-in-law looked at him in bafflement.

He asked, "Did you receive any news from the police side?"

The other man fell silent for a moment before answering, "According to their preliminary investigation, they suspect that it's a case of robbery."

"Robbery?" He scoffed. "Is there any evidence supporting this?"

"Generally, they will classify such cases as robbery if they are unable to find any leads," explained his brother-in-law with a poker face. "You know how inefficient the police can be; what clues can they possibly find in such a short timeframe? I sent my men earlier to check the crime scene. It was reported that the police failed to preserve it in time. Plus, after last night's downpour, any evidence that they found after that might've been inaccurate."

"A bunch of good-for-nothings," he remarked with a scoff.

"Robbery..." Mu Yazhe started. "How could it possibly be robbery? Which robber would carry concentrated sulfuric acid around just to rob someone? Unless one has a feud with the person, a person won't go that far."

Gong Jie agreed. "For now, we can only wait until uncle wakes up and reveals what happened to get some clues."

"I'm afraid that it'll be quite a feat!" interjected his brother-in-law.

He furrowed his brows in perplexity. "Why's that so?"

"My father-in-law was splashed in the face with concentrated sulfuric acid, and according to the doctor, he ingested and breathed in the acid. We don't know if he'll ever be able to talk in the future."

The doctor did mention that the acid had burned Yun Yecheng's larynx, so the chances of him recovering his voice were extremely slim.

"How brutal the perpetrator was!"

Filled with lingering trepidation, Mu Yazhe clenched his fists tightly and slowly revealed his concern. "I'm worried that the person is actually after my wife and is just giving her a forewarning by doing this to my father-in-law!"

The other was aghast to hear this.

"Does sis have enemies?"

He knitted his brows as he replied, "Yes."

Plenty, in fact.

None seems bold enough to do such a sick and twisted thing, though.

That is, unless they've got a death wish.

A thought suddenly struck him, which prompted him to rise to his feet at once. He instructed his brother-in-law, "Stay here and watch over father-in-law, while I make a trip to the police station."

"Okay." Gong Jie glanced at his watch and asked, "Is there anyone there at this hour, though?"

"We have to get to the bottom of things without further delay. They have to be there even if there's no one around now."

The man left straight after saying his piece.

As he watched his brother-in-law leave, Gong Jie's brows remained tightly knitted for a long time despite the upward curl of his lips.

He could not help worrying about his sister and nephews who were staying at the hotel, so he picked up his satellite phone and dialed a number. "Seville."

"Yes, Young Master?"

Chapter 2334: Highly Questionable (2)

"Yes, Young Master?"

"Send a team of people to stand guard at Hotel Yiyuan, which is next to Jinghan Hospital for fire and burns."

"Roger that."

After hanging up the call, he crossed his arms across his chest and quietly kept vigil outside the ward.

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Right before heading down to the police station, Mu Yazhe made a phone call to the bureau to express the intention of his visit and was told that his message would be relayed to the bureau chief.

Sure enough, the bureau chief appeared at the station within minutes of his arrival.

It was three o'clock in the morning now. The elderly bureau chief had been lying comfortably in his large bed at home when he received news that a bigshot was on his way to the precinct to investigate a certain case. Not daring to tarry, he hopped off the bed speedily and rushed over, reaching the station under twenty minutes.

As soon as he stepped inside, he spotted Mu Yazhe sitting in the waiting room. He quietly wiped off his sweat before he plastered a smile on his face and greeted the man with a warm smile.

"Hello, Chairman Mu! Sorry for the wait! He he!"

Chairman Mu?

Oh. The Mu Group sure acts slowly. I suppose they haven't issued a public announcement about my resignation yet, and that's why not many know that I've stepped down as the family head.

Whatever. Now isn't the time to be concerned over such trivialities. Who knows if these snobs will still welcome me so warmly after knowing the truth?

The bureau chief had no idea what was going through the man's mind as he respectfully invited him into his office for further discussion.

The moment they were within the confines of his office, Mu Yazhe did not bother with small talks and just stated the purpose of his visit.

