

Sweet Love 2441

Chapter 2441: The Lucky Couple

Hua Jin released a yawn before grumbling unhappily, "I only found out about the kickoff ceremony early this morning. I was so rushed that I couldn't carefully select my clothes."

He then nervously asked, "Is this set of clothes too dull?"

The idol was one to keep up with his image.

Yun Shishi gave him a serious look-over; the latter was dressed rather simply that day—a black fur coat and a white tee, which was layered with a black shirt underneath.

She pondered for a moment before giving her appraisal. "Hmm... You're properly dressed for the occasion."

"Well, it couldn't be helped! I'm only the supporting lead, not the main lead! I couldn't possibly be stealing the main lead's limelight."

As he lamented, he shot a furious glare in the superstar's direction, who had reporters swarming around him. "I heard that he'd been banned from the industry a while ago, so I thought I had the chance to replace his position. Unfortunately, he's active again."

After a brief pause, he said somewhat regretfully, "I could've been the main lead for this script."

She added a few comments here and there amid laughter, though she was somewhat taken aback.

There was a one-eighty change in Hua Jin's attitude today, compared to how he was in the past.

He used to be lifeless and arrogant toward the production team, yet today, she happened to see him smiling back at a production crew when the latter greeted him in trepidation.

He had become a lot gentler and humbler, which seemed to be his true personality.

Seeing the actress falling into a daze, the disgruntled idol waved his hand in front of her. "Why aren't you answering me?"

"..."

"Did you not sleep well? Your eyebags reveal how listless you are."

She rubbed her eyes. "Yeah, I didn't have a good sleep."

"Oh." He handed her a bottle of eye drop urgently. "We're going on camera soon. What are you going to do if you come out on the screen and photos looking ugly and listless?"

"My photos will be made into expression packs at most. Who knows? Maybe they'll go viral," she replied sarcastically at her own expense.

A chuckle escaped past his lips when he tried envisioning her turning into comical expression packs.

"The thought of that seems interesting."

She could not help but be reminded of her dark past at that.

Previously, a netizen took a screenshot of her image, whereby she, in the drama, was wailing rather despondently at a corner outside a wedding venue. Her expression, at that particular moment, was especially amusing, which prompted the netizens to use it as an expression pack, sharing it around.

The actress found that expression of hers to be really embarrassing and ugly at first. Her twins even used that as their phone's wallpaper when they saw it. However, over time, she found that comical expression of hers to be rather cute.

"Your emoticon is so much funnier and more interesting than that of Master KIMs[1.Master KIMs is a South Korean comedy film]. The netizens can have fun using it for a long time."

She raised her hands in surrender. "I give up."

As soon as she said that, she noticed, out of her peripheral view, a group of people approaching their way.

Gu Xingze walked over and stopped right in front of her as she looked up and met his deep, penetrating gaze.

Hints of awkwardness lingered in the air all of a sudden.

The reporters exchanged looks with one another before aiming their cameras at the two, not letting even the tiniest details escape their lenses in hopes of capturing any signs that would suggest that their on-screen relationship carried in real life.

Even before this, demands for 'The Lucky Couple' to act in this drama were very high, for fans were very much looking forward to seeing them play an on-screen couple again. Hence, when the superstar announced that he was the male lead for this drama, fans were all filled with joy and excitement.

Chapter 2442: Newbie Ji Yan?

The anticipation for the show was largely due to the union of this perfect on-screen couple. Hence, any news about these two people would definitely snatch the headline.

Gu Xingze gazed gently at her for a long time before he brushed past her and walked away.

The reporters were stunned for a second, then they gave chase to the man.

When the director reached the scene and witnessed the chaos, he hit the roof. "How did these nosy flies get in?! Haven't I repeatedly instructed not to allow any reporters here?!"

"We don't know how these journalists managed to slip in, but they created a hubbub here!"

The director quickly assigned some men to maintain order and the kickoff ceremony was able to start finally.

