

Sweet Love 2491

Chapter 2491: The Meaning of Bridal Photoshoots

It was no wonder that this place became one of the many must-see attractions for adventure lovers.

The rock was not big, only accommodating a few people to stand atop it at any one time. In order to reach the rock, one must take a funicular to mid-mountain first before going up a flight of stairs. The arduous climb to the rock, however, would reward one with a magnificent view!

One will surely feel a sense of achievement if they conquer that rock on their own, Yun Shishi thought to herself, but climbing up to the rock must be dangerous, too.

Her husband told her, "This magnificent attraction may be gone soon, though."

Baffled, she asked, "Why's that so?"

"Do you know how the Trolltunga was formed?"

She shook her head, only to hear him explaining, "Suspended in mid-air, Trolltunga is a rock formation that resulted from weathering. Natural elements, such as wind and rain, continuously chip away the rock until only the sturdy portions remain. As time passes, it may eventually break and fall down the cliff."

Trolltunga was formed more than 10,000 years ago during the Ice Age. The melted water from the glacier had eroded most of the rock, which eventually formed such a unique landscape.

After the photoshoot ended, the group returned to the hotel.

The woman was still basking in the remarkable scenic view from earlier. It was her husband's idea to hold their photoshoot at that Norwegian attraction, so she naturally agreed to it. While on the way there, she was wondering about the unique attractions Norway could offer, so she was utterly amazed when she saw Trolltunga with her eyes and felt sorry that their schedule was tight, for she wanted to see more of this place.

Feeling curious, she could not help wondering aloud, "How did you come up with the idea of coming here for the shoot?"

"I saw a photo of it, taken by mountaineers, in a magazine spread and was amazed by its raw beauty, so I thought of going there for our shoot." Mu Yazhe halted speaking momentarily before asking, "Why the question?"

"What magazine was it?"

"Geographic magazine."

"Pfft..." She cocked a brow out of surprise. "So financial magazines aren't the only stuff you read!"

"Of course!" The man flicked his wife on the forehead and huffed. "Did you think that I was such a bore?"

As she held her hurting forehead, she snickered. "I just didn't think that anything besides work could capture your attention."

He snorted in response, showing his displeasure.

He would never tell her that, once it was confirmed that they would be having a bridal photoshoot, he did his research on the sly, finding scenic places from Italy to Norway, Paris to Prague, and Phuket to the Maldives. He had put a lot of effort in it, just so they could take the perfect bridal photos.

Naturally, women were not the only ones who had expectations for their bridal photos; men had their fair share of fantasies, too.

Women looked most beautiful in wedding gowns, after all.

She would become his wife, wearing a holy white gown at the prime of her youth, but with the passage of time, her beautiful looks would eventually fade away.

Since a wedding was a once-in-a-lifetime affair, he hoped to keep this blissful moment for memento's sake. Decades later, when they became old with grey hair, those precious and blissful memories could be relived through the captured pictures; her best years would be treasured by him forever.

That was probably the meaning of having bridal photoshoots.

Chapter 2492: Finding Her Like Mad

At the thought of that, he gently placed a kiss on her temple.

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"Bridal photos?"

In a coffee shop, Mu Yancheng's expression slightly blanched, his lips curling up in an ambiguous smile that seemed somewhat mocking, when his prospective wife mentioned that they should take their bridal photos as soon as possible.

He lifted the coffee cup to his lips and sipped gently at it before he cast his scornful gaze onto the lady sitting opposite of him, which made her feel uncomfortable and humiliated.

Song Enya curtly demanded, "What are you laughing about?!"

"It turns out that Miss Song is such a romanticist! A bridal photoshoot?" He let out another scoff. "I think we can skip that since it's fake and pointless! You know very well why I'm marrying you, yet you want me to stand beside you to take bridal photos? Don't you find the idea revolting?"

He shook his head once more. "Just drop the idea!"

"Isn't a bridal photoshoot part of the wedding ceremony?!" the missy snapped. "We should complete every step of it since we're getting married. As you know, being the eldest daughter of the Songs, my family has high expectations for this marriage! This is why I called you out here! Besides, what about the

wedding gown that I'll be wearing on the big day itself? According to my mom, since it's a once-in-a-lifetime affair, we should hold a grand wedding and hire a well-known designer to design my gowns and jewelry! Also, the wedding ring needs to have a huge diamond on it, or it'll look pathetic!"