Being a busy man, the bureau chief was unaware of this case at first, for he usually only took on the major cases. However, upon the man's mention of this particular case, he summoned the captain who was responsible for it with a phone call to find out the progress of their investigation.

The captain entered the office moments later and was shocked to know the identity of the visitor after his boss's flattering introduction of the man. He initially thought that the particular case he was handling was just a simple case of robbery. After all, they had searched the crime scene and found nothing suspicious. With the perpetrator remaining at large and the victim still in a critical and unconscious stage, they reached a bottleneck with this case due to the limited clues they could gather. The case had, therefore, been temporarily shelved until further clues were found.

Never did he expect the victim's son-in-law to be the legendary, young yet rigorous CEO of the Mu family. He was so surprised by this news that he could not help but break into a cold sweat.

One really mustn't judge a person by their appearance!

To think that I've mistakenly assumed that the victim came from an ordinary background. Gosh, I really didn't expect this!

From what I know, Yun Yecheng works at a factory and draws a salary of a few thousand yuan, which is barely enough to make ends meet.

Why is he slogging so hard when his son-in-law is from the Mu family?

Any job they assign him surely pays handsomely!

At the thought of this, the captain nervously said, "My apologies, Chairman Mu! If I knew that he's your father-in-law, we would put this case on top of our priority list!"

Mu Yazhe waved his hand in dismissal, asking bluntly, "You've been following this case right from the start. Do you have any leads?"

"We found nothing suspicious..." The captain shook his head blankly. "We didn't manage to find any clues at the crime scene. It seems that the perpetrator came prepared, so they didn't leave behind any incriminating evidence. What's more; it rained heavily after that, so the collection of evidence became much more difficult. I'm waiting for the patient to regain consciousness so that I can take his testimony to see if I can find any clues from it."

Chapter 2335: Highly Questionable (3)

The captain then asked somewhat hesitantly, "May I know if the victim has regained consciousness?"

"He just came out from the ER but isn't out of the woods yet," answered Mu Yazhe.

"Then..."

He added, "I'm afraid it will be hard for you to get any clues from my father-in-law. His larynx was seriously injured in addition to his grave injuries. The police might've to wait for some time until he could speak again."

"Oh... That'll make things difficult on our side!"

"Difficult?" the man retorted. "The perpetrator remains at large as we speak. If we let that person off scot-free, more victims may appear. Shouldn't your top priority be tracking the offender down and bringing them to justice?"

"It's easier said than done. We police aren't omnipotent gods. What's more; we encountered many obstacles while trying to collect evidence, and with our lead cut off, we won't be able to find any useful clues even if we continue with the investigation!"

His countenance turned darker as the police captain continued to rattle on.

The bureau chief sitting at the side tactfully let out a loud, meaningful cough as he shot his subordinate a warning look. Only then did the young captain realize how rude his words came across. He hung his head low in a fluster.

"Aren't there any surveillance cameras around in the neighborhood?"

"There are several of them."

"Why didn't you guys go through the footage, then?"

The captain spoke in resignation. "The incident happened in an old neighborhood, which was built in 1988. The surveillance cameras located there lacked maintenance over the decades and aren't working anymore. We've retrieved the security footage belonging to the buildings around there. Apart from the cameras placed at garages, entrances, and some other important locations, the rest failed to capture anything useful to our investigation as the incident happened in their blind spots."

After mulling over the issue for a moment, the bureau chief suddenly said, "Go retrieve the footage of those cameras located at the entrance of the neighborhood and see if you can find any suspicious-looking people entering and leaving the area based on the estimated time of the incident!"

His subordinate shook his head helplessly. "That's exactly what we did at first, but after even reviewing hours of the footage, we didn't see anyone suspicious at all."

"How's that possible?!" he exclaimed. "Do you have any footage of the victim entering from the main gates? We can find our suspect by seeing if there's anyone suspicious tailing him!"

The captain explained, "The thing is we don't have any footage of the victim entering from the main gates, chief. There's a garage located near the back gate in this neighborhood, and the residents rarely use the back gate. Based on the proximity between the victim's apartment and the back gate, I surmised that he used the back gate to enter the neighborhood."

