

## Sweet Love 2451

### Chapter 2451: A Huge Scandal

"I'll check things out."

The line was cut off the next second. Her manager was probably off to look for his former charge to clarify the situation.

Yun Shishi let out a sigh and quietly wiped the wet mirror before taking another mouthful of the mouth rinse.

*Bam!*

Youyou came barging into the bathroom tearfully with his phone in hand. "Mommy, did you cheat on daddy?!"

"Pfft—"

The loud movement startled her into spitting out the mouth rinse again. Looking all disheveled, she turned to see her youngest son walking up to her sadly with his phone in hand. "Mommy... d-did you secretly go out last night without daddy's knowledge?"

"..."

She shot the boy a look, only to see him wailing nonstop as he raised his phone to show her the content displayed on its screen. "Don't tell me that you went to do script-reading with Gu Xingze at a hotel!"

The boy received a Weibo notification on his phone early this morning, notifying him of the trending post regarding his mother for he was a follower of her on Weibo.

Color drained from his face when he saw that post, and he came looking for her straightaway with his phone.

"That's not me!" explained his mother helplessly. "Look at the photos carefully, you silly boy; do you really think that the woman in the photos is your mother?!"

He scanned the photos again before replying, "Yes, I do."

That answer earned him a flick on the forehead. "How could you fail to recognize your mother?! I'm so disappointed with you, son."

He immediately looked down and stared at his phone screen again. After a while, he finally exhaled and patted his chest in relief. More tears nearly came flowing down in his emotional state. "What a scare! That's a mistake! It's not you in the photos! Your legs aren't so short."

"How dare you suspect your mother of having an extramarital affair?!" She narrowed her eyes dangerously, which got him hugging her thighs at once as he explained, "I was wrong, mommy! I've only just woken up, so my vision hasn't cleared up yet."

The woman merely gave a haughty snort as she gracefully wiped her face with a towel.

“Hmph! It’s useless trying to explain things now. Guards, drag the boy away for execution.”

Youyou launched into another round of explanation while hugging his mother before suddenly commenting out of curiosity, “That woman really looks like you, though. Did she undergo reconstructive surgery based on your looks?”

“Who knows? I don’t care about that.”

She patted his little hands away. “Move aside; I’m going to be late.”

She then stepped out of the bathroom with the boy following closely behind her. “You’re working today?”

“Yes, my schedule is packed full for the day.”

“I’ll make breakfast for you in that case.”

“Nah, I’m running late.” The woman took out a sandwich from the fridge and warmed it up in the microwave while her son passed her a cup of warm milk.

“Behave yourselves while at home. You’re not allowed to bully your older brother. Remember to wake your father up for work.”

“Okay!”

He watched her leave.

Moments later, Little Yichen came running out of the bedroom, likewise, with his phone in hand, only to see his twin standing at the front porch. The two bumped into each other when the other turned around.

“Where’s mommy?”

“Off to work.”

“Ah...” Looking worried, the older boy leaned over and asked tentatively, “Have you seen what’s going on Weibo?”

“What?”

“I-It’s... about...” He pushed his phone to his younger brother, who gave him a withering look upon taking a look at it.

“What do we do? Surely, that woman in the photos isn’t mommy?”

## **Chapter 2452: A Long-planned Hype (1)**

“What do we do? Surely, that woman in the photos isn’t mommy?”

“How couldn’t you recognize your mother?! You ought to be executed!” Exasperated, Youyou pushed his brother’s face away and proceeded to walk away. It seemed that he had clearly forgotten just who had also failed to recognize his mother moments ago.

Upon hearing that, the older twin understood the situation at once and followed behind him. "I knew it! Mommy won't ever cheat on daddy, but... that woman really looks like mommy!"

He turned around and faced the other with a lift of his brow. "You also think they look very alike?"

"Yes! They're like carbon copies of each other! I broke out in a cold sweat the moment I saw the photos."

The reply got him screwing his brows together in worry.

Indeed, the two women were practically peas in a pod in terms of looks.

