

Sweet Love 2381

Chapter 2381: Emotional Breakdown

For the sake of loving him, she had plucked out the thorns one by one from her body until she was left with bruises and injuries.

She was hoping to regain her pride, self-esteem, and dignity from him someday, but her hopes had all been dashed at this instant!

“I’m a fool! I’m such a stupid fool!”

At the mention of her sore spot, Song Enya clutched and clawed at the bedsheets, with snot and tears flowing out of her facial orifices, making her look like a hysterical mess.

Jiang Qimeng wrapped the lass in her arms, feeling heartache for her.

The missy wailed. “I was wrong, mom! I should’ve listened to you back then! I shouldn’t have pestered him! I-I have lost everything now, though... my pride, my self-esteem—everything’s been destroyed by him! Like a hedgehog that has its spines plucked out, I’m wounded all over and reduced into a laughingstock! M-Mu Yancheng must be hating me for my shamelessness and low-handedness! He must be thinking that I’m cheap and loose! Only God knows how he will look down upon me when he finds out how the child came about!”

“Then, find your pride and self-esteem back!”

“I can’t!” she cried. “Look at how smug they must be now! What can I do at this point? I should’ve seen this coming! I should’ve known that a prideful man like him wouldn’t allow himself to be in a despondent state. My naïve self actually thought that he lost everything the moment he left the Mu Group! How ludicrous that thinking was!”

Given how prideful the man was, he would never allow himself to fall into the pit.

“My silly child, that’s why you should be working hard to live a better life! Trust me on this; no one will dare see you as a laughingstock once you marry into the Mu family in a grand fashion! What of that cousin of mine managing to stage a comeback? ‘A starving camel is bigger than a horse’; even though the Mu Group has suffered a great loss, Shengyu Financial Group still isn’t its match! The Mu Group is a long-standing company with deep roots and unshakeable status! Others will only be envious of you becoming Young Madam Mu; who will dare look down on you?!”

Tears clung onto her lashes as she nodded weakly. “I laid my cards on the table with Mu Yancheng the other day. He refused to believe that our encounter that day was a pure coincidence. The Mus are indeed not easily fooled!”

“What of him knowing?! He still has to acknowledge the child whether he likes it or not!” answered her mother with her lips curling into a cold smirk.

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The Mu residence.

“Your child?!” Mu Shumin stared wide-eyed at her nephew in shock. “What are you talking about? Song Enya is expecting your child?”

“Yes!”

“A-Are you trying to drive me to an early grave?! How could you stir up such trouble at this critical juncture?!” She fumed, feeling disappointed with her nephew.

Mu Yancheng felt immensely aggrieved. “I didn’t knock her up, aunt! You’re unaware of this, but she managed to get pregnant with my child through other means! I didn’t touch a single finger of hers!”

“How could she possibly get pregnant if you didn’t touch her?!”

The elderly woman did not believe him. “There’s no use shirking your responsibility when she’s already carrying your child!”

He explained, “She underwent artificial insemination to expect my child! How does that have to do with me, then? I wouldn’t be denying it if something really did happen between us.”

Chapter 2382: Low-down!

“Artificial insemination?!”

The middle-aged woman was taken aback by this revelation.

Her nephew nodded wryly and continued with a woeful expression. “You can speak to Second Uncle regarding this matter. He has already sent someone to investigate her pregnancy! I believe it won’t take long for us to find out the full story!”

Mu Shumin knitted her brows in surprise. “Why did she do this and why did it have to be you of all people?! I was told that she’s bent on Mu Yazhe, so why did she end up with your baby, instead?!”

Mu Yancheng was equally clueless as his aunt.

“Heh... I don’t have the answer, either! Who knows what’s going on in her head? I was never wary of her and didn’t expect her to turn around and bit me like this!”

His aunt was piqued. “Oh, why did you say that? What happened? Tell me everything!”

“I met her at a bar that day...” The young man briefly went about his encounter that night.

The expression on his aunt’s face went through a myriad of changes as she listened to his narration, and by the time he finished his story, she was already holding a look of absolute shock!

“How could she do such a despicable thing to you?! Hmph, and to think that her mother went along with her act! Jiang Qimeng is no better than her low-down daughter! How did the Songs discipline the women in their household?! Is Song Zhengguo aware of this?”