Throughout the ceremony, Hua Jin stuck close to the protagonist. He would grumble against the noise incessantly one moment and then would fill her in about the latest gossip the next. The woman was not irritated by his nonstop chattering. On the contrary, she found the present him more likeable and cuter.

As the ceremony was about to end, an employee suddenly rushed over and whispered to the director, "Ji Yan is here."

"Ji Yan?"

"Yes... It's that newbie whom the investor specifically arranged to star in this production. She's the supporting actress."

"Oh!" The director mulled for a while before he frowned unhappily. "She's very late!"

"She said that she was delayed by some problems on her way here."

"Problems?"

"Yes. Her car was tailgated and she had to shake off the stalker before taking a cab here."

The director continued to grumble under his breath, "Well, the ceremony is about to end, so what's the point of rushing over now? The media will make a joke out of this! Tell her to get lost!"

"This isn't ideal, director." His worker voiced a concern. "No matter what, she was designated as the supporting actress. If we chase her away, she can complain to the investor and get us in trouble."

The facial muscles of the director twitched for a while, then he eventually gave in. "Let her in!"

"Understood."

Yun Shishi caught snippets of their conversation at a distance and asked Hua Jin curiously, "Who is Ji Yan?"

The man next to her replied softly, "I heard she's a newbie with a strong backer, which allowed her to join the production easily."

"Where did you get your news from?"

"I got this from other sources, actually. There have been rumors circulating online about her. Many said that she looks like Yan Bingqing."

The actress's facial expression froze the moment she heard that name.

"Yan Bingqing?"

"Yes." The actor nodded. "She vanished completely from the public eye a while back, remember? After Ji Yan's makeup photo was posted on Weibo, many netizens commented that she looks a lot like Yan Bingqing."

In fact, many of them even suspected that Yan Bingqing had disappeared overseas to undergo cosmetic surgery.

[I'm pretty sure she went to do a thorough plastic surgery so that she could re-enter showbiz, but there's an expiration to that. One may look good at the start, but as time passes, some adverse reactions will occur. When that happens, she'll need to reinvent her image again.]

[I'm also suspecting that she's Yan Bingqing! What has changed may just be her stage name, and with her having bigger eyes, higher nose bridge, and slightly sharper chin. Oh, her boobs may have expanded as well.]

[OMG! So I'm not alone! I'm also finding this Ji Yan suspiciously alike with Yan Bingqing!]

Chapter 2443: It is her without a doubt.

[OMG! So I'm not alone! I'm also finding this Ji Yan suspiciously alike with Yan Bingqing!]

[I was also told that the artificial parts need to be remodeled at a certain stage after cosmetic surgery. Just look at Lin Zhi; her face has gotten swollen recently... She may have secretly gone to inject hyaluronic acid.]

[Tsk tsk tsk! There's no true beauty in showbiz; that Yun Shishi may have had cosmetic surgery, too!]

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Yun Shishi was doubtful, though. "Are they really so alike?"

Hua Jin thought about it for a while before replying, "Yes... Though their facial features may differ slightly, the overall impression between their faces matches."

"Do you have her photo?"

"Nope. I didn't keep any," replied the actor, then added almost immediately, "She's arriving real soon, isn't she?"

Just as he finished his statement, an employee walked in with a well-dressed woman.

The actress took a careful look at the lady and was so astounded by what she saw that she let out a yelp in wide-eyed disbelief.

The man beside her saw the incredulous expression on her face and gazed at where she was looking. Upon seeing Ji Yan being led in by the employee, he affirmed, "That's her."

"Is that... Ji Yan?" asked the actress with a start.

He nodded. "Yes! Do you find her and Yan Bingqing alike, too?"

"Eh, not just a little; in fact, they look very alike!"

She observed the other woman for a long time and could see that both had come from the same mold despite a few areas of differences. The lady before her had bigger eyes, with apparent inner and outer corners; her nose seemed to be sharper as well and her chin had become more pointed after grinding from the surgery.

In the end, even though the current version seemed to have gotten prettier, she failed to exude the charm of the former actress.