It would not be favorable for his mother if things got blown out of proportions.

As the younger boy ran his fingers across his chin, he pondered. "I'm not sure what that woman does for a living exactly, but based on her figure, she might be a relatively famous model. Who knows? She might have reconstructed her face based on mommy's looks."

"Plastic surgery? Oh, yeah! Why didn't I think of that?" The older boy smacked himself on the forehead. "I forgot that there's this magical thing in the world called plastic surgery!"

"Didn't Sister Ju Mo mention it yesterday? She saw Gu Xingze entering a hotel with a woman. That woman might be the one in the photos..." His voice trailed off.

While his twin might be unaware of this, he knew that the superstar had pretty deep feelings for their mother.

*Don't tell me...*

...

Huanyu Tower, Ji Lin's office.

Looking all livid, Qin Zhou flung a stack of files onto the desk. "Xingze's conduct is preposterous!"

While leaning back against his chair, the other looked at the manager calmly and asked, "Did you run a check on that woman?"

"Yes. From the results I got, she's a newly debuted model called Li Xiang'er. Tsk! What a tacky name!" The manager sat down on the sofa with one leg crossed atop the other and stayed silent for a while before eventually saying, "I even received some information about her background."

"Which management agency is she under?"

He replied snootily, "A modeling agency called EASE. Well, that's just a cover. It's basically a whorehouse that signs on high-class social escorts as models and charges fifty thousand per night on average."

Photos of those models were published on the company's official website, which seemed to serve the purpose of displaying the models' styles on the surface, but really, those models each had their prices.

"So they're just high-class prostitutes?"

“Yes, with only some exceptions. I really wonder what’s that rookie model’s motives and what tricks she used to get close to Xingze.”

“Is her background clean?”

“Yes, pretty much. She’s a greenhorn who just joined the industry. The scandal must’ve come as a shock to her, too.”

He could not help seething in rage at the thought of this.

*To think my former charge has become so depraved he’d go fool around with a model.*

*Even though that young model is fresh to the scene and has Shishi’s looks, that’s no reason for him to go fooling around with her!*

*Since when did he become so frivolous?*

“I’m in a bit of a tight spot here now that this episode has happened. I don’t know whether we should clear things up or not.”

“This episode?”

Flashing a bland smile at him, Ji Lin scoffed. “I’m afraid that these so-called stolen shots were planned.”

## **Chapter 2453: A Long-planned Hype (2)**

“What do you mean?”

“Just look at those photos. Although they’re slightly blurry, it’s impossible for the paparazzo to take shots from this angle and capture their faces so clearly, unless they already knew their whereabouts in advance. If I’m not wrong, the paparazzo was bought off by EASE to camp there just for this purpose.”

Astonishment surfaced briefly on the manager’s face, followed by a long sigh from him. “That’s what I’m worried about, too.”

As Ji Lin rapped his knuckles on the table, he said expressionlessly, “If that agency is smart enough, they’ll likely buy off the media and publish a series of articles to hype up this matter.”

There were two ways to create hype in showbiz: romance or hot topics.

Take the celeb couple who got hitched recently for example; they spent a whopping two hundred million to hold a wedding that was as grand and luxurious as a royal matrimony. One could even describe it to be the wedding of the century.

However, a large portion of that sum was actually money pooled in by investors, who had their eye on the influence of that celebrity couple. The more sensational it was, the more popularity they would garner, which in turn, could lead to more profits for the investors.

As for that pair of celebrities, not only did they stand to gain by spending little on the wedding, their net worth even skyrocketed with all the hype and buzz created by it. The starlet even experienced meteoric success and became a hot A-lister overnight.

There was so much hype created way before the wedding until the day itself. In fact, that celebrity couple continued making use of the residual buzz in the months after to create more fame for themselves.

A large part of the public was so envious that they deemed the actor the perfect husband, expressing their utter jealousy of the actress.

Both parties stood to benefit from the wedding, while the only ones getting fooled were the audience at large.

Another way was to make use of one's weaknesses.