She was still furious over what had happened at the bridal shop last time.

What right does Yun Shishi have to own so many custom-made, designer gowns?!

It's just a wedding ceremony! Will she need so many gowns at all?!

Can she even finish wearing all of them?!

She heard from the retail staff that a few of those gowns would be worn on the wedding day itself, while the others would be worn for the bridal photoshoot

Brother Mu sure is particular about his wedding!

*He even ordered several custom-made gowns for that b*tch to select and wear for their bridal photoshoot!*

Select?!

She might as well go blind from choosing out of all those gowns!

God knew how jealous the missy was! This was why she was so stubborn, bordering on obsession, about her wedding gowns.

The more the young man heard, the more irked he got. His second uncle had instructed him to rope the Songs in to his side, for it would be beneficial to him. The missy had her uses, so the elder wanted him to treat her better; at the very least, he must not let the harmonious relationship between both families be hurt again. He was expected to fulfill whatever requests she had on the account of her family.

However, he found it revolting to see the missy, whose face was caked with makeup. Just sitting face-to-face with her was enough to make him feel ill at ease. He was tired of dealing with this shrewd missy!

She called him out to discuss their wedding ceremony, so he freed up some time to meet her.

Work had kept him up to his ears in the past few days and whatever spare time he had was spent searching for Meng Qingxue's whereabouts.

Chapter 2493: The child was not aborted.

Mu Yancheng sounded his uncle out regarding his relationship with Meng Qingxue, and the middle-aged man relented. Provided that he married Song Enya and let things stabilize first, the family would have nothing to say about him taking in another woman.

He was ecstatic to hear that, which was why he was determined to have her found.

Speaking of that woman, he was rather unhappy and angry with her.

What on Earth is she doing?!

For no rhyme or reason, she suddenly broke up with me and went missing without a trace!

She didn't have much money on her when she left, so where could she have run off to?!

She might have told him in the text message that she had aborted the child, but given his understanding of her character, he was sure that she would never do such a thing!

If she truly had done just that, she would never have touched the money in the bank account.

She had withdrawn a small sum from the bank account before she left, which he supposed would be used for settling down in another city and supporting herself as it would be inconvenient for her to work during her pregnancy. Thus, he was certain that she did not abort the baby.

He had been terribly perturbed by her departure and was surprised to find himself so unsettled by a woman as though he had been possessed!

How spineless he was!

He hated himself for being affected and hated the woman for her heartlessness.

It was not until that little woman, whom he had never really cared for, left his side that he realized with a start that she weighed so much to him!

All along, he had taken her for granted, for he was positive that she could not leave him and that she had nowhere else to go but his side. With such confidence and thought in mind, he had failed to cherish her.

However, when that silly, little woman, with her unborn child, suddenly upped and left his side without leaving a trace, he realized, amid his anxiety, that he could actually get so restless and worried over a woman. It was so bad that he even failed to get a good sleep for several nights in a row.

In his trance, he would always dream of her face and be startled awake by delusions of the woman lying next to him. He would feel an indescribable sense of loss in his heart when he hurriedly flipped the lights on and found the spot next to him cold and empty.

Just where has she gone?!

There's no news of her whatsoever, not even a hint of her whereabouts!

Please let me see a glint of hope at least.

That cruel woman, however, left him so resolutely and decisively. Like a fool, he searched aimlessly for her sans knowing how long would it take before he found her. The thing was that he was about to be married to Song Enya!

Frankly speaking, his past self was not concerned about who his future wife would be. In his opinion, marriage was nothing but a pompous ceremony. As for his marriage partner, he did not care who she was, just as long she was beneficial to him. While the Songs might not be on the same standing as the Lins, their coming together in marriage would surely provide some relief to the imminent crisis the Mu Group was facing! It could even help boost his career and stabilize his position!

Regardless of who he married, it would not affect him in any way. At most, he would tone down his womanizing a little once he got hitched.

Chapter 2494: Her Ultimate Dream

When that time came, he could have whichever woman he wanted and bring them home with no qualms, and his wife could not say a word about it!