"Look into this and retrieve the relevant footage."

"There's no surveillance camera installed at the back gate, though."

The bureau chief cursed inwardly. *This offender really knows where to commit their crime!*

Did they run a check on the neighborhood's camera locations before committing the crime?

"This..." He frowned in concern. "Aren't there any witnesses at all?"

"Unfortunately not. The incident happened rather late at night; on top of that, the residents rarely walked about on the streets at night due to the neighborhood being located near the industrial area, where there are a lot of immigrants loitering about. We thought that the cameras at the garage would have captured some footage that might be useful in our investigation, but alas, they weren't angled to capture images of people entering and leaving from the back gate."

Rapping his knuckles against the desk, he asked sternly, "Could this be a robbery case?"

Chapter 2336: Highly Questionable (4)

Rapping his knuckles against the desk, he asked sternly, "Could this be a robbery case?"

The captain hesitantly answered, "It's possible, but such a cruel modus operandi is unheard of. I, myself, have never encountered any robbery cases in which the robber carried concentrated sulfuric acid around. Such a cruel method could only be carried out by someone who's got a personal vendetta with the victim!"

Upon hearing this, the bureau chief carefully glanced at the bigshot and asked, "Chairman Mu... he he... Do you know if your father-in-law has any enemies?"

He proceeded to reveal his suspicions. "I suspect that the perpetrator was out for revenge, though I don't have any conclusive evidence on hand right now. It's why there's little progress with this case, which in turn led to it being shelved."

Mu Yazhe expressionlessly requested, "Let me take a look at the surveillance footage."

"The security footage in relatively good condition was all copied into my laptop. You're welcome to take a look at each anytime you want," replied the captain, who was then ordered by the bureau head to bring his laptop over and retrieve the footage at once.

From then on, Mu Yazhe sat in front of the laptop and stared intently at its screen, where it played the footage from the timeframe of 10 PM to 1 AM on fast-forward at four times its original speed.

The neighborhood was indeed slightly old. With the residents there refusing to pay the required building maintenance fees, the property management company was almost as good as closed. It was practically just an empty shell now, save for one security booth. Hence, security in the neighborhood became a problem over time.

Aside from thievery, robbery was rampant in the area. It was just that the robbers would usually only target the valuable items, never doing anything that could harm or threaten their victims' lives.

The surveillance camera in the garage was new, only being installed by the building management because the residents kept complaining about their cars getting stolen.

Mu Yazhe kept rewinding and forwarding the footage throughout the two or so hours he spent there, going through these videos. The bureau chief and the captain patiently sat next to him and watched the footage as well, hoping to find some sort of clue from this number of video footage.

He was suddenly struck with a thought by the end of the video-watching session. "Are there any surveillance cameras at the side of the road, near the apartment building?"

"Yes, but just one. It's located at the narrow yet winding path right next to the garage."

He recalled the captain mentioning a shortcut leading to the apartment building in his analysis of the routes at the crime scene.

That got the captain's attention right away.

We didn't check the surveillance camera there!

We weren't concerned about it because it's located in a small corner.

"Retrieve the footage!" ordered the man.

Without further delay, the captain skillfully worked on his laptop and retrieved that particular footage.

After adjusting the time and playing the footage at eight times its original speed, they finally saw the appearance of Yun Yecheng's figure at 11:45 PM.

The elderly man was dressed in a white outfit that night, which made him stand out in the dark. It was a new set of clothes bought by his daughter and son-in-law, so he was particularly fond of them.

A suspicious figure appeared shortly after he walked by.

It was a short-haired person with average stature in a plain attire. Dressed in a black ensemble with a beret on the head, that person was hardly conspicuous. In fact, they appeared just like a random passerby that would not catch anyone's attention.

This person, dressed in all-black, looked ready to melt into the dark night. Coupled with the pixelated image of the surveillance camera, all they could see was a shadow following the old man closely from behind.

Chapter 2337: I give you ten days to solve this crime.

