

Sweet Love 2421

Chapter 2421: Dumbfounded

She smiled in comfort and relief.

As soon as they reached home, Youyou scurried off to the toilet and washed himself up before trying to sneak into his bedroom.

Unfortunately, he was nabbed on the spot and was taken to the living room by his mother, where they then sat on the sofa.

In his apprehension, she squinted at him before suddenly breaking into an utterly gentle smile, asking, "Youyou, why aren't you pestering your father to read you bedtime stories today?"

He replied with a scratch to his head. "Mommy, you have no idea how creepy daddy sounds when he reads us bedtime stories with a stoic face! It's enough to give me nightmares!"

Mu Yazhe, who was sitting right beside them, felt his face twitching as he sent a glare in his son's direction. "Give you nightmares?"

Putting on a solemn front, the boy mimicked his father's frightening and creepy tone as he narrated, "Once upon a time, there lived a king, a queen, and a cute, little princess in a beautiful castle in the Kingdom of Aryland..."

After reciting a small passage of the story in that tone, he accused his father. "It'll be strange if nightmares don't haunt our sleep after hearing that!"

His mother flicked him on the forehead.

"Don't change the subject!"

"Okay," he mumbled weakly with a pout on his lips.

"Do you know about the Gongs?"

As he tried his best to give an evasive answer with a 'mn', he thought to himself, *What did uncle tell mommy? Did he tell her about that family's background? Did he spill the beans about my deeds as well?*

Jeez, I'm the classic example of a good civilian now. I didn't do anything 'bad' apart from occasionally hacking into the Pentagon defense system and working on the basic development of Hurricane Group's Deva Eye project, which I'm responsible for.

The boy warily asked, "Did uncle say something to you?"

Yun Shishi narrowed her eyes in suspicion as she studied her younger son's expression and nodded in acknowledgment. "Yes, he said plenty of things."

"Like what?" he asked in trepidation. "What did he say?"

The mother and son were now completely engaged in psychological warfare.

She gave him a stern look. "Don't play any tricks with me. Confess and I'll go hard on you, while resistance shall be met with leniency."

"Ah?" said the boy nervously. "In that case, I'd better not confess anything!"

"Pfft—" The man choked on his cup of tea, while his older son burst into a fit of guffaws, almost tearing up upon hearing this.

In her anxiousness, the woman had completely gotten her words mixed.

A furious shade of blush crept up her face. "That was just a slip of the tongue! I'll smack your bum if you still don't tell the truth!"

"Okay, okay! I'll tell you everything!" Youyou raised his hands in surrender.

After sipping on his cup of warm milk, he asked, "Mommy, do you know anything about Hurricane Group?"

"Not really."

As he studied her expression, he carefully explained, "The Gongs aren't simple characters. The prestigious organization, which is well-known internationally, especially in the political arena, is basically... erm... a global firearms group that's managed by that family..."

"Fire..."—she nearly bit her tongue in shock—"F-Firearms?!"

Aren't they... as good as... terrorists then?

He hastily added, "Yeah! That group... sells firearms to governments and organizations... It started as a sea-shipping company, which later expanded into the firearms business before eventually developing to its current impressive scale."

Chapter 2422: Mommy, is this too shocking for you?

"It's fair to say that Hurricane Group practically dominates the global firearms market. On average, seven out of ten people in the world use the weapons made by its factories. Uncle is highly respected in his family and holds a key position in the company as one of its core members. He's mainly responsible for the North-American market as its person in charge. Besides that, he's the chief commander of the group, who's specifically responsible for the dealing of orders from various international organizations."

Yun Shishi was dumbfounded.

"Isn't that illegal?!"

"It's not completely illegal in our country, though. I think you're misunderstanding something here, mommy!"

He continued. "Unlike the peddlers who deal on the black market, Hurricane Group primarily deals with international orders, apart from dealing with governments; Africa is their most important market for firearms transactions. Most of its factory-made weapons are sold to the war zones in Africa. The other

international firearms dealers are no match to Hurricane Group. In fact, its biggest competitors are the five countries involved in the Five Power Defense Arrangements.”

“...”

“Excluding Z, M, E, F, and Y, Hurricane Group practically controls the outcome of wars in the world as the top international firearms dealer.”

Those countries had their military factories and also dealt with large numbers of international firearms orders. Thus, Hurricane Group naturally saw them as their biggest rivals.