As the wedding date drew near, however, he suddenly felt that his upcoming marriage was meaningless.

Since Meng Qingxue's departure, he had tried hitting the nightclubs to hunt for new prey as he did in the past, but he found those women with thick, gaudy makeup to be very unfamiliar and distant as though they were unreachable!

Also, he found the idea of getting to know another woman and starting a relationship from scratch to be very tiring.

Meng Qingxue's lovely smile would involuntarily appear in his mind at times like that. She would be lying in his embrace, smiling obsessively at him while looking like a lazy yet alluring kitten.

"Yancheng..." She would coo as she coiled her arms around his neck.

"Mu Yancheng—"

A sullen voice brought the man back to reality.

Song Enya's disgruntled look entered his vision as he came back to his senses. "Earth to you, Mu Yancheng! Did you hear what I just said?"

"What?"

"My gowns have to be custom-made by well-known designers, and I want at least five of such—two for the wedding day itself and three for the bridal photoshoot; can you do that?!"

Her tone was harsh and impolite as though she was interrogating him or giving out an order.

"Five gowns?!"

He was quite taken back by how demanding she was.

It was not the money problem; rather, he found them to be unnecessary. Preparing those things required not only money but also time and energy. He certainly did not have the patience and effort to prepare all those!

Memories of Meng Qingxue involuntarily surfaced in his mind once more.

He could still remember the time when they watched a TV program about the different styles and designs of wedding gowns. Her arms were hooked around his as he passed a remark, "A matrimonial gown is only a small part of the wedding ceremony; there's no need to pay so much attention to it."

The woman, however, shyly replied, "It's every girl's ultimate dream to walk down the aisle in a beautiful gown with her beloved half!"

Hearing that, he could not help asking her, "Is that your ultimate dream?"

"Of course not!" After a beat, she said, "All I dream of is to stay by your side. Still, I'll be really blessed if we can get married! I'm not picky with the gowns—a simple one will do; I don't care about its price tag or brand!"

She even proudly added, "Because I'll look beautiful in whatever gown I wear!"

That drew laughter from him, and he gave her an indulgent kiss. "What a sly, little thing you are! If you like it so much, I'll get someone to custom-make one for you in the future!"

"For real?!" she asked excitedly. "You will marry me?"

He fell silent at that, however.

She, too, knew that she had accidentally crossed a line with him, for the man had told her before that he had never once thought of marrying her when they got together.

Back then, he totally did not expect himself to fall for her so deeply; the future of them being together looked bleak. He kept mum for a while before he eventually said, "Since this is your ultimate dream, I've decided; I'll give you a wedding gown even if I can't marry you in the future."

Chapter 2495: Did you run a background check on me?

"Since this is your ultimate dream, I've decided; I'll give you a wedding gown even if I can't marry you in the future. I'll get a well-known designer to custom-make one for you. What do you think of that?"

She did not respond right away. Instead, her face dimmed in apparent disappointment.

That expression was firmly etched into his mind, and he could not help feeling heartache for her as he recalled it now.

Her ultimate dream had probably nothing to do with wedding gowns but rather with him being her groom.

"If I do end up tying the knot with you, I bet I'll break down in tears at the wedding venue." She once told him this dejectedly.

Pulling back from his thoughts, he retorted with a smirk, "Five gowns? How interesting you are, Song Enya."

He lifted his head at that. "You know full well the reason behind us getting married. Just stick with a basic wedding ceremony. That's enough of an account to your family. As for those custom-made gowns you mentioned earlier, you can get them yourself if you really want to and just put them on the Mu Group's tab."

The missy blandly commented, "You don't seem to care about our wedding."

"Pardon?" In an equally cold tone, he replied with a cock of his brow, "You, on the other hand, seem to be pouring a lot of attention and effort into our wedding, so much so that I'm getting this idea that you resorted to all those dirty tricks because you're truly after getting hitched with me!"

"You!"

Rendered momentarily speechless, she eventually spat, "After getting hitched with you?! Haha! Dream on! This joke ain't funny at all! I just don't wanna lower my status and suffer a grievance! Given our families' social standing, we can't be slipshod about the wedding! It needs to be grand and lavish! You, on the contrary, have been anything but lackadaisical about it as though it's got nothing to do with you. You don't look like a groom-to-be!"