Ji Lin and Qin Zhou were somewhat worried that Li Xiang'er had been turned by the modeling agency into a springboard to gain fame by promoting her as 'Little Yun Shishi' and making use of the superstar's popularity to create buzz with the so-called hotel scandal.

When Yun Shishi arrived at the company, she was summoned straight to the director's office by both men. Several of the PR department's key personnel were already there, and everyone was looking uptight. The stifling atmosphere made her on edge.

"What's going on?"

The manager glanced at his charge and huffed. "Shishi, how can you still remain so calm and composed when the 'hotel scandal' regarding you and Xingze has broken loose all over Weibo?! Jeez! I'm the only one worried sick here."

She could not help but be amused. "Well, I'm not the woman in the photos! Haven't you published a press release to clarify this matter?"

"Clarify the matter?" Frustration had him retorting, "It's not about clarification now. In fact, I'd rather you be the woman in the photos. You've been checkmated; you know?"

She stared blankly at him in return.

"Frankly speaking, I was quite surprised myself when I saw that Weibo post this morning. I wonder if she went under the knife. She looks strikingly similar to me."

After a pause, she continued. "Her leaving the hotel doesn't prove that she has any relationship with Xingze, does it?"

"The point isn't on the fact that she left the hotel alone. The paparazzo managed to capture photos of her entering the hotel while holding Xingze's arm. Those photos are causing quite the sensation."

He then added, "She's probably currently preparing a series of events to hype herself up!"

### **Chapter 2454: A Long-planned Hype (3)**

“Then... What should we do now?”

“We’ll keep our cool for the time being. Let’s see if the technical team can get me the info that I want.”

“What info is that?”

“The pictures of this woman before her makeover,” said Ji Lin out of the blue.

Qin Zhou urged the actress. “Anyway, don’t mess up; you still have to prepare for an interview this morning, so go put on your makeup first.”

She nodded and turned to walk away.

Just as she took one step forward, her assistant, looking pretty upset, rushed past her and pushed a tablet toward the manager. “Look, boss! This Li Xiang’er just activated her Weibo account with a picture and an announcement.”

The man quickly took over the tablet. The screen on the device was showing the model’s Weibo account. Within a span of five minutes, her account was already officially verified. It looked like her company had been planning this for some time!

“Who is she? A model, or an actress?!” asked the manager with a baffled look.

*If she’s an actress, has she acted in any shows before?*

The highlight of the day was the tweet that the model posted, though.

In this post, she attached a picture of hers, which looked strangely familiar. Turned out that Yun Shishi had done a similar series of poster. It looked like this nubile model was out to impersonate the popular actress down to her last.

In the picture, the model had taken after the style of the flower angel<sup>1</sup>, which greatly resembled a series of shots done by the actress before. From the baby pink skirt she wore to the flower wreath on her head, these were exactly what Yun Shishi had donned for a previous photoshoot of hers. Not only that; the composition, rendering, poses, and even the model’s expression and demeanor had mimicked the actress in exactly the same way. The background was slightly different, but the same style was maintained.

The announcement she sent out graciously acknowledged that she was, in fact, the lady behind the hotly speculated images.

However, she claimed that she only had a platonic relationship with the superstar and had gone to the hotel with him for a chit-chat; there was nothing between them.

Regardless of the truth surrounding their relationship, her words only belied the shady relationship between the two, for it was clear that the couple had gone to the hotel together!

Her clarification sounded innocent and aggrieved, much like a white lotus crying foul, to which the fans received with dismay!

*Sheesh!*

*So the protagonist in this rumor isn't Yun Shishi, after all? There is, in fact, another woman involved?!*

*But who is this Li Xiang'er?! We've never heard of her before!*

She was just an insignificant, unknown, young model and actress-wannabe, which was also outwardly listed on her profile. Still, it did not answer the most crucial question: What shows had she taken part of thus far?

*Nope, she didn't even have a chance as a cast extra.*

At this point, the fans felt terribly cheated!

More than that, they were regretful all of a sudden!