Speaking of which, the United States’ FBI agents were Hurricane Group’s arch-enemies. Gong Jie was even listed as one of their top wanted fugitives.

The bigshots would naturally not sit back and watch when their state’s interests were threatened.

With the North-American sea-shipping route cut off by the US government, his job was to clear the way and evade the annoying international agents while transporting the firearms to the war zones.

“Are you kidding me?”

The woman was completely floored and found this hard to believe. To her, dealing with firearms was a treacherous job.

Smuggling?!

That’s illegal!

“Everything I said is true!” The boy suddenly added, “Do you remember uncle appearing on your engagement day?”

“Yeah.”

“That cargo ship of his isn’t simple; it was filled with firearms then. In other words, the things he had on that cargo ship could completely reduce that island into smithereens.”

This piece of information shocked her into speechlessness.

Youyou coughed awkwardly before asking tentatively, “Mommy, is this too shocking to you?”

She stared at him blankly before nodding. “Yes!”

“Then, do you still want me to go on?”

“Yes!” She hastily asked, “Is his job... very dangerous?”

The boy was stumped by the question.

Dangerous?

How can it not be dangerous?

Danger lurks everywhere in this field.

Gong Jie once encountered the FBI's international counter-terrorist group during a cargo-shipping trip to North America. A fierce war broke out between them, and he was lucky enough to escape, unscathed, that time. Had he been captured, he would have been turned over to Nuremberg Military Courthouse, which specialized in the trials of high-profile, international criminals.

Chapter 2423: He is my family.

On another occasion, an insurgency broke out in an African country. Gong Jie was escorting a shipment of goods to its destination when he was besieged by armed militants. Both sides suffered dearly from the crossfire; they kidnapped and beheaded one of his most highly regarded subordinates, which drove him mad.

He paid quite the heavy price even though he eventually blasted the rebels' den into smithereens.

What was even more distressing and heartbreaking was that he had lost a highly capable and trusted subordinate.

Dangerous?

Of course, it is.

In fact, every part of it is perilous.

All mommy knows is that uncle often stayed at the hospital to look after grandpa. What she doesn't know is that Hurricane Group has dispatched a dozen mercenaries to guard every corner of the hospital to ensure uncle's safety.

One has to pay a price in order to become strong.

The man had once admitted that his job of bringing wars and rebellions to those countries was something monstrous, and when he first assumed his position, the war refugees' helpless faces haunted his dreams every night.

It was not until later, when he witnessed the tragic death of a refugee child during a bombing, that he completely woke up to his senses.

Life was so fragile that every weak man's life lay in the hands of the powerful.

He did not want to become the weak! Instead, he wanted to become someone strong and powerful who could decide his fate!

He had his disagreements when his nephew submitted a comprehensive proposal of the Deva Eye project. However, the young boy stood by his philosophy and argued that while the sea might be huge, it was not boundless.

The only thing that mankind had yet to conquer was the boundless sky.

Air was the main way to wage wars. In a certain sense, one could control the outcome of wars once they seized control of the sky, be it by launching nuclear bombs or missiles.

The project would also bring considerable benefits to Hurricane Group.

The 'Deva Eye' project was still in its infancy and was far from completion with the organization's current technological resources. As such, they were currently hiring talents from various fields to form a core R&D team so that the project could proceed to its next phase of research and development.

From this, it could be seen that the organization had huge ambitions.

They wanted to become the dictator of wars!

The boy would never tell his mother about these matters, though, and perhaps, she might never understand its meaning even if he were to explain it to her.

"Xiao Jie never mentioned anything to me." Yun Shishi looked at her husband with a frown. "Did you know about Hurricane Group?"

"Yes," answered the man honestly. "The power and influence the Gongs hold are unimaginable. Even the current Mu family is nothing compared to them."

The shock she felt became even more apparent on her face when she heard that.

"No wonder he's always so busy."

Youyou nodded. "Yeah. When things get really busy, he may not even know which country he's waking up in."

Feeling speechless, she commented, "He never told me anything about it."

"He's probably worried that, once you find out about his identity, you'll be concerned about his safety, as well as think that he's a cruel person and be fearful of him. After all, he's been listed as a terrorist by Interpol. Also, he'll be safe with fewer people knowing his true identity."

She let out a bitter laugh at that. "Regardless of his line of job, I won't be fearful of him. He's family."

Chapter 2424: The Big Bad Wolf and the Little White Bunny

"Regardless of his line of job, I won't be fearful of him. He's family."