Mu Yancheng lifted a corner of his lips in a cold smirk. "I've already done my part!"

His words, although softly spoken, were firm and practically forced out through gritted teeth.

Just as the missy was taken aback by his words, she heard him continue saying, "It's on account of your family that I chose to suffer this disadvantage, even though you used such unscrupulous means to get married to me. The cheek you've got to talk about holding a glamorous wedding! Be clear on this: Marrying you and giving you a legal title is already a great favor bestowed upon you! You don't have the right to request this and that from me! Just stick with the basic requirements for the wedding and stop with all your requests. There's a limit to my patience!"

"There's a limit to your patience? Am I the only one you're so impatient with, or do you treat all other girls this way, too?!"

"That has nothing to do with you!"

Song Enya's eyes grew wide and round in anger. "What about Meng Qingxue then?!"

The unexpected mention of Meng Qingxue's name stunned him, and he stared wide-eyed in puzzlement at the missy.

She continued questioning him. "Do you treat her the same way you do to me?!"

Anxiety replaced bewilderment. "How do you know about her?!"

"That's none of your business!"

"How did you know her name?!" A possibility hit his mind right there and then, and he asked askance, "Did you run a background check on me?!"

Chapter 2496: Provisional Agreement

Naturally, Song Enya would not want to divulge how she had created a false impression of her being his 'official' girlfriend to put his lover down that night!

She took it for granted that, since Mu Yancheng would become her husband sooner or later, she had to eliminate all those messy relationships in his life so as to consolidate her position as his 'rightful wife'. This was because she had no way to retreat from this marriage transaction anymore!

Therefore, she acquiesced to his suspicions and replied matter-of-factly, "You are my fiancé and my future husband, so as your future wife, naturally, I must know about your past clearly, or else if some lowly affairs get exposed when we are ready to tie the knots, it'll be humiliating for me even if you don't feel embarrassed!"

As she finished her words, she stirred her coffee carelessly even though she was feeling rather dismal about almost giving herself away.

She had spoken out of turn in a fit of rage.

She was still too impulsive for her good!

The man sneered in response and retaliated with a deadpan expression, "Song Enya, do you still have the cheek to check on me? I, for one, haven't pursued your shady past in the first place and chosen to ignore the skeleton in the closet, especially regarding the child you're carrying now! I'm sure your dirty laundry will be exposed well and good if I decide to check on you. Hopefully, this matter of your in-vitro fertilization is well-hidden and not exposed to the public, or else the Mus and the Songs will be disgraced along with you!" He then paused to appreciate the souring expression on the missy's face before continuing unhurriedly, "Speaking of which, you really impressed me! I did see women throw themselves at men before, but the extent that you went is truly impressive! In order to get your hands on Mu Yazhe, you actually ran all the way to the US for an IVF-ET! It's a shame that you landed in such a dismal state after all your scheming. Finally, with some effort, you've managed to get yourself a chance to enter my Mu family as you wished. I wonder if you're satisfied now?"

The woman could not bear to listen to his mockery. Although the man was smiling when he said such words, sarcasm belied every word that he spoke, so much so that they cut deeply into her heart by the time he finished speaking.

She was extremely aggrieved but had to feign calmness as she told him off sternly. "Shut up, Mu Yancheng! You don't have any say in my affairs!"

The man merely laughed at that. "Alright. I won't say anything about your deeds, so please don't say anything about mine, either! Song Enya, let's speak freely here: After marriage, you can look after your affairs and don't interfere with my private life! No matter what kind of woman I find outside, it's not your turn to tell me what to do; is that clear?"

"Look for a woman outside?!" questioned Song Enya angrily. "Do you know what you're talking about?!"

To which the man coldly answered, "You do know the tradition of the Mus, don't you? Once I become the official head of my family, I have the right to take in a few concubines. Although those women will have no official titles and won't be on equal footing with you, they can join the Mu household and be under the same roof as you. Since you're determined to marry into the Mus, then you must mentally prepare for this to happen; do you understand?"

“You can’t!” The woman laughed back in anger. “Mu Yancheng, how presumptuous you are! I have yet to marry into your family, yet you can’t wait to rule over me!”

Chapter 2497: Just because you want to marry up.