They would have much preferred the lady to be Yun Shishi, as they reckoned at first, over this fishy character who had sprung from nowhere!

What was worse was that the model insisted that she had no surgeries done to her face before, and her natural look, which resembled Yun Shishi's so much, was actually a godsend. The announcement even hinted that it might be Yun Shishi who had gone for cosmetic procedures, instead!

*Shameless!*

Sure enough, the post attracted tens of thousands of comments and retweets within a few minutes. Many of the fans who supported the actor and actress lambasted the model for her post, and this was exactly what EASE wanted to achieve in the first place.

For such a media tactic, the rowdier the fans were, the more the public would hear of her name.

#### **Chapter 2455: A Long-planned Hype (4)**

This was one of the commonly known media tactics.

First, the company would use a negative trait to attract attention and banked on the publicity. Once the entertainer became well-known, they would then find some ways to get her on a show to express her innocence. It was easy for pretty faces to get off the hook as the audience tended to be more lenient with them. As such, the prettier the artist was, the easier it would be to employ such a tactic.

Soon, the manager calmed himself down. He had been in this industry long enough to see through any tactics; this was nothing new to him, actually.

On the other hand, the young assistant was still hitting the roof and almost wanted to smash the tablet when she saw the model's post.

"How shameless! This woman is a white lotus through and through! It's obvious that she's gone under the knife to look like Shishi yet she simply refuses to admit it. Her Weibo tweet and press release are out to ride on Shishi's popularity, and not only that; she's bringing in Xingze as well! This woman is cashing in on our superstars! It's so infuriating!"

Qin Zhou's mouth twitched once as his facial expression froze momentarily. "Xingze has gone too far this time!"

Mu Xi probed, "Has his camp responded? What did they say?"

The man gave a frigid reply, "His camp has to remain silent to overcome this crisis. Any adverse news must be treated with care. The more he tries to explain and clarify, the worse it'll sound."

"Why?"

"His fans will want to see him coming forward to explain his stance, but it has to be a good one. If he can't provide a strong justification, then it's better for him to keep quiet or it'll make the situation worse."

"Jeez... It's absolutely maddening!" The assistant almost broke into angry tears. "I've never seen such a shameless woman before!"

"There are plenty of such characters in this industry."

"What should we do next?" The woman snorted with fierce indignation. "Don't tell me that we're just gonna let that woman ride on our artist indefinitely? Her company doesn't look like it's going to stop!"

"Even though Shishi isn't an A-lister yet, she's still too popular to be caught in this cheap ploy. We can't afford to have her entangled in this series of bad publicity, so we'll keep a low profile for now and see how this will pan out!" replied the manager who was also caught in a fix.

"That's true; it'll cheapen our status if we choose to engage in this dogfight."

...

The editor, who was supposed to interview the actress, arrived soon after Yun Shishi finished with her makeup.

They exchanged courtesies, and pretty soon, the editor went straight to the point with the latest gossip.

"Shishi, what do you think of Li Xiang'er?"

The actress was startled. "Li Xiang'er?"

"Oh, haven't you heard anything about this at all?" The editor was truly astonished by her ignorance on this matter. "This morning, Chengguang Entertainer published some stolen shots of Gu Xingze entering a hotel with a model by the name of Li Xiang'er."

"I see." She nodded and with a slight frown, then returned a question calmly. "May I know how that is related to our interview today?"

Beneath her polite tone lay a sharp retort; she was clearly miffed by the unexpected question, which veered off the interview script.

## Chapter 2456: A Publicity Stunt (1)



The editor felt slightly embarrassed and explained, “You and Xingze were voted the most popular on-screen lovers a while ago, weren’t you? The camaraderie between you and him was so good on ‘The Love Diary’ that the fans were still talking about it. As you can see, The Lucky Couple is still very well-received. I personally think that you two are very compatible.”

“As you’ve just mentioned, we are merely an on-screen couple. There’s no need to project that into our real lives. Xingze is an excellent senior, and as his junior, I’m in no position to comment. If Li Xiang’er is his partner, then I give them my blessings.” Her impeccable reply took everyone by surprise.