The woman paused before speaking out of concern, "I'm just worried for him."

Youyou's eyelids twitched as he rushed to assuage her worries. "Don't worry, mommy! He has many of the world's highly skilled mercenaries protecting him. They're talented people from the leading mercenary organization globally, Mercenary Paradise, which is managed by Hurricane Group. Even the FBI is helpless against them."

"Are they really so formidable?"

He answered, "Yes! They can easily deal with two of my daddy with a hand."

The way he unhesitatingly humiliated his father made the latter twitch his eyes hard and shoot daggers at him.

He cried, aggrieved, "Well, it's the truth!"

Mu Yazhe: "..."

The older of the twins patted his father's shoulder sympathetically. "There goes your prestige, daddy!"

Yun Shishi was focusing on younger son when she suddenly realized that something was off. "How did you know so much, though?"

"Err..." The boy scratched his head and explained dryly, "Uncle mentioned it to me before!"

"He told you about it but not me?"

"He doesn't want you to be worried sick about his safety."

"Isn't he making me more worried when he doesn't say anything?"

"Mommy, don't you feel scared or opposed about his job?"

"Hm?"

He explained, "Aren't you afraid that uncle might be a baddie working in such a dangerous line of job?"

She frankly gave her two cents' worth. "There's no line between good and evil. In other words, while the US is playing the world's righteous policeman, it's actually seen as the devil by those countries it has robbed resources. There's never been absolute justice; it's only about whether things are beneficial to people or not."

"Wah!" he exclaimed, a tad exaggerated. "I never thought that you'd think this way!"

His mother's countenance darkened instantly. "What are you insinuating, son?"

"Nothing!" He flashed her a graceful smile in return. "It's all good as long as you don't let your mind run wild."

...

Youyou heaved a long sigh of relief once he was back in the confines of his locked bedroom.

Knock, knock, knock.

Someone suddenly came knocking at the door, which startled him into mistakenly assuming that it was his mother, and he asked, "Is that mommy outside?"

"It's me." His older twin's aggrieved voice could be heard coming from outside. "You locked me out of the room."

He hurriedly unlocked the door for his brother and allowed him to enter before closing the door again.

Upon turning on the bedroom lights and seeing his brother's stiff face, Little Yichen reassured him, "Don't worry; mommy didn't ask much."

"That's a relief!"

"Whew! That was quite a scare!" He patted his chest exaggeratedly. "I thought your identity would be exposed right there and then!"

The younger one's lips gave a little twitch before he remarked, "She'll surely be badly shocked if she finds out that I'm also one of Hurricane Group's core members."

He then added, "Receiving a bad shock is nothing. Who knows? She might even suffer from a heart attack?"

That threw the younger boy off.

He had always found his mother to be akin to a little, white bunny, and those around her, be it him, his father, his uncle, or even his deceased great grandfather, were like big, bad wolves.

It looks like mommy is completely surrounded by big, bad wolves!

...I feel pity for mommy for a second.

Chapter 2425: Take care, sis!

Comfortably lying sprawled on the bed, Little Yichen gazed up at the ceiling and said, "Actually, I feel that mommy doesn't need to know anything too in-depth. All she needs to know is that we, be it uncle, daddy, you, or me, are all very dependable people."

His little brother joined him on the bed, spread his arms and legs wide, then stared above, too.

"Mommy needs to be carefully protected since she's so stupid."

Hearing that, he turned his head to exchange a smile with his twin before suddenly commenting, "If possible, I really wanna build a castle and keep mommy in there so that no one can bully her."

"There's no need to build a castle specifically." Youyou then proudly added after a beat, "We're her castle!"

"Hmph! You can be the castle, while I'll be her knight, protecting her at all times no matter where she goes!"

"..."

Inwardly, the younger boy muttered disgruntledly, *What a wet blanket!*

...

Meanwhile, Yun Shishi was having a restless sleep that night, for she could not stop thinking about her brother's affairs, her adoptive father's trip to the Gong family, and the extent of the elderly man's recovery.

Will he ever be able to speak again?

Many of his important neural functions were destroyed.

All I hope is that he doesn't suffer too much pain.

The next day.

The vehicle, which her brother had specially arranged for, had already arrived at by the time the woman reached the hospital with her husband.

She noticed upon her arrival that he was wearing his usual ensemble—a white military-style coat and a pair of matching, white army boots—which made him look ever so tall and fair from afar. The only difference was that his silvery hair now had a tinge of black at its roots.