The woman laughed back in anger. “Mu Yancheng, how presumptuous you are! I have yet to marry into your family, yet you can’t wait to rule over me! Now, you’re talking to me about having mistresses and you’re saying it so blatantly, too! What do you mean by concubines—do you think this is still the imperial era? Do you know what era we are in now? We practice monogamy these days, and there’s no such thing as concubines! Impossible! I’ll never allow you to do that!”

Mu Yancheng could not help but sneer. “Song Enya, you don’t have the right to interfere with me! As the primary mistress of the Mu family, you just go and learn to be a good and virtuous wife once you officially enter my household; you’re not qualified to interfere in other things.”

“You! On what grounds?!”

He replied, “By virtue of the fact that you’re marrying up instead of down.”

The woman was too dumbfounded to say anything.

Marrying up?

Oh, right; how could she forget that there were differences in the social classes even among the elites.

In ancient times, a woman of high status who married a man of low status would refer specifically to the marriage as of the emperor’s daughter.

The feudal society was one with a hierarchy. During those times, those who enjoyed some form of social class would have rankings based on their statuses in life whether they were officials or part of some ethnic groups. Any woman who married a man of lower status was considered to have married down; an example was an empress or a princess who married down.

This was not the case for Song Enya, though. Comparing the Songs with the Mus, she would be considered to have married up. On the whole, the latter family was not entirely satisfied with this marriage agreement, so a majority of them did not approve of the union.

Hence, she was already considered to be marrying up and, indeed, had no right to make further demands.

The spoiled lady had high requirements for her wedding, and although the Mu family would consider the bride’s wishes, they could not all be accepted. The conditions, which she had proposed, were really too harsh.

At this point in time, the Mu family was having cash flow issues and could face disruption to their liquidity at any time.

In other words, they were ready to mortgage any assets to tide over their relatively risky financial ventures.

Hence, her fussy demands had naturally disgruntled the man.

“Anyway, you don’t have to fantasize a pompous wedding on your big day. If you’re truly that ignorant, then I’ll spell out this entire affair clearly to you! I am reluctant to marry you and only accepted the marriage arrangement because it’s the command from my uncle! I’ve already given you an official title and a home to return to, with both being huge favors to you, so the Mu family will neither tolerate your capriciousness further nor give in to any of your unreasonable demands!”

“I...”

The young lady’s face turned red; her lips trembled violently as hot tears of aggression filled her eyes.

He knocked on the tabletop with his knuckle and said, “Song Enya, learn to behave yourself, and you may just be able to get by with your life, but if you insist on being difficult, I have no qualms with kicking you aside as my bride-to-be!”

After saying that, he pushed the cup of coffee on the table away from him, stood up, put his hands inside his trouser pockets, and sauntered away!

His movements were so exaggerated, as if he was doing them to show off his power to her, that the coffee spilled on the table.

The lady could do nothing except watch him walk away. She did not attempt to stop him, and upon his exit from the room, tears immediately burst forth from her eyes!

He’s too much!

Although she had high requirements for the wedding, these were, by no means, too harsh conditions to fulfill.

In fact, was it too much for her to ask for five sets of custom-made wedding dresses?!

It’s not too much, is it?

Chapter 2498: He does not care about his flesh and blood.

The Songs and the Mus were prestigious families in the capital. Back in the olden days, they would have been given imperial-like statuses, so how could the wedding be a shabby affair? Naturally, it had to be grand!

Hasn’t Brother Mu ordered a dozen wedding dresses for Yun Shishi to choose from?

All she asked were five sets. How could that be considered as excessive?!

Is that too much to ask for?!

Bluntly put, the man simply did not take her to heart!

Song Enya was so aggrieved that she was about to break down. Despite doing her best to hold them back, tears still flooded her eyes and overflowed uncontrollably!

Even though she did not hold much fantasy regarding the wedding, since she had resolved to marry him, theirs should not be like a shotgun wedding. She would be bound to this man for the rest of her life.

Rather than being at odds with each other, it would be better to close the distance between them. Like her parents who were merely married in name, they were at least respectful to each other in the public eye even if they lacked mutual affection!

She had considered this carefully; it would be impossible to force herself to like Mu Yancheng, but to treat him as like a real husband would be feasible.