This person, dressed in all-black, looked ready to melt into the dark night. Coupled with the pixelated image of the surveillance camera, all they could see was a shadow following the old man, not more than three meters apart, from behind.

The person's actions could be observed as especially cautious. There was nothing in the person's hands, but when Mu Yazhe froze the image, he noted that the person's pocket was bulging. It probably contained a bottle of sulfuric acid!

The captain zoomed in the screenshot to twice its original size, but the image regrettably grew fuzzier after he did. The quality of the image was so bad that they could not even distinguish the characteristics of the clothes, let alone the suspect's facial features.

The captain could not help grumbling. "This quality of the images from the old camera is really terrible!"

The police chief chimed in. "Why don't we check the other surveillance recordings to see if we can identify the suspect from there?"

Another hour went by as they searched through their records.

The strange thing was that they could find any trails of the person on any other surveillance cameras. There was no footage of them leaving the crime scene as if they had vanished into thin air after the attack.

"If the person is indeed the culprit, then this person must be really scheming! They probably slipped off from an obscure corner to avoid attention after the attack."

This small neighborhood had many railings that were old and worn out after years of neglect. Many of these fences were already broken; thus, an adult could flee from the place effortlessly.

"Let's check the surveillance cameras on the streets just outside the neighborhood. We can use the basic features of the suspect to start our investigation. Hopefully, we can find more clues along the way."

Just as the chief finished his sentence, the captain threw him a wet blanket. "That neighborhood is not far from the industrial estate and mostly surrounded by provincial roads. Some of the roads don't even have the facility to monitor illegal activities, let alone have security monitoring. That's why the area often has reports of theft and robbery, which all add up to dozens of big and small cases each year. The rent over there is cheap, though, so many factory workers still like to stay there."

Now, this would be tricky.

It would be difficult to make progress just by knowing the basic characteristics of the suspect. The shadow could not even lead to a criminal portrait.

On top of that, there were no eyewitnesses. If this case was to be investigated further, they had to rely on the victim's testimony to proceed with the next step.

Should this case be left unsolved?

No way.

Although there were no reliable clues as of now, it was still necessary to exert pressure on the authority.

The man did just that; imposing considerable pressure on the police chief, he demanded that the latter produce further clues and results in the next ten days. Even if the police could not find the suspect, they should at least be able to narrow the scope of investigation.

Of course, there was no way the chief would want to offend this omnipresent man in the capital.

As such, he eagerly nodded and agreed to the terms listed, until eventually being freed of the young man.

The moment Mu Yazhe stepped out of the police station, the chief's face collapsed, with anger lining his every wrinkle.

Not only did he have to tolerate the young man's insolence, his face had even gone stiff from all the fawning he did. Looking past his shoulder, he vented his anger on the captain. "Did you hear that?! He gave me ten days! You'd better produce some clues within the next ten days or you can pack up and return to your district station! You'll no longer be welcome here; do you hear me?!"

As a superior, he naturally threw the burden of the ultimatum onto his subordinate.

Chapter 2338: Sis, you need me now.

This captain was a young man who had graduated from the police academy five years ago. The fact that he could climb and fight his way up the ranks within a time spoke volumes of how ambitious and capable he was. Still, the surmounting pressure made him feel grouchy.

He thought, *If every case were easy to solve, then I wouldn't be stuck in this miserable position! Hmph! All those bigshots only know how to bark orders and issue ultimatums! Does he think every case is easy to crack?! I wouldn't have the capability even if I were Sherlock Holmes!*

His boss glanced at him and seemed to perceive what was going on in his mind, so he told him off. "Don't look at me! My face won't be able to give you any clues! You can stare at me all you want and you will not be able to solve the case still!"

"..."

"Do you hear me? Ten days! You can put aside the rest of the cases and focus on this one for now! Don't come and see me unless you have something to show, alright?!"

"Understood!"

...

By the time Yun Shishi woke up, it was already one in the afternoon.

The twins were still sound asleep.

In order not to disturb them, she sneaked into the bathroom when she needed to phone Gong Jie.

There was no sign of exhaustion in her brother's voice when he answered the call.