"I'm not sure." Her nephew thought for a while. "All in all, you've got to believe me, aunt; I didn't touch that woman at all! I've had numerous flings out there, but I know where to draw the line! I would never touch a woman who's off-limit! I can't afford to mess around with the Songs. Her father, who's the mayor here, will skin me alive if I do that!"

"If this is true, then, we can't keep the baby!" His aunt told him solemnly after mulling.

"Why did you say that?"

"A conniving woman like her will turn our household upside down if she successfully marries into our family! Our family is already complex enough without having another woman to stir sh*t! You have to marry a woman whom you can easily control. I'm afraid Song Enya is too manipulative for you!"

Mu Yancheng begged to differ with a snort. "There's no woman whom I can't tame!"

"That's because you haven't had a taste of defeat in a woman's hands! He he! Don't look down on the female species."

The chap went quiet for a while before something seemed to strike him. "Aunt, do you know the recent listing of Shengyu Financial Group in New York?"

The older woman's face turned sour the moment she heard the question. "The mention of this made my blood boil! Mu Yazhe, that b*st*rd! No wonder he was so easy with the decision to relinquish his position in the Mu Group. It's as if what we have is a pile of rubbish in his eyes! I questioned his intention at first; why would a man turn away from power and fortune for a woman? Who would've expected that he already built his own empire behind our backs using our resources?! Your uncle was so furious that he almost suffered a stroke recently! That rascal is too unscrupulous! He's out to bring down and swallow the Mu Group, making us his lackeys!"

Chapter 2383: Suffer in silence!

The thought was too much for the woman. "That b*st*rd! We can't let him have his way!"

"Then, what do you think we should do next?!"

"Since he's out to declare war on us, we'll have to fight him head-on regardless of the cost!" She stood up slowly and continued speaking in a vicious tone. "At the very least, we need to show him that our family won't be easily taken down! Shengyu is still a long way from bringing down the Mus!"

The two of them glanced at each other with an evil glint in their eyes.

The next day, Mu Shumin sought Mu Linfeng to discuss the matter of Song Enya.

The middle-aged man sat at his work desk, threw her a glance, and replied brashly, "I've gotten a rough idea of the full story now!"

"Brother, don't be cryptic. Since you said you know the story, tell me what's going on."

"That lass didn't intend to steal Mu Yancheng's sperms but Mu Yazhe's! She then ran off to the States to undergo in-vitro fertilization, but Mu Yazhe, that chap, found out about it and secretly swapped his with Mu Yancheng's sperms. The girl, who didn't know this, went through a lot of hardship for the procedure

to succeed. She got a rude shock after that nephew of ours made fun of her upon her return. Not only that; the chap also blackmailed Song Zhengguo into giving up that land in Xin Cheng with that incident, then he used that land to finance his listing on the stock market. This was his plan all along—Song Enya, the Mu Group, and I have been thoroughly used! I must say that that brat has opened my eyes with his intricate plot!”

“So what do we do next?” she asked with much frustration. “Song Enya is just too shameless and crazy with the way she creeps into our nephew. How about this: Let’s try to abort her baby secretly. Surely, we can’t let such a conniving woman into our family?”

“How do you intend to do that?” asked her brother in return.

The woman was snubbed and looked at the other blankly.

“Don’t tell me you’re gonna abduct the girl and then abort the child by force?”

“Can’t we do that?!”

“You have to remember that the Songs are not to be trifled with!”

“Why does the Mus need to be wary of the Songs?” retorted the woman disdainfully.

“At this moment, we have nothing to gain in offending them! The threat will have been believable if it has come from Mu Yazhe. That fella has the capability to do that. As for you, forget it! You’d better not make our situation worse!”

The woman had gotten agitated by then. “Song Enya is too manipulative. She spells trouble for us!”

“That girl won’t go far! Plus, with you around, what mischief can she cause? Her petty schemes won’t stir dirt in our household. I think, after weighing the pros and cons, we’ll follow her wish and let her marry into our family! The Mus can still afford to give her the status that she wants!”

The woman bit her lower lip in bitter frustration.

*This is what happens when one loses their advantages. To think that we have to end up being trampled by a lowly b*tch!*

Chapter 2384: He is a spare tire.

“I leave you to manage this affair! Since the girl is pregnant, we can’t afford to delay this matter! Besides, marrying Song Enya may not be a bad thing for us. No matter what, her father still holds considerable power over here. He’ll come to good use for us!”

“Poor Yancheng, he’ll be aggrieved!”