Her assistant chimed in smilingly. “Let’s put this topic aside, alright? Our interview today is mainly about Shishi’s current production and her upcoming TV show, ‘Lethal Beauty’, which will soon be aired on major TV channels, so let’s skip discussing irrelevant subjects.”

Despite the editor’s reluctance, he had no choice but to put the hot topic aside.

After the interview, Mu Xi grumbled to her artist, “Shishi, I really feel indignant for you! That Li Xiang’er is using you as a springboard to stardom; how undignified!”

“That’s how showbiz works. If one wants to establish a career in this industry, one must learn to face the hidden rules.” After saying that, she asked the young woman to go for lunch. “We still have to complete some photoshoots in the afternoon, so let’s take a break to eat lunch now.”

“Alright.”

In the end, the actress got the men to go along for lunch, and the four of them went to a restaurant next to the office.

The atmosphere was rather depressing at the dining table.

With an ugly expression on his face, Qin Zhou browsed through the Weibo platform nonstop. Even Ji Lin, who was normally very composed and cool, had a frown on his face throughout the whole time. It looked like the issue on hand had turned dire.

The actress ordered a bowl of noodles for herself, but the strands of food tasted like wax, instead. Staring at the bowl, she kept stirring the noodles.

Meanwhile, Weibo was in havoc.

The tweet that Li Xiang’er posted that morning had received 150,000 comments. Despite the countless furious remarks and curses, the model chose to remain indifferent, yet to take a further stance on this matter.

This was a usual ploy to create more attention and publicity by maintaining silence.

“How long more do we have to endure this?” asked Mu Xi worriedly.

The manager did not answer her but merely put his phone away to drink his alcohol.

‘The shameless have more to fear than the ruthless.’

This saying held true here.

The head producer replied finally, "Let's put this thing aside in the meantime. Later, we shall see if we can come up with a strategy."

The manager, who had been mulling over this silently for some time, commented all of a sudden, "If Li Xiang'er is going to persist with this hype, then I don't mind playing along."

Hope flashed across the assistant's face. "What do you mean?"

"She's making use of Shishi now, so likewise, our artist can also ride on her publicity stunt. This will be a competition between both media teams."

Yun Shishi kept quiet for a long, long time before she swallowed a mouthful of noodles suddenly and let out a heavy sigh of resignation.

...

When Gu Xingze arrived at his studio, the place was in an upheaval. His team greeted the superstar in jittery as they saw him walking in, "Boss Gu."

After he broke away from Qin Zhou, the superstar had set up his independent studio. Many senior members in his team left after he was banned from showbiz; hence, his crisis team was especially weak. They were still unable to produce a satisfactory management plan up to this point.

This was a very thorny issue on hand.

## **Chapter 2457: A Publicity Stunt (2)**

The superstar knew very well that a bigger force was at work behind this hype.

The modeling agency wanted to use their talent to the fullest.

It was not easy for a modeling agency to produce a star. For those who managed to transit successfully, the most they could get were small roles in some shows. For those who failed, they would end up as playthings for some influential men. Once the novelty wore off, they would either find rich guys to hang onto or simply disappear from the scene.

The company had finally struck gold with Li Xiang'er.

He went into his office and closed the door. The recollection of the uproarious gossip raging on Weibo only distraught him further.

At this point, he was not concerned over what this would do to his reputation or popularity. All that came to his mind was Yun Shishi's eyes sans detachment.

What would she think of him after this incident?

He was still so d\*mn concerned about what she thought of him.

Would she think of him as frivolous or, perhaps, peg him as one of those typical \*ssh\*I\*s in showbiz?

He cared very much, indeed.

Alas, her camp had not leaked any news or taken an action so far. With Qin Zhou at the helm, the actor knew that they would not do anything just yet.

He knew she had a live interview in the morning, and he watched a little of it. She appeared unconcerned over this incident, to the point of being indifferent. It was as if she was leaving their relationship totally out of the picture.