Yan Bingqing's looks were outstanding in the first place. She had large, expressive eyes, with petite, ruddy lips and brilliantly white teeth. Her face was supple with collagen and her chin, though not round, was not this sharp as well. There was an air of regality and elegance surrounding her.

In this case, if the woman standing before her was indeed Yan Bingqing, then she had lost that elegant charm even though her face had become sharper and younger after the reconstructive surgery. This was a face like a product in an assembly line that lacked particularity.

Yun Shishi could not help wondering who this Ji Yan was at this point.

The latter looked too alike Yan Bingqing to ignore.

Thus, she could understand why it created such an uproar among the netizens, for even she found her looking too alike her former rival.

Just when she was looking at the other woman, the latter cast a look in her direction as well.

Both caught each other's eyes.

As Ji Yan walked toward the director, her vampish eyes revealed a vicious glint that startled the other actress!

However, almost immediately, she withdrew her frigid gaze from Yun Shishi and walked away.

The protagonist was completely taken aback.

It's her!

The actress could not forget the murderous look the other woman gave her as she replayed the scene inside her head mentally. The look was one that called for her blood.

The man beside her was befuddled by her suddenly wan face. "Shishi, what's wrong?"

"I'm thinking that Ji Yan is Yan Bingqing."

"Why are you so sure?"

"The look that she gave me... it wouldn't go wrong."

It was a look of deep-felt hatred toward her

Chapter 2444: Mahjong Game

"The look that she gave me... it wouldn't go wrong."

It was a look of deep-felt hatred toward her.

The protagonist hastily verified with a member from the production team, "Is Ji Yan originally Yan Bingqing?"

"Yan Bingqing? That's impossible." The staff opened his eyes wide and shook his head vigorously.

Yun Shishi was surprised to hear that. "She's not?"

"Even though I also find the two of them looking alike, Ji Yan really isn't Yan Bingqing. The latter was banned, remember? I think this Ji Yan went under the knife to make herself look like Yan Bingqing, but this is only a guess. Look, even her stage name has the word 'Yan' in it." After saying this, the staff inched closer to the actress and whispered, "My guess is, that Ji Yan had reconstructive surgery to look like the former star and then managed to hook a rich man thereafter. I was told that she didn't even need to go for an audition to snag this supporting role! The newbies in this age are really something else!"

Even Hua Jin was surprised to hear that the newbie was not the former actress. "Isn't that girl Yan Bingqing?"

The staff nodded and commented offhandedly, "Yes. If she's really the star, then she must be crazy to undergo cosmetic surgery with her pretty face!"

"Why isn't that possible?" The actor was unconvinced. "Their profiles are very alike."

The staff merely laughed and then gave a soft sigh. "Don't underestimate the power of cosmetic surgery!" After saying that, he quickly excused himself to continue with his work.

Both artists exchanged glances.

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After the kickoff ceremony, Hua Jin pestered Yun Shishi to play mahjong.

"Let's go, Shishi! We'll have a game of mahjong!"

The actress was puzzled. "Why are you so energetic today?"

"Don't you like mahjong?"

"Nope." She formed a big 'X' with her forearms. "I refuse to gamble."

"We won't play with real bets."

"Then, who else can you find besides the two of us?"

Her question stumped the idol for good this time.

"Qin Zhou!"

"I'm not playing!"

When the idol called the agent and expressed his intention, the rejection was short and swift. "I have no interest in mahjong."

"Qin Zhou, Your Royal Highness..."

Du du du du...

What greeted the actor was the tone of a hung-up call.

The man frowned, looking crestfallen, as he clenched the phone in his hand.

The actress patted his back sympathetically. "Let's go home."

"Don't want to!" exclaimed the man. "Let's go to your place to play mahjong, instead."

This was when something struck him hard as he asked with a horrified look on his face, "Erm... Is the great demon king at your place?"

"What great demon king?"

"I-I'm referring to... your brother..." stammered the idol nervously.

Yun Shishi tried to suppress her laughter as she recalled how the two men had received awkward punishment after losing a card game on the eve of the Chinese New Year.

It seemed that the actor had acquired an inherent fear toward her brother at this point.