“What’s there to complain?!” Mu Linfeng scoffed. “He’ll be more aggrieved if he marries Lin Xueya! That woman’s temper is too much for him to bear. He can always look for a few mistresses in the future if he wants to. The Songs are out to get Yancheng to acknowledge the child, and so the most urgent task at hand is to settle that dispute.”

“Well...” The woman still could not swallow her pride, but after mulling for a while, she had to give in at last. “Alright, we’ll do as you say!”

After she returned home, she unwillingly began preparation according to her brother’s decision.

Mu Yancheng was not too surprised when told of this outcome, though he still felt slightly aggravated.

Marrying Song Enya was neither a loss nor a grievance to him; it merely made him sore!

After all, he was the spare tire in this matter! That missy had wanted to marry Mu Yazhe, but when the latter rejected her, he eventually had to come in to take his cousin’s place! He had to take over a reject in other words!

Am I here only because Mu Yazhe doesn’t want her?!

This was a mental hurdle he could not overcome, but since his uncle had made up his mind, the young man still got ready to marry the girl in no time. Once the wedding was over, his uncle would then get busy to sit him in the Mus’ coveted chair.

That position was still open, but the longer it remained empty, the more the uneasiness grew inside the family. A family-managed conglomerate like theirs could not afford to be leaderless where danger abounded.

Once he married the missy, the Mus would have the Songs’ backing to overcome this PR crisis.

The thought made him feel a little better.

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Late at night in the hospital.

Yun Shishi kept watch inside her father’s ward while she read her script quietly. Finally, at around midnight, she began to doze off out of weariness.

She did not know how long had been sleeping when she heard a rustling noise. Sitting up abruptly, she opened her groggy eyes to see her husband sitting next to the sickbed, gently dabbing her father’s lips with some water.

“You’re back.” She was mildly surprised.

Turning his head to look at her, he said, “Oh, you’re awake.”

“Eh!”

Walking up to him, she told him rather begrudgingly, “When did you come back? Why didn’t you wake me up?”

The man had flown off to the States a while ago to get busy with Shengyu Financial Group’s IPO. He did not tell her that he would be returning.

She did not know much about Shengyu, nor did she have an inclination of how big his company was. All she knew was that her husband had his assets and company outside of the Mu Group.

Mu Yazhe did not talk much about his business, either; he wanted her to focus on taking care of her father.

"I rushed over once I got off the plane. After I came in, I saw your script on the floor, where you were dozing and decided not to disturb you. You must be very tired."

"You should've woken me up."

"You ought to rest more when you're tired. I'm here to take care of your father."

The woman also took a seat next to the bed.

Chapter 2385: I cannot wait.

The woman also took a seat next to the bed.

"How's dad?" he asked.

"The doctor said that his condition has stabilized, but he can't take food or drink water still. He must be maintained on the drip for the time being." She paused for a bit before inquiring after him. "How's business? Is everything going well?"

"Yes. All's well and good." He reached out and tucked a fringe behind her ear lovingly. "Everything's going as planned."

She smiled in acknowledgement, knowing that her man was truly exceptional and capable. He would not allow himself to fail. Whatever he had set his mind to do, he would give his all. Thus, she was never worried about him.

He smiled in return, tugged her in his embrace, and told her gently, "I did promise to give you a good life."

Visibly touched, she hugged his waist tightly and replied, "Yes, I know."

"I made arrangements for you to try the wedding gowns after this busy period."

She was startled. "Wedding gowns?"

"Why? Don't tell me you've forgotten about this?" He stroked her nose bridge teasingly. "I'm referring to the wedding gowns to be worn for our matrimonial shoot!"

"Oh, that's right!" The woman slapped her head in consternation. "I've been so busy recently this matter completely escaped my mind!"

He ruffled her hair indulgently. This was an action he loved to do on her.

It was said that the way a man truly spoiled his woman was not by giving her a princess treatment but by indulging her as a daughter, instead.

She slapped his hand away. "Hey, you're messing up my hair!"

"Your pretty image is long gone, anyway."

“Hmph!” She snorted at him a couple of times only to earn his off-handed remark. “You snort like a little piggy.”

She was pretty startled to hear this from him. This was a common term of endearment used between couples when they flirted with each other. She would not have imagined him, a man who was so aloof and removed from the public, to be capable of using a mainstream phrase!

“Who said so? You’re the one who’s a piggy!”