This had left him feeling lonely, somewhat.

...

That afternoon, the actress had a set of pictorials to shoot.

The pictorials were commissioned by the magazine, and this project was led by one of the country's top photographers.

After some discussion between the actress and the photographer, the final decision was to present a series of underwater shoots for the magazine with a mermaid concept and storyboarding.

The styling team brought over a few costumes, among them were one in white and another in red. The photographer chose the red dress for her, saying that the results would be stunning with this color.

The makeup artist opted for a dramatic, retro look, framed by her long and soft raven hair. Her features were extremely feminine and had a classic charm; hence, especially with the red lips, she was perfect for a retro look.

As this was February, the weather was still chilly; thus, despite having a pool with moderate temperature, she was soon shivering from the cold with only that flimsy dress as she submerged in the water.

The photographer quickly followed her into the pool once she adapted to the water temperature.

Underwater photography was a challenging feat to begin with. What was amazing about the actress was her professionalism. Abiding by the instructions of the photographer, the lady presented many beautiful and enchanting poses underwater, looking like Poseidon's daughter.

The turquoise-blue water and the red dress reflected off each other brilliantly. Under the water, Yun Shishi's exquisite makeup, with her long, black hair twirling about, accentuated her fawning eyes. She turned her head to smile, where her eyelashes entwined with strands of stray hair, revealing her pearlies the moment her ruddy lips parted. She was an absolute seductress yet, at the same time, bore the dignity of a queen.

After the photoshoot was over, the photographer hugged his camera like a precious prize and reviewed the pictures he had just taken.

"The results are fantastic! If we had enough time, I would really want to shoot another series!" exclaimed the master excitedly.

The actress returned the compliment with a heartfelt smile as she remained submerged in the water.

“Shishi, thank you for your diligence!”

Her assistant hastily went over to the actress and covered her with a thick towel. Thereafter, the artist followed her assistant back to the changing room and was helped by the latter change out of the wet attire.

“The photographer praised your performance! I saw a few images, and they all look great!”

### **Chapter 2458: The Desperate Shisan Niang**

“The photographer praised your performance! I saw a few images, and they all look great!”

“Good to know, but it’s no small sacrifice,” said the actress quietly. “The water was very cold; even though it’s at a constant temperature, I’m freezing.”

The cold was especially bone-chilling when a gentle gust of wind blew in her direction as she emerged from the pool earlier.

The thought that she still had a recording program to attend at night sent her head spinning.

This program was a top-tier variety show called ‘Ace of Stars’ with top ratings. To cater to the audience, there were a number of physical challenges in this show.

Most of the invited guests were there to promote their movies or TV dramas.

To create momentum for the upcoming drama, ‘Lethal Beauty’, the main , including Hua Jin, had gone on this show.

Yun Shishi had prepared herself mentally for this program, but when she was told that there would be a segment when she had to wear a rather heavy sumo-like gear on her to compete against another team, she was ruffled. This was made worse when she saw the apparatus at the scene.

*It looks heavy! It’ll definitely be bulky on me.*

She started the recording with her mind in a daze. When it came to the game segment, she put on the ‘sumo’ gear, which made her look cute and heavy.

The stars were divided into two teams. When the actress saw that her teammates were scrawnier than those in the other team with beefy bodies, she raised an objection.

“The teams are not well-distributed! We have all the old and sickly ones here; it’s unfair!”

Her objection prompted loud laughter from the audience.

Hua Jin was in the same team as her. Terribly affected by her words, he protested, “What do you mean we’re the old and sickly ones here?! I oppose your suggestion!”

The actress immediately sent him a flying kick, which attracted another round of loud, merry laughter from the audience. Her slapstick antic tickled the host so much that he was in stitches.

“Do you want to change your team members?”

Hua Jin quickly rejected, “That’s not necessary! Shishi is our trump card; we have confidence to win this with her around.”

Alas, she had been arrowed despite trying her best to stay out of the fuss.