The young commander greeted her with a smile and a tight embrace.

“My leave has ended, sis.”

Since his vacation was over, he would be flying straight back to North America, where he would be busy with a string of works after he settled Yun Yecheng at his family-owned medical center for treatment.

Having enjoyed his companionship thoroughly this new year, feelings of reluctance sprouted in the woman as she hugged him, for she did not know when the next time that they would be meeting after today was.

Soon, Yun Yecheng was lifted into the vehicle.

The married couple got on board as well to send the elderly man and Gong Jie off at the airport.

The vehicle then set off for Messelin Private Airport, where the private plane and medical team were already awaiting their arrival.

Just before her father was put on the plane, Yun Shishi held back her tears as she leaned against the sickbed and whispered an encouragement to him. “I’ll wait for your return, dad!”

He gazed back at her, looking equally reluctant to part. The most heart-wrenching thing was that he could not even mumble a goodbye to her because of his inability to speak.

The elderly man was worried about his adopted daughter’s safety.

If he could move his hands, he would pen down all his warnings and cautions to her on paper. Alas, he was as good as a cripple right now. He could do nothing but look at her with tears in his eyes.

“Don’t worry; Xiao Jie surely has a way to treat you!” reassured his daughter as she stared into his eyes. “I’ll wait for your return!”

Tears streamed down his face as his daughter moved away from him to let the medical team take him on board.

Gong Jie was about to board the plane as well when he halted in his tracks and turned around to look at his sister.

The wind at the airport was so strong that his hair was getting all messed up.

Walking briskly to her, he took her in his arms and wrapped her tightly in his embrace as he frowned in reluctance.

“Take care, sis.”

“Mm! You, too!”

Chapter 2426: If you bully her, you will get it from me.

Gong Jie smiled and stroked her head lovingly. He then lifted his head to look at his brother-in-law, where the expression on his face cooled as he mouthed a warning impassively. “If you dare to bully her when I’m not around, you’ll get it from me.”

The other man merely snorted and ignored him.

The two refused to make peace even up to this moment of farewell.

The young man turned to his twin sister and reminded, “You must inform me if he ever bullies you; I’ll rush back immediately.”

He then passed her his name card with his satellite number.

Yun Shishi carefully stored away the card and replied smilingly, “He’ll never bully me, so don’t worry! As for you, you have to take good care of yourself; do you hear me?”

She heard from Youyou how dangerous his job could be, so there was no other concern on her mind except his safety.

“I will!” After saying that, he released her and got into the plane without a second look. The cabin door soon closed behind him.

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When the couple returned to the hospital, they went to the old man’s ward to collect his stuff and then pay the remaining hospitalization bills. As Yun Yecheng had left in a hurry, many things were left unpacked inside the room.

As the woman walked back into the hospital ward to collect her father’s clothes, she was startled to see her uncle and his wife waiting there. Apparently, they had come to visit her father, only to be told that he had been transferred out. The latest information had stupefied them.

Hence, when Yun Yehou saw his niece, he anxiously approached her to inquire about his brother’s welfare. “Where’s your dad?”

“Uncle, why are you here?”

“I’m here to check on your dad; I want to see if he has made any progress.”

“He remains in status quo, but we have transferred him to another medical facility for better treatment!”

The man was puzzled by this decision. “But this hospital is the best in town in treating burns! Where did you transfer him to?”

“We’ve just sent him off to another medical facility overseas for treatment. Hopefully, a miracle happens.”

The woman took pains not to divulge too much information to her uncle.

The older man did not persist with his questioning, either. After checking on her, he ordered his wife to pack up the stuff as well.

There was nothing much left for the actress to manage after that aside from collecting the scripts she had left inside the room during her watch.

After clearing the room, the couple was about to leave when they walked past another ward. The door to it was suddenly flung open, and a middle-aged lady dashed out in distress. Heartbroken and sobbing relentlessly, her hands covered her face as tears rolled down her cheeks ceaselessly.

Alarmed, Yun Shishi avoided the woman deftly as she threw a glance into the ward through an open window. This was Lu Jingtian’s hospital room.

Oh, right. How could I forget that she’s staying on this floor, too?

The medical intensive units for patients suffering from severe burns were housed inside an establishment with several floors.

A middle-aged man walked out from the room after that. He looked flustered with puffy eyes and cheeks. The dark circles under his orbs attested to rough nights of unrest.