“I don’t know how to snort like a pig.”

“If I am a piggy, then what about you? Hmph! I say: You must be a savage who lets no one off, not even a piggy!”

Just as she finished with her rebuff, the man suddenly wrapped his hands around her nape and locked his lips with hers passionately.

The unexpected kiss stole her breath away.

His kissing was gentle yet harried. After the beautiful kiss, he pressed against her forehead and uttered softly, “Little fool, you have no idea how much I wish to see you in a wedding gown.”

Her heart skipped a beat when she heard his loving proclamation. Looking up, she stared right into his indulgent gaze and her heart raced even more.

‘I can’t wait to see you in a wedding gown.’

He had imagined this scene numerous times where she stood before him in her beautiful, pure wedding gown. He knew that the scorching passion inside him would soar at the sight!

“Is the wedding gown... ready?”

“Yes. I’ve already gotten three sets custom-made, including a few other pieces in several styles. When the time comes, I’ll take you to try them on directly.”

“Do you know that I’m actually feeling nervous about this whole thing?”

He was amused. “What’s there to be nervous about?”

Chapter 2386: The surgery is successful.

She admitted truthfully, “I saw the brides in their gowns looking so beautiful... I don’t know if I’ll look just as good as them.”

She was just being shy!

In the same way, she had wondered, countless times, how she would react when she stood before him in a wedding gown. When that day came along, would she be so nervous that she did not know where to put her hands?

It was hard to express that feeling inside her.

“When are we trying out the gowns?”

“Next week. I’ve already set a date.”

“Eh, fine! I think dad’s condition will have stabilized by then, too.”

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The next day, Yun Yecheng underwent his second surgery.

It was very successful. After his condition stabilized, Yun Shishi arranged a few nurses to look after him and returned to work thereafter.

Qin Zhou accepted a few assignments on her behalf, but because of her father’s incident, these projects had to be delayed indefinitely.

The investors had since grown impatient with waiting. After all, with the contract already signed, a day’s delay would mean a day lost.

It was good that her manager had excellent PR skills, and he managed to calm their nerves suitably.

Upon returning to work, she was immediately thrown into a whirlwind schedule.

She was sent to do a series of commercial photoshoots before being hurried off to film three commercial clips. Soon after, Qin Zhou hustled her to participate in a few entertainment programs, then finally, she started a new production.

This production was a contemporary idol drama, in which she played a talented racing car driver. The show had plenty of family feuds and racing scenes; it was pretty eye-catching.

Honestly, there were not many shows involving racing on the market. It was not as if there had not been any TV shows or movies about racing, yet most of them were met with a lukewarm response since their releases.

Racing was not a popular subject, and it was hardly embraced by mainstream viewers.

The more popular title in this genre would still go to a Japanese manga series called ‘Initial D’.

However, this time, the script was based on a popular novel with a sizable fanbase. The novel had an instant cult-following once it was published, and it sold over a hundred thousand copies a month after being released, much to the dismay of many publishers!

Many publishers had rejected this title when it was first submitted, with the reason that this subject was too unpopular to become a best-seller.

Who would have thought that the novel would turn out to be so popular in the end? Many publishers were upset with this missed opportunity!

The main reason the novel was so popular could be traced back to its extremely likeable heroine. On top of that, the plot was suitably designed, with many ingenious and intense moments. This was also why Lin Zhi had fought hard to get the role.

One must know that the plot was not the only important aspect of a good script but also the character design.

A dazzling character could make an actor famous overnight.

It was with outstanding characters that superstars were born, quickly accumulating a large number of fans even when they had just debuted in showbiz.

In this production, the heroine, Han Zhen, came from an ordinary family, where her father was a talented racer about twenty years ago. After he bagged the main prize, he incurred the jealousy of his competitors. This led into him getting in an accident after someone tampered with his race car. One of his legs was crippled as a result, and he had to retire prematurely from the racing scene. His wish was for his daughter to become an excellent driver like himself.

Chapter 2387: Do I have to cut my hair short?

As such, the man started training his daughter from an early age and never stopped developing her talent in the racing field.

However, Han Zhen was not interested in racing at all; even though she had inherited her father's talent and despite her flair for racing, she found the sport to be a bore.

It was not until a misadventure that she became interested in racing and eventually came to know that her father used to be a really good car racer.

Later, she discovered that the father of the man she was in love with was responsible for her father's mishap.