Just as the game was about to start, the host explained that the program would donate five million to charity under the name of the winning team.

This was a big honor, indeed. The lady, who had her doubts about this game initially, turned enthusiastic all of a sudden.

The result was totally unexpected. Nobody had taken Hua Jin’s words seriously when he proclaimed the actress as the team’s ace, but as it turned out, her use of force was enough to send all her opponents crashing out of the ring, including men who were more fit than her.

Everyone was dumbfounded.

At this point, there was only Hua Jin and her left standing inside the ring. The actress challenged the rest with a triumphant look, “Who else wants to try us?”

The host promptly dubbed her as ‘The Desperate Shisan Niang’[1].

The young man beside her took another dig at her. “Don’t underestimate Shishi! When we were filming, her lunchbox was twice my portions!”

“HA HA HA HA!”

The guests were so amused that they were falling off their chairs in laughter.

Little Yichen and Youyou were also laughing along as they watched their mother on livestream.

“Ha ha ha! Mommy is humorous!”

The older boy commented, “Honestly, she doesn’t need to try this hard, does she? There’ll be none of that docile image of her left after this show.”

“Please, mommy is never docile in the first place.”

“You’d better watch out! If mommy hears you saying that, she’ll eat you up!”

The younger one stuck his tongue out and retorted, “Mommy can’t bear to hit me!”

[1] Shisan Niang was a woman in Chinese folklore who was known to be courageous and fearless in battles.

**Chapter 2459: Hubby, help me massage my shoulders, please~**

The little ones immediately welcomed their mother back the moment she reached home after the show's recording.

"The Desperate Shisan Niang' is back!"

When Yun Shishi heard that nickname, her eyelids twitched slightly and her countenance completely darkened. Knowing that her twins had watched the livestream of her show, she replied curtly, "Don't give me nicknames."

The aggrieved, younger boy cried, "I'm innocent, mommy! It's the host who gave you that nickname, not me."

Upon seeing his pitiful look, she could not resist pinching his cheeks as she asked, "Is your father back home?"

"Yeah! He's in the study."

She was greeted with the sight of her husband staring intently at the computer screen as soon as she stepped into the study. Curiosity had her walking over, only to see him watching the replay of the program she had recorded earlier with relish. It so happened that the video was showing the part where she was playing games; she was charging straight to her opponent's camp like a bull while dressed in a cumbersome 'sumo' costume.

Her face immediately flushed red as she moved to block the screen and told him gloomily, "Stop watching! That's just for the variety show's sake. I'm not that rough!"

Her reply drew a smile from him as he grabbed her wrist and pulled her into his embrace. "Why are you back so late? The filming should've ended long ago."

"Yeah, but I went to eat supper with the production crew after filming."

"What did you eat?"

"Seafood porridge."

Something struck her mind right then, prompting her to ask, "Have you seen Weibo?"

"Weibo?" The term stumped him for a moment, but he soon realized what she was talking about. "Mm, I've seen it."

"Ah..."

"It's really fascinating."

"..." She felt aggrieved. "Don't take it the wrong way. The woman in those photos you see on Weibo isn't me."

She had come looking for him as soon as she got home to explain things to him, for she had left the house early in the morning in a hurry. Too deliberate of an explanation might only make things worse, though she felt that this matter had nothing to do with her and that her man could surely tell that she was not the woman in the photos.

The rookie actress was ultimately involved in this matter along with Gu Xingze, however. Li Xiang'er trying to create hype for herself might prompt the media to speculate the relationship between the lucky couple as well. She was, thus, worried that her husband might imagine things after reading those nonsensical articles and whatnots.

Besides, she did not want to drag the superstar into their affairs and implicate him again. Her husband had always been a vicious man. There was no telling how he might just ban the superstar from showbiz again in a fit of anger.

Mu Yazhe grabbed her chin and placed a kiss on her fair cheek as he hummed in acknowledgment, then saying in utter tenderness, "I know. You don't have to explain it to me."

"I was just worried about your imagination running wild."

She was not too concerned about this so-called scandal of hers, save for her man's feelings regarding it.