She reckoned that Hua Jin was a true demon king before she saw the true colors of her biological brother. As it turned out, the idol was completely subdued by her sibling.

Gong Jie was indeed the real demon king around.

Finally, the actress conceded after relentless pestering from the actor. When the two of them reached Xiangti Walk, they found the two kiddos at home without their father. He had yet to reach home.

The woman questioned her two sons with a brow raised. "Has school started yet?"

"Stupid mommy, didn't we already inform you that school will reopen next Monday?"

"That's right. This means that we're four days away from school reopening."

"Yeah."

Youyou looked at the figure behind his mother, and upon seeing that the person was the actor, he greeted the man with a cheery beam, "Brother Hua Jin, are you here to play as well?"

Chapter 2445: Short of One Player

"Yes!" Hua Jin walked over, stooped in front of the boy, and hugged him. He then teasingly said, "We're done with the kickoff ceremony this morning, so I'm here to play with you."

"What do you want to play?"

"How about mahjong?"

“Yup, I know how to play that.” The boy paused before giving a spiteful look. “Still, my brother doesn’t know how to play it. We can’t start a game with just the three of us.”

This troubled the man. “Oh, right; three can’t make up the number for a game.”

The younger boy turned to his sibling and asked, “Do you know how to play?”

“Nope.” The other boy shook his head blankly as he sipped his yogurt.

Just then, a name popped into their mother’s head out of the blue. “Hey, I just thought of someone who can come over easily.”

“Who is that?”

She went to look for her phone directory, took out a name card, and dialed a number.

After the line got through, she spoke into the mouthpiece smilingly, “Jun Mo, it’s Shishi. Are you busy now?”

“Hey.” Jun Mo’s gentle, husky voice was heard from the other end of the line. “No, I’m not busy. Why?”

“Where are you now?”

“I’m at home.”

“Oh, what a coincidence! Do you like to play mahjong? We’re short of one player.”

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The doorbell rang ten minutes later.

The lady host ran to open the door to see the neighbor standing outside. The latter greeted her with a quiet smile, “It’s been a while!”

She led the guest in. “It’s been a while, indeed!”

The other tried to recall their last meeting. “If I didn’t remember wrongly, we last saw each other at the celebration of ‘The Green Apple’.”

Speaking of ‘The Green Apple’, Jun Mo’s male character actually stirred a lot of controversies among the netizens when it was out on the market.

After all, it was really rare for a lady to act as a man.

Such arrangements might be seen in dramas based on operas but hardly for mainstream commercial productions.

Qin Zhou had taken a huge risk by accepting a male role for the androgynous actress.

It was worth mentioning, though, that despite her inexperience, Jun Mo managed to inject the right touches into her acting and brought out the flavors expected of her supporting role, which delighted the audience. Moreover, she had an obvious advantage with her strikingly good looks and sharp features, which many young stars could only dream of, that were nicely complemented by her gentle and elegant persona. After the release of the film, besides the main leads, her character was the most eye-catching,

which started a trend of neutral look, where many girls could be seen following her fashion and hairstyle.

The up-and-coming actress had also recently received a few production offers, and Yun Shishi was really astounded to learn that her offers included a spy movie called, 'The Oriole behind the Throne'.

This was a Central Pictures production with a cast of veteran actors. As the only newcomer in the lineup, Jun Mo's performance was highly anticipated by the media.

With her neighbor finally here, the mahjong session could begin.

After the four of them sat down to play, Little Yichen decided to ditch his TV shows and stood beside his mother to watch the game quietly.

The four chit-chatted as they played.

Hua Jin and Jun Mo, who had acted together in a drama before, got along well. The latter had left a good impression on the former; hence, they had plenty to talk about.

The two shared a serious smoking addiction that saw them picking up stick after stick, be it dealing a good or bad card. Luckily, the two boys did not mind it. What they did at most was avoid the two adults at times and then grumbled under their breath, "How smoky!"

The female guest heard that and quickly apologized, "I'm sorry."

Same went for the male visitor, where he immediately stubbed out his cigarette.