“Can you stop bursting into tears before the lass?! This is only going to make her more depressed! How do you expect her to get well in this way?”

“Get well?” As the woman sobbed, she replied accusingly, “How on Earth is she gonna get well with such injuries?! Who the... hell could be so cruel!?”

The woman looked too well-groomed and dignified to be spouting vulgarity. The fact that she had used such terms on the perpetrator demonstrated her great agitation and sorrow. The phrase, though, sounded desperate and despondent coming from her lips.

Chapter 2427: I would like to kill the culprit with my two hands!

“Who knows?!”

The mention of the culprit only made the man even madder, and he gnashed his teeth with his eyes shining murderously.

“A sociopath like that ought to be executed! It’ll be a mistake to keep that person alive!”

The woman continued her wailing. “Tiantian woke up last night, but she was unable to talk. Her eyes look so dull and vacant! I think she knows that she has been thoroughly disfigured! You know how vain she used to be! If she sees for herself how she looks now... I’m afraid that she’ll kill herself! What should we do?!”

The man was equally troubled by the thought and unconsciously took out his cigarette pack for a stick. Just as he was about to light it up, he seemed to recall that he was in a hospital and had to put the stick back into the case reluctantly.

The woman beside him continued to sob. “The doctor said that it would take a miracle for her to speak again! My heart died when I heard that! If speaking is gonna take a miracle, can you imagine the misery she has to live with for the rest of her life?”

“Yesterday, the police came thrice to check with the doctor and see if she could talk! The authority suspects foul play, but there’s not enough evidence to suggest that another person was with her at the scene when it happened; they were unable to even find a fingerprint! The surveillance footage was unable to provide clear images as well. If she is unable to talk, then it looks like this case will turn cold,” explained the man with much frustration.

“Who did this?!” the woman verbalized angrily through gritted teeth.

Yun Shishi walked over to peer into the hospital room through the window.

She could see a figure lying quietly on the bed. It was hard to make out the form on the bed if not for the slight heaving movement observed on the being.

This was the first time the actress had taken a careful look at her co-worker’s drastic condition after the fire.

Lu Jingtian looked charred from head to toe, no skin area was spared apparently. Her face was covered with some white-colored cream, and there was no way for the protagonist to make out her facial features. What the latter could vaguely see was the former’s eyes staring vacuously up at the ceiling.

Similar to Yun Yecheng, her eyelids were brunt and could hardly close. However, compared to her injuries, his was slightly better, with a smaller burned surface area.

It looked like the missy’s life had been destroyed by this tragedy.

The actress was not particularly sympathetic toward the victim, but she definitely did not feel good about this event.

It would be difficult for anyone with such terrible injuries to find the will to live on, unless the person had the support of her loved ones.

Her husband immediately attracted some attention when the man went over to join her.

Lu Jingtian’s father looked up and was stunned to see his former boss appearing at the same place as him. “Chairman Mu...”

As one of the management leaders at Huanyu Entertainment, he was no stranger to the young man, naturally.

Mu Yazhe looked toward the hospital room and asked quietly, "How's your daughter now?"

The other man answered in jittery, "She's not looking good. According to the doctor, the burned area is large. Although they managed to save her life, her condition still needs close observation."

The middle-aged man's wife inched close to him and whispered cautiously, "Who is this?"

"It's Chairman Mu, Huanyu's boss," he whispered back.

"Ah... I see." Lu Jingtian's mother was taken aback momentarily but quickly forced a smile with some difficulty as she greeted the young man. "Chairman Mu!"

"I saw the news." Mu Yazhe paused, then added, "Is there any further development in the case?"

Their faces turned crestfallen and shook their heads at the same time. "No!"

The middle-aged man sighed in disappointment. "I don't even know if we'll be able to bring the culprit to justice!"

Chapter 2428: A Needle in a Haystack

Lu Bosheng gave a sigh of disappointment. "I don't even know if we'll be able to bring the culprit to justice! This person was too cruel to destroy a young girl in this manner! I'd like to murder the person who did this with my two hands! Unfortunately, there's been no clue to this case up to now. The doctor is also unsure if she can talk again, so the only thing we can do now is pray that she'll be able to do so; at least then, she can provide some useful leads to the police!"

"Did the police manage to find any substantial evidence?" Yun Shishi probed anxiously.