"Sis, have you woken up? Why don't you sleep a little longer?"

"How's my father?"

"He's still the same inside the hospital room. His condition got worse in the morning, so he had to be wheeled into the emergency room. He was revived then subsequently returned to his ward."

Her chest tightened when she heard that. "What?! He was sent to the emergency room again?"

"Yes..."

"Then, why didn't you call me?!"

He was silent for a while before giving his reply. "...I didn't want you to be worried."

The woman took a deep breath, and upon realizing that she had spoken harshly, she quickly apologized, "Xiao Jie, I'm sorry... I'm just really worried and scared... that I may just wake up without seeing my father for the last time."

The man's heart skipped a beat when he heard that.

Of course, how could he not know this feeling?

He, too, had that experience when he was a child and woke up without seeing his mother and sister. The family that he knew was gone in a flash.

"I'm sorry, sis. Luckily, your dad was successfully revived; according to the doctor, his condition is beginning to stabilize, but just in case, they need to keep him under observation over the next few days."

His sister nodded. "I'll be on my way to the hospital soon."

"What about the twins? Have they woken up yet?"

“Not yet; they are still sleeping.” She thought for a while and made a suggestion. “How about you bring some food over to this hotel? You haven’t slept for twenty-four hours; shouldn’t you take a rest, too? I’ll feel safer with you staying with the kids.”

“Sure.”

Half an hour later, Gong Jie went to the hotel with some takeouts. The moment he stepped into the room, she could see his face overwhelmed with fatigue and could not help exclaiming in distress, “Xiao Jie, you’ve been standing guard for a night; you must be very tired!”

“No worries,” he replied nonchalantly. “I’m used to it.”

“Why don’t you go back first? You don’t have to stay behind because of this.”

The man froze for a second before he turned to look at her. Walking up to her, he suddenly pulled her into his arms.

“I’m not going anywhere.” His eyes beamed gently at his sister before he continued speaking. “You need me now, sis, so I’m not going anywhere. I want to be here for you.”

Chapter 2339: We were together even before we were born.

Furthermore, he was on vacation now, but regardless if he was not, he would still push away some responsibilities to keep her company.

His sister was stunned for a while before smiling. “Aren’t you tired?”

“Not at all!” The man shook his head and then spoke with a serious look on his face. “I’ll never feel tired as long as I’m with you!”

“Xiao Jie...”

Gong Jie stared deep into his sister’s eyes, then told her passionately, “Do you know how much I wish for us to return to the past? That way, we’d always be together and never apart. I want to be the person who’s always next to you.”

His sister’s eyes flickered for a second before she chuckled. “You’ll have your family in the future, just like me. You’ll have a loving wife and adorable children. It isn’t possible to return to the way we were in the past.”

“I’ll stay with you before that eventual day,” he whispered, his eyes turning soft. “I was next to you before we were even born, remember?”

Yes, that was right.

They were fraternal twins.

They had had each other ever since the beginning.

Their mother had once mentioned how they were born, too.

They were holding hands when they arrived into this world. Even when they were sent to the incubator, they did not let go of each other's hands.

As they grew up, they were inseparable. Both shared telepathy, knowing what the other was thinking without saying a word.

The girl would rejoice when the boy was happy.

The boy's mood would sink for no reason when the girl was feeling depressed. He would keep her company without complaints or even a word exchanged.

They had identical mannerism, be it laughing or crying.

Their mother had once said that the two of them would mirror each other in whatever they did, even in a simple task like brushing their teeth. They seemed to have a tacit understanding and were the splitting image of each other, especially when they stood together.

'I was next to you even before we were born.'

Her heart melted at his words as she hugged him in return. "Xiao Jie, I really feel safe with you by my side!"

Her brother had finally grown up. He was no longer the dumb troublemaker she knew from their younger days. The boy had grown up to become someone who was dependable.

He gave her an indulgent smile, ruffled her hair gently, and coaxed, "Get moving! Let me rest for a short while here. You must inform me quickly if something crops up."

"Alright."

As she stepped out of the hotel suite, she saw a young man standing outside the door.