Chapter 2446: Gu Xingze's secret lover?

The boy merely had this to say in response to them, "It's fine. There's no pregnant woman here."

"Pfft!" Jun Mo was tickled. "I didn't expect you to know that pregnant women should not take in second-hand smoke."

"Yeah."

Inwardly, though, the boy was beating his chest. He had done his homework on this matter.

There was a time when he suspected his mother of being pregnant again; hence, he had read extensively on the topic. In the end, her pregnancy turned out to be a false alarm, which vexed him for some time.

As Hua Jin was busy with his mahjong tiles, he muttered, "Gu Xingze turned up for the kickoff ceremony today."

The protagonist's hand froze for a split second, glanced at the man, and then turned her gaze downward at her tiles before calling, "Dongfeng[1]."

The young man followed suit as he gave up a similar tile, then he went on. "If not for the superstar, the lead role would've been mine! Unfortunately, he came along and cut me off the deal."

Jun Mo was quick to dismiss his claim. "The investor for this show favored the superstar from the start, so how did that cut you off the deal?"

"I can't accept my defeat! Why is he the one to be paired with Shishi as the best on-screen couple? I think Shishi and I are more compatible."

Yun Shishi's lips twitched violently for a second.

Jun Mo mercilessly continued with her digging. "You're far behind Xingze's caliber! Those female leads who acted with him have shot to stardom one after another."

"Hmph! I can't swallow that!"

The female guest seemed to recall something as she sized up the protagonist silently before commenting, "I saw Xingze some time ago; he's with a woman who looks a lot like you."

Yun Shishi was stunned momentarily. Looking dazed, she asked, "Eh? A woman who looks like me?"

Her friend continued. "I mistook that lady for you at first; she really looks a lot like you! From her figure, I reckon that she's a young model. Still, it's obvious that she went under the knife for those similar features to yours. It's even reported in the news before."

The protagonist could not get over her shock yet. "Are you sure it's him that you saw with the woman?"

"I went up to say 'hi'."

"What?" The other woman was wide-eyed with shock.

Her friend explained, "I got along well with the superstar during the production, so I greeted him when I saw him. I realized that the woman wasn't you when I saw her within proximity. There were still differences despite the similarities. After all, even the most advanced reconstructive surgery wouldn't be able to replicate another person completely."

"I see." It was obvious that she had not gotten over her shock from the look on her face. "There are hardly any scandals or gossip concerning him in showbiz, though."

"That's true, so when I saw him leaving a hotel with that woman, I was equally surprised. I don't remember any woman being with him in the first place."

Hotel...

Yun Shishi's finger jerked slightly when she heard that but quickly concealed being perturbed with a calm composure. "Hotel?"

It would be hard to dismiss any insinuations when he was seen hugging a woman on the way out of a hotel. There was only something that came to mind when a couple left a hotel together.

She frowned and felt unwell all of a sudden.

It was not because she was jealous over the news; rather, she did not feel good about the woman the superstar was seen with. From what her friend had told her, that woman was a youngling from the

modeling industry, and it was a hedonistic trade. The young models would try all ways and means to climb up the social ladder. To her, the man was perfect and his image should not be tainted.

Is that model trying to get benefits from Xingze?

Did Xingze really like her?

In retrospect, they would not develop to that intimate stage if the couple did not have feelings for each other.

[1] 'Dongfeng' is one of the mahjong tiles. Players may call the name of the tile that they are giving up for other players to take.

Chapter 2447: Xingze, kiss me.

Just as the protagonist was busy with her thoughts, she heard Hua Jin's off-handed remark. "All men have their biological needs, after all. As a superstar, he's been unable to have a girlfriend like any other normal man, so he must have his needs. I used to feel astounded by how chaste he was as an actor, with no gossip whatsoever, but now I know that he's just an average folk."

She continued to meddle with her tiles in grouchy silence as she took these all in. Her heart and mind rejected this theory about the superstar.

This isn't true at all! Gu Xingze isn't just an average folk; he's way above us.

Jun Mo offered her two cents as well. "Actually, I wasn't all that surprised; perhaps the man is serious about this."