The man shook his head while his wife replied after giving a sigh, "If we got even the slightest clue, we wouldn't be so downcast. This case has dragged on for a while, and we have done all we could to exert pressure on the police, but it's all in vain. We even managed to connect with the police chief, but it yielded no results. The chief was equally astounded that his men couldn't find a single useful clue."

The actress mulled with knitted brows. "Logically speaking, sleuthing technology is so advanced now. It's impossible not to find a clue at all!"

"The police told us that they checked through all surveillance footage in that vicinity without finding any suspicious character lurking around when the crime happened."

"How is that possible?"

Nowadays, every street and corner had a CCTV installed, so how was it possible that the police could not find anything suspicious with such an omnipresent surveillance system?

Just as the young lady was about to voice her doubts, Lu Bosheng added, "The police suspected that the culprit had gotten into a car immediately after leaving the bar; that's why the camera failed to capture

the image. The authority tried following the lead on the person wearing the all-black attire, but after checking out the bar for two days, they failed to find any eye-witness.”

A critical issue suddenly dawned upon the actress as she jumped in abruptly. “How about fingerprints?”

“Fingerprints?” A look of alarm was palpable on the older man’s face when he heard the word.

Mu Yazhe could see the strange reaction from the man and pressed on nonchalantly. “Tell us what you know.”

Lu Bosheng related what he knew with some hesitation. “Your mention of fingerprints reminded me of what the police told us earlier. Actually, to tell you the truth, we asked a similar question to the police at the start, and they told us that they couldn’t recover any fingerprints at the scene. It sounded unbelievable to me as well.”

Unable to recover any fingerprints at the scene?

How’s that possible?!

She knew a thing or two about criminal investigation. Before this, she had enjoyed reading books, mystery novels, and even autobiographies of forensic workers, who were very certain on this fact: ‘To exist is to leave a trail.’

A trail would say something; it could not lie. It would be ironclad evidence.

As long as a person existed at a scene of a crime, one would definitely be able to find the slightest trace of it there.

Yet, right now, the police actually claimed that they failed to collect a single piece of evidence?

How strange!

The actress persisted. “How about footprints?”

The man glanced at his wife; her strong interest in this matter did not go unnoticed by him.

He reckoned that she harbored the same suspicion—Lu Jingtian’s case was connected to her father’s case in one way or another.

The two cases seemed completely unrelated and employed different tactics, but the details were identical.

Lu Bosheng replied resignedly, “The crime happened at a bar with plenty of footfall. Trying to look for clues from footprints is like searching for a needle in a haystack.”

Chapter 2429: Cannot Detect any Fingerprint

Yun Shishi overthrew his reasoning, though. "Surely, the police can find a clue as long as they investigate, can they not? There shouldn't be anyone else on the second floor besides your daughter and the culprit."

Lu Jingtian's father glanced at the actress and stopped short of replying to her. Meanwhile, Mu Yazhe chimed in, "The second floor wasn't deserted. It just happened to have a smaller crowd at that time."

Lu Bosheng nodded in agreement. "That's true. Before my daughter's arrival around midnight at the bar, most of the guests were on the second floor during the live singing. Only a few, who had successfully reserved downstairs seats, were at the dance floor. The rest were upstairs, listening to the performer onstage while drinking. One service staff did go up the second floor when Jingtian was with the culprit. She even remembered pouring a cup of tea for that person dressed in black. She also witnessed that person picking up the cup for a drink."

The woman frowned when she heard that. Walking to one side, she contemplated for a while before turning to declare with conviction, "In that case, it stands to reason that the cup should have the person's fingerprints on it! Glass is a pretty good 'fingerprint collector'; there should be more than one left behind, in fact."

The other man was looking rather hopeless by then. He shut his eyes and mumbled, "That's why I find it mind-boggling when I was told that they couldn't find any."

"Could the prints be wiped off?" The actress wondered aloud. "I read somewhere that fingerprints can be erased with hydrochloric acid, although I don't know how true that is."

The older woman was rather taken aback with this deduction, only to hear her husband responding, "The police told us that, with modern technology, even if the print is to be wiped off with hydrochloric acid, it can still constitute as a clue with partial print. Unlike in the past, there are rarely any unsolved cases nowadays. Basically, any case can be solved within a few days. Even if the culprit can get away with the lie detector, there is no getting away with the evidence left behind on the crime scene. Plus, if the culprit used hydrochloric acid, it would prove that the cup had been cleaned earlier. The thing is, the police technicians were able to pull off many fingerprints from the cup except for the culprit."