He was in a smart suit with his back leaning against the wall. The bespectacled chap looked genteel, but the earpiece he was wearing betrayed his identity as a personal bodyguard.

He drew close when he saw her emerging from the room.

She put up her guard immediately. Just as he was within earshot of her, the man explained, "Miss Yun, don't be afraid; Mr. Gong specifically assigned me to be your bodyguard."

So it's a false alarm!

"I'm going to the hospital now."

"Sure; let me accompany you."

She nodded. "Thank you!"

"No worries; I'm merely following the boss's order."

When she reached the hospital, her husband happened to be back as well.

He bumped into her as he took his leave from the doctor's office. Cocking a brow, he asked, "Did you get enough sleep?"

“Yes, what about you? Did you sleep at all last night?”

“I took a short rest inside the car.”

“I saw you coming out from the doctor’s office. What did the doctor say? How’s the condition of my father? When will he wake up?”

Chapter 2340: Entering the Infection Period

She anxiously bombarded him with a string of questions.

“There’s no danger for the time being, but we have to keep a tight watch for he’s in the infection period.”

“He’s safe only for the time being?” She shuddered at the thought. “Does this mean that his life... is at risk any time?”

Her husband nodded. “We’ll see how good his recuperation ability is during this infection period.”

If the old man managed to pull through this time, he would undergo the sixth round of surgery the following week to repair the damage to his eyes and eyelids. The surgeon would also perform functional skin grafting on his arms and knee joints, as well as remove the dead tissues.

As he was vulnerable to infection during this period, the medical team could not perform intensive surgery on him in the meantime.

The doctor proceeded to explain that, as the old man’s face was badly damaged, his eyes could not close completely. The worst thing was that his face had started to ulcerate from the burns, so even with the skin grafting, he would be unable to restore his former appearance.

Not only was he totally disfigured, he would have to bear with the pain for the rest of his life. That was the most frightening thing of all.

The woman was silent for a while before she gave a meek smile. “No matter what, I must stay cheerful, so I can face the challenge with him.”

“Don’t worry. He’s still alive and that’s the most important thing. We don’t have to dwell on the rest for now.” Hugging her in her arms, he comforted her gently. “No matter what happens, I’m here with you.”

“Eh!” The woman tried to relax her mind as she took a seat on the long bench.

“Hasn’t he woken up yet?”

“He was given anesthesia during the operation and still hasn’t recovered from the effects; hence, he has yet to regain consciousness.”

She heaved a long, heavy sigh. “That may be a good thing, actually. It may be suffering that awaits him once he wakes up.”

...

For the next two days, Yun Shishi and Gong Jie took turns keeping watch at the hospital, so it was up to Mu Yazhe to take care of the kids. On top of that, he started to shoulder heavier responsibilities after he received the land. He got busy really fast. Nevertheless, he would always make sure to take some time to visit the hospital.

The police would update him intermittently, but no definitive progress was made.

As Youyou was free with nothing to do at home during this time, he hacked into the city's surveillance system to spy on the area that his grandfather was staying in. Despite camping in front of the monitor daily, he could see nothing suspicious.

It was the perfect crime.

This was also why Mu Yazhe had become convinced that this was no simple robbery and assault case.

After the new year, Qin Zhou received quite a number of invitations from programs and auditions for Yun Shishi to attend.

He picked a couple of scripts and contacted her. She reverted, saying that she would need to take leave for half a month or so in the next one month due to family matters.

According to the artist, her father had met with an accident and was currently in the hospital. He was still in a life-threatening condition due to infection risks. Thus, she would need to stay by his side.

He was empathetic and understanding; thus, he moved her production schedules and advertisement shoots at a later date. The clients were agreeable as well.

Originally, there was a charity gala that he wanted to bring her along.

The so-called charity gala was actually referring to the prestigious Bazaar Charity Night. During the event, many celebrities would make their appearance with many famous people. In addition to the superstars and famous philanthropists, some billionaires would also be attendees.

Countless stars of course strove to get their names on the invitation list for this event as many well-known directors and producers would be present with sponsors.