"Why can't a star have his private life?" She asked a question out of the blue. "There shouldn't be a restriction on having a girlfriend."

Hua Jin replied, "Of course, the stars can have their private lives, as long as it isn't exposed to the public. Diehard fans won't be able to accept their idols having partners. For instance, you're very popular now, but if your fans find out that you're already married, it'll be detrimental to your career."

"Detrimental?"

"Yes! Say, you're able to star in an idol drama as a young girl now, but if the audience realizes that you, in fact, are married with two kids, they may find you awkward in a maiden role."

"Did the company place such a demand on you?" She questioned him, brimming with sudden curiosity.

"Of course! It was listed outright on my contract—I'm not allowed to form a romantic relationship. This rule is even stricter with male stars. I'm prohibited from falling in love. When a rumor involving Gu Xingze and a lady star came about some time ago, a fan actually went to commit suicide! The incident created a hoo-ha then; many anti-fans lambasted the superstar for his behavior. In the end, he had to make a public apology and clarify the misunderstanding. I pity that young fan of his. Imagine killing yourself over a piece of fake news; how unworthy could that be?" said the idol.

The other woman also chipped in. "Gu Xingze's army of fans is a scary bunch. Honestly, I'm really surprised that you can shoot to fame, Shishi. Perhaps, you have a wholesome look that pleases them. Those actresses who were involved in rumors with the superstar had cosmetic surgeries done, so although they look pretty, their faces are too ostentatious, which eventually made them unpopular. Plus, the roles you've played so far are likeable, so you don't have many anti-fans."

The actress was surprised by their comments. "It's tough to be an actor."

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"Xingze..."

Inside the hotel, the superstar, dressed in a bathrobe, was reading his script quietly on the sofa.

A lady with a pretty face emerged from the bathroom and called to him softly. When she realized that he would not be disturbed, she walked up to him petulantly, put his script aside, and straddled his waist. Lifting his chin so he would look her in the eyes, she complained, "Why are you still reading the script? You've been reading it for the entire afternoon and refused to talk to me."

The superstar did not seem to mind her demanding behavior. He looked up and stared at her beautiful face.

It was a face with facial features almost similar to Yun Shishi, especially the contours. It looked as good as the original.

He clenched her chin, then kissed it lightly and asked with a cocked brow, "What is it?"

"I'm feeling bored!" The woman encircled his shoulders with her arms that fully expressed her indulgence in his embrace. "You've been reading your script and ignoring me. Of course, I feel neglected." After saying that, she leaned into his arms and cradled her body on his lap. Looking at him, she said with a gorgeous smile, "Kiss me."

Chapter 2448: Rendezvous

He dipped his head and, with an impassive face, kissed her on her lips. Alas, it was not what she had been hoping for. There was no passion in it, uninteresting and boring, much like kissing a mannequin. Before she realized it, his kiss halted abruptly and he gently pushed her away.

Picking up his script once more, he flipped to the page which he had bookmarked and continued reading.

The woman seemed to read his mind and knew not to disturb him further. She sat quietly beside him, leaned her head on his shoulder, and asked curiously, "Are you acting as a race car driver in this new show?"

"Yes."

"I heard that you have a personal interest in racing, so your driving skills should be good."

The superstar merely flipped another page without replying to her. His unresponsiveness disappointed the lady as she furrowed her brows momentarily.

Inwardly, she could sense that their fling would be coming to an end after tonight.

She got to know him at a private party.

Back then, the pub was crowded and noisy. Men and women were seen indulging in hedonism except for him. He was sitting quietly at a corner, neither drinking nor joining in the clamor. The whole time, he was looking at the stage with a deadpan expression.

She was a fresh model then, and when her company realized how much she looked like the protagonist, she was fixed up by a reconstruction surgeon to increase her likeness to the actress. Hence, she got his attention almost immediately at the party.

He was her idol and her first, but at the end of the day, it was just a passion of futility.

She embraced him sans reservation or regret, but at the end of the day, she was only a substitute. What he sought in her was a reflection of another woman.