He replied, "I'm not as stupid as you think."

"Well, it's all good then." The woman heaved a sigh of relief and slumped against his chest, grumbling, "I'm dead beat. Can my dearest husband give me a shoulder massage? Pretty please?"

"Are your shoulders aching?"

The man inevitably felt worried and heartache for his wife for a moment upon seeing her exhausted look. He, thus, obediently raised his hands at once, placed them on her shoulders, and started massaging them gently.

The strength he used was apparently still quite harsh, for she started complaining, "Gentler, please."

"Okay."

Worried that he might hurt her petite frame, he reduced the amount of force considerably.

"Here..."

"Okay."

"This spot as well. That's right... slightly to the left..."

"Okay."

"Use a little more force... Ugh. It feels so sore..."

She ordered a certain man about freely without any qualms.

#### **Chapter 2460: Is my wife feeling better now?**

She ordered a certain man about freely without any qualms.

The amount of force he used was just right, so she could not help but let out a few soft moans to express her comfort and relaxed state. Her intoxicated look was too alluring and cute that the man could not resist placing a peck on her cheek. This intimate action, however, was witnessed by the two lads, who had sneaked into the study.

Youyou and Little Yichen basically caught their parents in the act.

Mu Yazhe's face stiffened, only to see his youngest son's eyes widening in surprise and envy before he ran over to them and whined accusingly, "Daddy, you're practicing favoritism! You're reluctant to scratch my back when I felt itchy earlier!"

The older twin echoed in envy. "Mommy's looking real comfortable and relaxed! Massage my shoulders, too, daddy!"

Yun Shishi's eyes twitched, and she explained, "That's because I'm really tired after a day of work."

"Hmph!" The younger boy stood, arms akimbo, and countered in an assertive tone, "I'm also dog-tired after doing housework for an entire day, okay?!"

Mimicking his actions, Little Yichen then made an absurd remark. "My shoulders are also aching after playing for an entire day!"

His brother and mother fell silent as they shot him a spiteful look. "Trust you to act so righteously when all you did was play the entire day."

Youyou launched into action right away. He held his fist in his other hand, cracked the knuckles, then moved to grab his brother's collar as he spoke. "You've got the cheek to say that! You continued playing games when I asked you to help mop the floor! You want a massage, huh? Let me give you a taste of my fist!"

It scared his older brother into letting out a yelp before crying, "You're such a bully, Youyou!" He then dashed out of the study.

He proceeded to give chase. "Mu Yichen, you moron! Don't you run away!"

Their parents, meanwhile, stood dumbfounded as they shared an amused smile and watched their sons fool around.

"What a pair of little imps!" remarked the woman. *I won't ever feel lonely since I have these two little, mischievous imps at home.*

There were times when she felt especially tired after coming back from work, but her darling sons always had the magical ability to soothe her fatigue away with just a few words. Even a look from them was enough to sweep the gloominess in the depth of her heart!

"Do you feel better now?" asked her husband. The tenderness in his eyes warmed her heart.

She hummed in acknowledgment. "My shoulders aren't feeling so sore now! Thank you, my dearest hubby!"

Mu Yazhe then placed his chin lightly on her shoulder and silently hugged his wife just like this. All he wanted to do in this quiet moment was hug and kiss her!

His attachment to his wife would always be inadvertently displayed at such times.

Sometimes, even he found his longing for her amusing and incredible!



He thought that his feelings for her would decrease, like all other married couples, after tying the knot. However, not only did it fail to fade away even the slightest bit, his love for her intensified until he found it difficult to suppress.

Unbeknown to his wife, despite how calm and composed he seemed when they registered their marriage, fireworks were practically exploding in his heart, which was filled with strong, passionate feelings for her.

Two words constantly played in his mind back then and that was: *I'm married!*

*I've finally got a home to call my own—it's where my wife and adorable twins will be when I go back.*

It was a life that he could only hope for in the past, and this bliss had not faded even to this day!

The term 'wife-slave' probably described him.