After all, marriage was a long-term engagement; it would not do to treat it perfunctorily.

Alas, the two would often engage in warfare the moment they were alone with each other.

She tried communicating with him calmly at first, but it simply did not work.

The man did not even display patience in the most basic of acts such as listening to her request. She had asked him out this time to discuss the wedding preparation, on how they could make the affair grand and proper; after all, there were customs to follow: formal marriage proposal, dowry, engagement gifts, wedding photoshoot, the ceremony itself, et cetera...

All these would need careful planning, but the man had not once shown any interest and, instead, taken her requests lightly.

The missy, full of annoyance and morose, picked up the teaspoon briskly to stir the coffee with the cup in her hand. She was about to take a sip when she realized with a start that she should not be drinking coffee while pregnant. She pushed the cup aside with utmost fury!

Pregnant ladies aren't supposed to drink coffee!

Also, of all things, the coffee had to be ordered by that man!

This random order went to show just how uncaring he was!

Regardless of how the baby came about, the child in her tummy was his flesh and blood, which he did not seem to bother at all!

Coffee?!

Doesn't he know that pregnant women aren't supposed to drink coffee?!

She clenched the edge of the tablecloth in quiet desperation as two lines of tears rolled down her cheeks in quick succession.

Lately, she kept feeling exhausted. She maintained her signature haughty look before her friends, and when they found out that she would be marrying into the Mu family, they all were terribly envious and jealous. Still, she did not find any comfort in their envy and jealousy. Her face might have been sustained, but her mood was low since the beginning.

This was because she knew in her heart that, even if it was a stunning marriage union, it was not a happy one!

She was confused and anxious about her future.

When she returned home, her mother saw her approaching, looking distracted, and hurriedly greeted her, chiding at the same time, "Where did you run off alone? Why didn't you answer my calls?"

The middle-aged woman had seen her daughter leaving in the afternoon and then called her several times in a row but to no avail; this was when she became worried.

"Nothing's wrong!" she answered with some frustration. However, upon seeing her mother's panicking face, she asked curiously, "Mom, what's wrong? You look terrible!"

"Do you know anything about the incident involving your good friend, Jingtian? Something happened to her; you know that, right?"

Chapter 2499: Yan City

At the mention of Lu Jingtian, her annoyance faded away as she replied indifferently, "Oh, that. Yeah, I know. She got burned in a fire accident and is currently hospitalized. I visited her some time ago and heard from her doctor that she's recovering well."

Even though the two young ladies were besties, their friendship meant nothing in the high society. They could only be considered to be on good terms; they were not so close to the point that they could bare their hearts to each other.

Furthermore, with all the ongoings in her family lately, Song Enya was physically and mentally exhausted. After experiencing a shift in mentality, she no longer paid much heed to the things around her.

"Not that! It's already been days since this matter happened; Jingtian committed suicide by jumping off a building. Did you know about this?"

She nodded absentmindedly before her head suddenly jerked up and her eyes widened in shock. "What?!"

"Five days ago, she jumped off the hospital's rooftop and died!"

Her mother continued asking, "The day after is the seventh day of her passing. Her family is planning to hold a farewell ceremony for her. Will you be attending?"

The news came so abruptly that it caught her unprepared and left her gaping in shock.

"How's that possible? Mom, is that news accurate?"

"Of course!" the middle-aged woman answered. "I was only certain of it when I saw the obituary Huanyu published in the newspaper! It's the last day of her funeral the day after. You should pay her a last visit since you were on good terms with her when she was still alive."

“But... I can’t...” the missy hesitantly said. “I’m getting married soon. It’s bad luck to attend a funeral when I’m about to hold a wedding.”

“Well, it’s not anything important, anyway, so it’s fine even if you skip attending her funeral. I’ll just call the Lus to express my condolences and tell them that you’re not feeling well.”

Her head bobbed in agreement.

“I don’t feel well; I’ll head back to my room first.”

Jiang Qimeng chased after her daughter. “Have you taken your dinner? Should I bring it up to you?”

The latter, however, merely ignored her and quietly climbed up the stairs.

As she watched her daughter’s retreating figure, she let out a heavy yet worried sigh.