That woman was probably Yun Shishi, right?

She had watched their movie, and, somehow, she could feel that the actor was not just acting; he was expressing his real feelings in the show.

One could bluff their way through acting, but nobody could lie with their eyes.

There were no excessive flatteries; his feelings for the actress were so deep that they could penetrate through a person's soul.

She was beyond envy.

On several occasions, he would cup her face with his hands and stare at her, but his eyes seemed to look past her, seeking the shadow of another woman.

She knew that she was just a stand-in, but she could not help sinking deeply into this relationship.

They came together to satisfy each other's needs in the first place. She needed his influence, whereas he sought comfort from her.

It was clear to her that the man was very lonely. He was like a sick man who had suppressed his needs, biologically and psychologically, for far too long.

Still, no matter how difficult it was to control her feelings, she knew that she had to keep them in check. He had already told her, from the start, not to get too serious with their fling. They were merely together to satisfy each other's needs.

Deep inside, she knew that he felt nothing for her.

She could tell from his emotionless kiss, one which was full of dejection and disappointment, that their short-lived tryst had run its full course.

All the way up until midnight, he was studying his script relentlessly. It was as if he was trying to relieve the pain in his heart by throwing his full attention onto the document in his hands.

The girl knew everything would end after this. She was not a difficult person; on the contrary, she was so good-natured that it was unbelievable. In reality, her heart knew very well that there was nothing she could do to have what she wanted.

Chapter 2449: Exposed 'Scandal'

The woman knew that she could not get what she truly wanted from him no matter how willful and demanding she behaved.

Thus, obediently and tactfully, she stood up and went into the bedroom to change her clothes. When she came out again with her bag, the actor was still reading his script. The only difference this time was that a check had been placed on the coffee table.

She walked over and picked it up. The figures written on the check were startling.

Smilingly, she expressed her gratitude toward him. "Thank you."

Gu Xingze maintained an aloof expression as he quietly flipped the pages of his script.

The woman approached him just then, giving him a light hug as she whispered softly, "You really love that woman, right?" *That woman whose name is Yun ShiShi.* She did not say the name out, though.

Finally, his gaze strayed from the script. There was a flicker in his eyes as he looked up.

"Why aren't you together with her if you like her?"

She could not help but be a little curious.

Surely, all women will succumb to his charms and tenderness, no?

The superstar stared at her for a long time before he finally broke the silence. "I can give up everything for her, but I can't love her."

'I can give up everything for her, but I can't love her.'

"Why?" She was utterly perplexed and baffled by his answer.

His lips curled into a self-mocking smirk. "Because it'll only bring her pain."

"..."

Her brows frowned and her lips parted in surprise at that as she looked at him with heartache.

She did not say anything after that. She merely quietly slipped the check into her handbag and turned around to leave.

The man looked down at his script again, where he continued to highlight the key parts of the plot. He was at the part where the female lead found out the truth about the male lead's father being

responsible for her father's tragic downfall. Agony and heartbreak had her screaming at the male lead, "Please stop loving me! Your love will only bring me pain; please let me go... I beg of you..."

As he closed the script, he, too, gently shut his eyes; his eyelashes started trembling a moment later.

Meanwhile, with her head hanging low, the woman left the hotel. Just as she pushed open the hotel's front door, a paparazzo, who had been hiding meters away, began furiously clicking on his camera.

Unaware of it all, she flagged down a cab, got in it, and left fast enough.

After she left, the male paparazzo lifted his camera and looked through the photos he had taken before breaking into a satisfied grin. "Okay! Time to pack up and go back to submit my article."

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The next day, a set of photos, which were published on Weibo, caused a huge stir online.

Chengguang Entertainer had published a set of photographs on their Weibo page, which included six static and three animated images. Several images showed Gu Xingze entering a hotel with a lady in his arms. When they were zoomed in, the male figure was easily identified due to the superstar's highly distinguishable features, but the female was unrecognizable as only her back view was shown.

Another couple of photos showed the lady leaving the hotel and getting in a cab alone.