The character design for the female protagonist, this time, was unlike the usual clout of happy-go-lucky and silly yet pretty girls of idol dramas. This lady was calm, reliable, and decisive. As a racer, she was even cooler.

The only thing was, as the heroine in the novel had a short crop, Yun Shishi would have to cut hers short for this production, too.

This really bothered her.

The thought that she had to cut her hair short before the wedding was not a good one. She was worried that she might look ugly as a bride with short hair.

Besides, I have yet to take my wedding shoots!

When she first got hold of the script, she could not help feeling worried and nervous, so she went to her agent. "I read the script and there are many drifting scenes involved... This is bad! I don't think I can do those scenes... They're too dangerous for me!"

"Please. We have CGIs for those scenes! What are you so worried about? I'm not about to let you make a car drift."

The protagonist felt better upon hearing that.

However, she would still need to complete a series of special training before filming began officially. Although some scenes could rely on stand-ins, a couple of the shoots still required the actress to complete the actions herself.

A few interesting incidents happened in the interim.

On her first go at the race track, she sat in the passenger seat to observe the look, mannerism, and behavior of a professional racer at his game. Alas, after screaming her head off one round on the track, she alighted from the vehicle to throw up at a corner.

It was too stimulating!

The racers, who were engaged by the production team, were all pros and approached the challenges head-on. A few times, the actress witnessed the rear of the car no more than five centimeters away from a fence, and beyond the fence was a cliff. If the car were to make a mistake and spin out of control, it would dash off this cliff.

She was absolutely horrified, which earned a chiding from her manager. "Please, woman; can you show a bit more guts?! You're already so scared when it's not even your turn at the wheel yet; don't tell me that you're gonna faint by the time it's your turn?!"

The woman was not persuaded. "It's too dangerous. How about me rejecting this production?"

"You can't!" The manager would not back down. "Do you know how many actresses tried to get their hands on this role? The only reason you got this was the rave reviews from 'The Green Apple'! I'm gonna cry for you to see if you pull out from this drama!"

She crossed her arms around her chest and teased, "Sure! Why don't you cry for me to see now? I'll promise to do my best, then."

Her manager was dumbstruck, then actress continued. "Actually, I feel that Jun Mo will be a better fit for this show; don't you think so? She looks cool, has short hair, and races as well."

"The heroine only wears a crop; she isn't a tomboy. Besides, Jun Mo is too manly for the emotional scenes. Her popularity isn't as high as yours, so the investors aren't interested." After a pause, he spoke rather disheartenedly. "Are you trying to push my buttons by saying all these?"

"I'm just curious coz I've never seen you cry."

"Stop your nonsense! You'd better put in all you have into the training over the next few days. I promise that you'll become an A-lister with this production."

"Alright, alright!" The artist could only give a rueful laugh. "I'll do my best for this show."

"That's more like it!" He caressed her head. "Now, that's my girl!"

Chapter 2388: I am not going to dislike you.

After the first day of training, she ran home and ruefully plunged straight into her man's arms, who was working in his study room. With a troubled look, she asked, "What should I do, hubby? My new show

demands me to cut my hair short. I'm done for this time! I don't wanna have a short crop on my wedding day! I've been maintaining my long hair all this time!"

Mu Yazhe was wallowing in the sweetness of her endearing term when he caught her complaint of cutting her hair. This was when he perked up his ears.

"What kinda show requires you to cut your hair short?"

"It's a contemporary idol drama where I'm acting as a racing car driver."

The man turned his head to size her up suspiciously. "You? As a racing car driver?"

"Yeah."

"It's hard to imagine."

"Why?"

"You don't have guts for rough driving. You'll get carsick whenever I drive a bit faster. I think you'll just end up throwing up if you have to sit in a race car."

Uh...

The protagonist looked shamefacedly to the ground.

How could he blame me for getting carsick?

She shook him and emphasized in a troubled tone, "Hey, the gist of the matter here is: I won't be able to keep my long hair for this role!"

"No cutting."

"The character design stipulates that the heroine has short hair. The director doesn't allow me to wear a wig, or else it'll look too fake."

She was rather resistant against this proposal at that time, but her manager told her, "Shishi, remember: You're an actress and you must adopt professional ethics. In any case, we're not asking you to strip your clothes and run around naked."