Yun Shishi was thoroughly stunned by what she had heard. "Only the culprit's fingerprint could not be retrieved?!"

"That's right."

"How's that possible?! Didn't you just say that one service staff saw the culprit drinking from the cup?! If that's true, then even if the police couldn't retrieve the fingerprint, they should at least be able to retrieve the person's residual saliva, shouldn't they?" exclaimed the young lady.

"It's basically impossible. Even the provincial forensic identification agencies don't have the capacity to perform saliva testing. DNA identification requires a certain amount of content, and if it's less than that, it can't be done."

The actress was, again, shocked by the information shared. "This is unbelievable..."

Her husband suddenly had an idea. "There's only one possibility for failing to extract a fingerprint."

“What can that be?” She turned around and asked with her eyes wide open.

“By destroying the fingerprints.”

“Destroying the fingerprints?” The actress could not help laughing. “Our fingerprints can’t be removed totally, even if the cut is made with a knife.”

Mu Yazhe cut her off with a casual comment. “It’ll be a different story if one is to slice the skin off the fingertips.”

Yun Shishi: “...Slice off the skin?! You mean to slice it with a knife?”

That was literally cutting off flesh from the fingertips! How painful would that be?!

Chapter 2430: Like a Walking Dead

The young man rubbed his chin for a while when something struck him. “Oh, the person can also remove the print with something else, such as a hot iron. It can remove the fingerprint totally, too. This is definitely painful, of course.”

The Lus looked at each other and both inhaled sharply. “Would anyone be this cruel to themselves?!”

The actress did not find this believable, either. “How much pain would that person have to suffer, then? I’m afraid it’d be difficult to burn off the prints on all ten fingers with an iron, unless that person used fire tongs... but would there be such a person to do such a cruel thing to themselves?!”

“If our deduction is correct, then what we can do is inform the police to follow this clue. It shouldn’t be difficult to find someone with burned marks on the hands, should it? The police can arrest that person with a warrant as long as they have to survive in this place, unless that fella coops up indoors all day long and doesn’t have to venture outside.”

...

Inside the basement of a grand villa.

Yun Na sat squarely on the couch, reading in silence.

Since the terrifying incident she experienced at the sea, her personality had become much quieter.

Although quiet might not be an appropriate description.

Deathly stillness was more like it. Like a walking dead, there was no glimmer of life observed in her. All that accompanied her was a dull and heavy sense of silence.

She no longer liked to talk or laugh; the only thing that sustained her was the thought of revenge.

This was the reason for her being alive now.

That woman had asked her once if she was scared?

Why would she?

She had been through hell and returned alive, so in this world, what could possibly be more frightening than having experienced death?

There was a sudden knock at the door, and she quietly put her book down, walked to the door, and peered through the peephole.

It was someone she knew standing outside the door, with something in his hands.

She opened the door and the man immediately passed her the stuff lying on the tray that he was holding. "The missy instructed me to pass these to you."

These were some essential items besides food and drinks for her.

She received the items and closed the door.

She hardly stepped out of the basement that she occupied alone. Usually, the woman would send someone over to pass her the items she needed.

The only good thing about this basement was its wall furnace.

She walked up to the furnace and threw a bag of rubbish into it. Stirring the content just a bit, she then quietly watched the bag being swallowed up by the fire.

Inside the trash bag was the black attire she had worn at the bar.

Right now, it was being reduced to ashes in the fire.

She returned to the couch, sat down, and quietly tore the bread apart. As she ate, piece by piece, she resumed reading her book.

The fingers that were holding the book were a gory sight to behold.

Her fingers looked as if they had been forcefully mutilated.

Was it sulfuric acid, burning tongs, or hot iron?

None of these, in fact.

She had burned off her fingertips directly with a windproof torch lighter.

The pain she had to endure was indescribable, of course.

Yun Na suddenly closed the book and looked up slowly at the sky.

Her peepers were round and dark, and now, more than ever, they looked hollow and dead, resembling the deep, horrifying eye sockets in a skull. One look at her could send a shudder down one's spine.

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At the hospital.

Yun Shishi looked puzzled as she popped a question unexpectedly. "How did the culprit know that your daughter would arrive at the scene for a perfect crime?"

Lu Jingtian's mother replied, "The police initially suspected that the crime was committed by someone she knew, so they focused their search on the two girlfriends who were meeting Jingtian for drinks at the bar."