The three animated images, on the other hand, were the hotel's surveillance footage, showing the couple entering a room with the lady leaving on her own some five hours later.

Two of which revealed the lady's face. Although the images were slightly fuzzy, one could still recognize her basic facial features, which turned out to belong to Yun Shishi!

Thus, the moment those photos were published, they soon became a hot topic and caused quite a stir on the Internet!

Many fans were surprised to see the superstar's scandal.

[Relationship exposed?! Gu Xingze and Yun Shishi's hotel rendezvous! Shocking news!]

Chapter 2450: Substantiation of the Lucky Couple's Relationship

[Exposé: Orange Light Entertainer reveals The Lucky Couple's secret and affectionate relationship! Female actress spotted leaving alone after a five-hour rendezvous!]

Fans were highly concerned about this so-called exposure of their romance. Of course, their opinions, too, were extremely divided.

Some were supportive of the couple's relationship. They expressed their dissatisfaction about the management company having strict restrictions in place, which forbid their artists and celebrities from dating.

[We don't mind it if the woman turns out to be Yun Shishi! You two are free to date all you want! The Lucky Couple is really loving!]

[I've started paying attention to them ever since they appeared on 'The Love Diary'! Although I'm not a diehard fan of Gu Xingze, I think that he's an excellent boyfriend material. I like Yun Shishi, too. In fact, it's because of them that I watched 'The Green Apple'! In my opinion, they're a match made in heaven—an ideal couple!]

The others, however, were the superstar's diehard fans. Upon learning about this news, they immediately voiced their disapproval on the actress's Weibo page.

[How dare you seduce our superstar, you shameless hussy! You came bearing ill motives! You're trying to hype yourself up with his name, aren't you?!]

[Exactly! Please practice self-love and chastity, you vixen! Gu Xingze is our husband! Be wise and stay away from him!]

That day, Yun Shishi woke up early in preparation for her packed schedule—an exclusive interview in the morning, a pictorial in the afternoon, and a variety show recording in the evening.

While gargling a mouth rinse, she scrolled through Weibo and came across the search term 'Gu Xingze's romance' on the trending list. Curious, she clicked it open, thinking that it was just some boring gossip going on between fans, only to end up seeing a set of images of the superstar and a mysterious lady.

[Gu Xingze had a late-night hotel rendezvous with a female, who was seen leaving alone five hours later!]

[The anonymous lady turned out to be Yun Shishi?! The lucky couple's relationship has been substantiated!]

“Pfft—”

Her eyes bulged wide in shock as she choked on the mouth rinse, causing it to spray all over the mirror. She clicked on an image to have a better view, but no matter how blurry it was, it was not hard to tell that the facial features of the lady in the photos closely resembled hers!

Everyone, apart from herself, would surely mistake that lady for her!

The thing was... she had been at home, lying in bed, last night, so how on Earth did she get dragged into this scandal?!

She clicked on the other photos, only to have her brows knitting together as she saw the surprising surveillance footage of a lady entering a hotel room while holding the superstar's arm.

A phone call from her manager came in right at that moment.

The moment she picked up the call, Qin Zhou's furious voice came booming through the speaker. “SHISHI!”

The woman could not help pulling the phone slightly away from her ear; that bellow had very nearly burst her eardrum.

“Why are you so hot-tempered this early in the morning?”

“Spit out the truth! Where were you last night?” demanded the manager, cutting to the chase.

She gloomily replied, "I was at home."

"Then, can you explain to me what that exposé on Weibo is about?!" He had clearly mistaken that lady for his charge. It was for no other reason than them being so alike.

She pulled an aggrieved face. "I saw that Weibo post, but that's not me in the photos! I'm being maligned, Boss Qin."

"That's not you?" He quickly regained his calm and composure but remained doubtful. "Are you sure?"

"Yes, do you need a witness?"

"...That won't be needed, b-but how did those photos come about?"

"Beats me..." she hurriedly said. "I was at home, reading my script, last night; plus, I went to bed straight after that. My husband can vouch for me."

The mention of her husband naturally cleared up all his doubts.