"There's no difference between wanting me to cut my hair and getting me to strip!" she exclaimed, adding thereafter, "I've never cut my hair short. What if I don't look good in a short crop?"

"How's that possible? Your beauty is indisputable. If you wouldn't look good in a short crop, then others would be too ugly to mention. Don't say such things that others will hate you for!"

"I..."—the actress pursed her lips with a woeful look on her face—"I'm about to do my matrimonial shoot; I'll look funny in my wedding gown with a short crop!"

Qin Zhou was optimistic, though. "That's not a problem! Chairman Mu won't mind; I'm sure of it."

"How do you know that?"

"Even if you were to turn bald, you would still be his precious! He'd still take and kiss you as his own during the wedding."

His description befuddled the woman, though. She could not imagine herself wearing a short crop in her wedding gown on their grand day. Surely, that would be too jarring with the romantic atmosphere, would it not?

“Many actresses are keeping short hair, too. They look better compared to when they’re keeping their hair long.”

“At the very least, let me cut my hair after the wedding shoot, alright?”

“Then, you’d better hurry and get it over and done with!” He waved his arms dramatically. He “I’m giving you an advanced approval for your leave. When do you plan to do the shoot? I’ll give you three days of vacation leave.”

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She recomposed herself from her rumination to hear her husband telling her, “There’s nothing wrong with cutting your hair short.”

“Will I look less feminine in a crop?”

He turned his eyes to her breasts and shook his head with certainty. “Nope.”

She followed his gaze and realized that he was staring at her chest. Feeling embarrassed and vexed, she covered his face with her palms to shield his leering eyes and commented, “Hey, I’m serious!”

“I’m serious, too.” He suddenly held her waist and pulled her into his arms. Giving a perky kiss on her cheek, he said, “It’s alright. I won’t dislike you because you cut your hair short.”

“But I dislike it.” She cupped his face forlornly and petulantly with her hands. “I’m sure I’ll look very ugly in a crop.”

“Well, who told you to accept the script in the first place?”

“Qin Zhou forced his wishes on me! He did it behind my back.”

Chapter 2389: Dilemma

“Forced his wish on you?”

The man could not help squinting his eyes suspiciously when he heard that.

His woman immediately retorted, “Hey, don’t go imagining wild things.”

“Does cutting your hair short trouble you that much?”

The woman nodded her head with a pout, her innocent, sparkling eyes focusing on him petulantly at the same time.

“You don’t have to cut it short, then.”

Is there a need to be so troubled?

If the actress put her foot down on this matter, nobody could really force her to cut her hair.

“But... the role requires the heroine to sport a short crop! The director had effectively nailed me to the cross when he used that reason.” She cupped her long, silky hair in her hands and twirled it around her fingertips, feeling mournful as she commented, “What a pity! *Sigh...*”

Her man ruffled her hair with a smile. “Nobody will dare to touch your hair; don’t overthink on this matter.”

“Why did you say that?” she asked quizzically, looking dazed.

“There’s no ‘why’.” Cocking a brow, the man’s orbs darkened as he curled his lips into a smile. “I like your raven-colored hair, too. It’ll be a pity to cut this just to do a show.”

“Then... am I being unprofessional if I reject the order?” The artist then pouted. “Some time ago, a certain actress was criticized by netizens over unprofessionalism.”

“What for?”

“The leading lady was ruthlessly criticized by netizens for her lack of professionalism. They said that she refused to cut her hair short and chose to wear a wig, instead. Turns out that it spoiled the look in the show. There’s a torrent of criticisms hurled at her, thereafter, saying that she wasn’t working hard enough for her talent fee. Plus, she was found to be chewing gum while filming the show.”

The entertainment industry attracted all kinds of people, and it was growing fickle by the days. Acting was no longer just a job unlike in the past.

Ten years ago, movie stars and idols enjoyed unadulterated adoration from their diehard fans.

The fans in present times were certainly still obsessed with their favorite idols, but they were sensible in their support, too. Besides the idols’ looks, fans were more concerned with the character and artistry of the ones they idolized. The mentality of pursuing superstars had grown mature at this point. There was no mindless support or tolerance for the artists’ ugly side.

“The fans said that, despite her tons of earnings, her acting, character, and work ethics are poor; thus, some fans have begun to hate her. Actually... I feel that it’s true that chewing gum while on the job is rather ridiculous of her, but those personal attacks are too harsh, too.”