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The night sky was as dark as jet-black ink when a bus gradually pulled to a halt at a stop; the doors then slowly opened to reveal a lady who slowly hauled her luggage off the bus.

Not long after, the doors closed behind her and the bus drove off into the distance.

Meng Qingxue lifted her head and took a look at the bus stop sign, which read: Yan City’s Central Platform.

Yan was a small city just a little over two hundred kilometers away from the capital. She had inadvertently come across this station’s name just when she was feeling lost on where to go even after taking several buses.

Yan City¹—Yancheng.

Just like that, she bought a bus ticket to this city. Before boarding the public transport, she bought herself some bread and water at the bus station so that she could eat and drink them on the road.

It was a bumpy, ten-hour ride. Plus, since she was suffering from morning sickness, the food she ate ultimately got vomited by her.

She was fortunate to receive great care from several female passengers after they learned that she was pregnant, so she did not suffer too much from the journey.

Upon reaching her stop, she alighted to find a village hostel just across the road. Perhaps, due to its long history, the lights at the two corners of the signboard were no longer working.

She looked around her surroundings, realizing that it might be tough for her to flag down a cab at this hour, but in any case, before she found herself a house to stay in, she could only settle down in a hostel for the time being.

Chapter 2500: Alone

Thus, she picked up her baggage and walked into the hostel.

There was no one manning the reception when she entered the lodging. After announcing her arrival several times, she finally heard some noises coming from a dark room nearby.

“I’m coming!” Out came a middle-aged man in flippers, who was somewhat surprised to find a beautiful and innocent-looking lady standing in front of the reception.

Yan was a tiny and dilapidated city which was pretty much unknown, and most of its population were natives who grew up here. While the locals would venture out to the bigger cities, city-dwellers coming into Yan City were practically unheard of, unless they were there to visit relatives.

The boss stared at her dumbly for a good while. Despite his age, he had never met any female as good-looking as her before!

As Yan City was surrounded by mountains, the women who grew up there learned how to herd the cattle on mountains from a young age. The strong winds in the mountains caused their skin to become rough. Knowing zilch about skincare products, the young ladies there, thus, looked as if they were in their thirties or forties with their unkempt hair and untidy clothes.

He could tell at once, from her decent dressing, pretty face, and smooth, porcelain skin, that she grew up in good environments. Her eyes, in particular, were as exquisite as a painting. Even though she was bare-faced, all it took was a slight moving of her eyebrows for others to marvel at her beauty!

What a pretty lassie! The boss sighed inwardly.

Upon noticing her frail and pale appearance, however, he could not help asking out of curiosity, “Where are you from, miss?”

Meng Qingxue did not answer him. Instead, she cut to the chase, enquiring, “Do you have any available rooms, mister?”

The boss took a moment to respond to her. “Yes! For you alone?”

“Yes, just me.”

“You don’t sound like a local. Are you here to visit someone?”

“No, I’m just passing by. I’ll be leaving tomorrow morning.”

Feeling wary, she did not say much to the boss.

Having run the hostel for a long time and encountering all sorts of people every day, the boss naturally could read faces and knew that she was guarded against him, so he did not pose any more questions to her.

“Please pass me your identification card for registration.”

She immediately rummaged through her bag but realized straightaway that Mu Yancheng might be able to find his way here if she used her ID to register for her stay.

Worry consumed her as she instinctively stroked her belly. Looking up, she forced a smile at the boss. “I think I forgot to take it with me. Is it necessary to produce my ID?”

“How could you not bring it with you? Hotels and other lodging places require identification cards for registration purposes.” Suspicion crept in the hostel owner right there and there, prompting him to ask, “Are you of legal age, miss?”

“Of course, I’m twenty!” she nervously replied.

Laughingly, the boss said, “Oh, well. We can’t do anything about it if you’re unable to produce your card! It’s late at night now, and there aren’t many lodging places around here. Hailing a cab will also be difficult. I’ll just let you stay.”

She cried gratefully, “Thank you, sir!”

“Standard room costs sixty yuan a night. Deposit is a hundred yuan.”

She was pleasantly astonished by what he said. *Is the cost of living so cheap here?*

A standard room only costs sixty yuan a night, which is a far cry from the minimum three hundred yuan a night for a room in the capital.

This isn’t some sort of shady hostel, is it?