Mu Yazhe commented, “A high fee is indicative that she’s popular, and any shows she does will generate revenue, but as you know, this is how the public behaves. When an artist does what they want, they will support her; when the artist goes against their wishes, they will step on her. After all, there’s no need for them to be responsible with their words.”

“That’s true.”

It was true that with the anonymity the vast internet provided, it was quite impossible for anyone to be held accountable for their vicious words.

She added suddenly, “I still don’t agree that she’s being unprofessional when she refused to cut her hair. Acting has been idolized to an unrealistic level. Entertainers still have to depend on their luck to make it big, so standards needn’t be set too high or too low. Will an average employee cut her lovely hair just because her boss says so? Isn’t this infringing on her basic rights? And yet, when it comes to acting, we’ll be accused of being irresponsible and unprofessional if we refuse to do so.”

Chapter 2390: Pressurized

“There was this actress of the day who soaked herself in freezing pool water for the whole afternoon even though she was having her mens. Although I know that it’s just a publicity stunt, I can’t help but think of how terrifying moral abduction is. To be honest, this means that an actor must love work above their physical self. That’s why I don’t think that the starlet was being unprofessional when she refused to cut her hair short.”

Mu Yazhe listened with knitted brows but kept his mum.

Still lying in his arms, she continued to mutter forlornly, “After all, most young ladies will still want to look their best with long hair. Who will be willing to cut theirs?”

“You’re fretting unnecessarily!” quipped her husband playfully, adding, “Qin Zhou was only threatening you; he won’t force you to cut your hair.”

“Really?”

“Yup.”

His reassurance made her feel much better. Cupping his face with her hands, she came up with a sweet conclusion. “Fine, I’ll ride on your words! If my manager forces me to cut my hair, then I’ll...”

“What are you going to do, then?”

Her face sank, then she spoke sullenly, “Then I’ll shave your head bald when you’re sound asleep.”

Mu Yazhe: “...”

The man could just imagine the woman, with an eerie smile on her face, standing in front of the window with a shaving knife in hand on a dark, misty night. The mere thought was enough to send chills down his spine.

“Oh, one more thing.” A thought seemed to strike the woman. She then asked, “Did the police station come to you with any news regarding my father’s attack?”

“Not for the time being.”

“Don’t tell me that the authorities are gonna wrap up his case as robbery?”

“The police can’t do anything much when they are unable to find evidence. Their capability can only go so far despite the pressure exerted on them; that’s why even if it’s a vendetta at work, they don’t have the ability to nail the culprit.”

With a frown, the woman cast her eyes downward in disappointment.

He lifted her head by the chin and cajoled, “You don’t have to worry about this. I’ve already dispatched my men to look into this matter. As for your dad, I’ll send some people over to stand guard.”

“Alright!”

...

The next morning at Huanyu Tower.

Qin Zhou rushed to the office to have his regular meetings as usual, but the moment his foot stepped through the office door after pushing it open, a lanky, shadow fell upon his eyes that caused his eyelids to jerk violently.

There he saw his former boss, sitting at his desk like an old hand, mindlessly flipping through some scripts and program sheets on the table.

The latter heard the door opening and mouthed a 'hi' without looking up.

The manager did not know how long the unexpected guest had waited for him. He could feel his temples tightening, then his mouth gave a terrible twitch, but almost immediately, a standard smile formalized on his face as he greeted the other man. "This is early, Chairman Mu! One never visits unless they need something; may I know what orders you have this time?"

Finally, Mu Yazhe looked up, put aside the pile of documents in his hands, and asked casually, "Nothing much. Surely, I can hop over to catch up with an old friend, can't I?" He paused, then added, "The office doesn't seem friendly for a good catch-up, though."

Cocking a brow, the star manager suggested, "How about I invite you to the café next door?"

"Hmph. Sure!"

The young man nodded in response.

...

Inside the café.

Qin Zhou ordered a cup of coffee and English tea.

The manager had a habit of drinking coffee every morning. At the same time, he also knew his former boss's habit well—the other did not share his habit, so he ordered tea for the man, instead.

The man also ordered a few desserts. As he flipped through the menu, he commented, "Fancy having coffee at such early hours; you sure are laid back."

"Old habits die hard," replied the agent with a smile. "Chairman Mu is enjoying a bevy of good fortune recently! Everything seems to be going well with Shengyu getting listed in New York. It's in my plan to ask you out for a drink to celebrate the good news, actually."