

Sweet Love 2501

Chapter 2501: Running into Trouble

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

As she let her mind roam, she took out two hundred yuan from her bag and handed the money to the boss, who passed her the room keycard. "Second floor, Room 209. If you're going to bathe, let the shower run for a while so that you can get hot water."

"Noted!"

She nodded and was about to turn around when two half-naked young chaps walked down the stairs, yelling, "Boss, give us two packs of furongwang¹."

"Noted!" cheerfully replied the boss, moving to take the requested cigarette packs out from a drawer to scan for payment. "How's your killing tonight?"

"Sigh. I've got rotten luck! It's so bad that I almost lost all my savings!"

"How much did you lose?"

"Ten thousand!"

It left the boss gobsmacked. "Oh, dear. That's a huge loss!"

During their conversation, Meng Qingxue looked up to see two men, who had tattoos all over their upper torso, walking briskly down the stairs. Feeling startled and wary, she hid in a corner and did not dare to lay eyes on them again.

Judging by their appearances, they must be hooligans, right?

The way they talk is so rowdy, too. In any case, they're no decent men.

They too noticed her, and their eyes lit up at the sight of her—a lone female, beautifully dressed in the middle of the night. Naturally, they had their misconceptions of her.

"Hey, boss. Since where did you dabble in this sort of business, too? Why didn't you say so? To think we were getting bored!"

The guys had apparently taken her as a hooker!

Awkwardness settled on the boss's face as he immediately explained, "Brother Dong, Brother Cheng, you're mistaken! She's just a customer. It's not what you're thinking about!"

He hastily signaled to her. "Hurry along. Room 209 is on the second floor. Don't get the wrong room!"

She gave a hurried nod before clutching her bag tightly to herself and heading straight for the second floor with her head ducked down.

One of the young men noticed her frightened but youthful and beautiful looks, though.

One would be unable to find any other female as beautiful as her in the entire Yan City!

The local ladies all had rough skin. Even if they were born with smooth and fair skin, it would eventually be roughened by the winds on the mountains. Plus, most of the girls grew up doing all sorts of farm work and household chores, so how could they possibly have such a delicate appearance?

Harboring ill intentions, he deliberately put out his arm to stop her just when she was about to walk past him. She, however, nimbly dodged him and continued making her way to the stairs. Being the young and vigorous man that he was, he bumped her with his shoulders when he realized that he got humiliated.

“Ah!”

It caused her to stagger and very nearly fell on the stairs. Her maternal instinct to protect her child kicked in at once; she hastily put her hands out to balance herself, dropping her bag in the process, which attracted the young men’s attention.

The bag’s zipper was not closed, so they could vaguely see a thick stack of red notes in it. Their jaws practically dropped at the sight.

That’s a lot of cash!

There must be at least ten thousand yuan in there!

Is this woman a rich missy?!

Meng Qingxue’s expression darkened upon noticing their looks. She then frantically picked up her bag, hugged it tightly to her chest, and dashed toward the stairs.

One of the young men chased after her and tugged her arm, asking leerily, “Why are you running from us? Are you afraid of us eating you up? We’re no beasts, though!”

Chapter 2502: Two Hooligans

“Let go!” she demanded.

That young man smacked his lips in obvious dissatisfaction, mumbling, “Why so feisty?”

When her expression remained tense, he sighed and shook his head. “Chill, girl. We ain’t baddies. We’re just curious why you’re alone out here at this time of the night. Don’t you know that it’s dangerous for a girl like you to be loitering outside once the sun is down?”

She shook his hand off, fuming. “Please show some respect!”

Her display of anger only piqued his interest further, though.

“Oh, my! Respect? You’re quite the cultured lady! Don’t you know that I detest educated people?” With that, he yanked her arm once more.

Disgusted with the act, she took a step backward and warned him, “Keep your hands to yourself!”

“What? I can’t do that?” demanded the young man rowdily, becoming ruder and more unreasonable following her words of warning. He even bared his teeth as he glared at her.

Despite being badly frightened, the woman feigned a look of composure and sternly warned him, “Behave yourself or I’ll call the cops on you!”

He cocked a brow at that but eventually let go of her, though it was not without any cursing.

The boss hastily stepped in to play mediator. “Brother Dong, Brother Dong, aren’t you spoiling my business if you go around making things difficult for my customers? It’s not easy for this lady to come here from afar. She just wants to go back to her room and rest for the night. Please don’t make things too difficult for her.”

“Alright, alright. I got it!”

Brother Dong waved his hand, which prompted the hostel’s boss to give Meng Qingxue another urging look.

As if she had received a great amnesty, she ran up the stairs in one breath while clutching her bag, and upon finding her room, she swiped the card and entered it right away. She swiftly proceeded to close the door behind her, lock it, and even latch it as though there were demons chasing after her outside.

Only after ascertaining that she was safe did she heave a long sigh of relief. She plopped down on the bed and placed the bag next to her, still feeling somewhat scared.

As she lifted her head to check her surroundings, she noticed that the standard room was cramped with no other furniture—table, TV, or even an air-conditioner—save for a heater and a simple single bed that was covered with a yellowish-white blanket.

She went to check the bathroom next, but it was also relatively shabby.

This explained why the room was charged at such a low rate, though.

There was a little sunroof above the room, which got her worried, for she suddenly recalled a piece of news about a young lady being robbed while staying alone at a lodging. Her room also had a sunroof. A thief, who specialized in using an incense-sort of item, stuck that stuff into the sunroof, causing the lady to drift into a deep slumber upon smelling the scent. The thief then climbed into the room through the sunroof and stole her valuables.

Meng Qingxue swiftly climbed up the bed, closed the sunroof, and locked it. Only then did she feel slightly at ease. She was all covered in sweat by then, though.

She headed to the bathroom, turned on the shower, and let the water run for a while until it got hot. She then took a quick shower and soon tucked herself in bed to rest for the night.

It was the wee hours of the night by then.

As she lay in bed, close to falling asleep, she suddenly heard a flurry of footsteps outside her room.

Ever since she got pregnant, she had become a light sleeper and would be easily awakened at the slightest noise.

In a flash, her eyes peeled open and she sat right up in bed, glancing warily at the door.

Chapter 2503: Lusting After Her

In a flash, her eyes peeled open and she sat right up in bed, glancing warily at the door.

Out of instinct, she wanted to ask who was outside her room, but as she was about to do so, she heard the grumbling of a familiar male voice.

“This stupid thing is surprisingly difficult to unlock.”

The man next to him asked, “So can you do it or not?”

“I should be able to.”

She heard an electronic beeping noise right after, and she could not help drawing in a deep breath of cold air.

The voices sounded familiar; they belonged to the two ruffians whom she had met at this hostel’s counter. A chill ran down her spine as she carefully and quietly climbed out of bed, tiptoed to the door, and looked through the peephole.

In the dimly lit corridor, a magnified view of a male with his head bowed down came into sight. She remembered him; the hostel’s boss called him ‘Brother Dong’. Seeing how respectfully the former treated the latter, this guy might be a street thug with some sort of background.

She guessed that the two men were probably playing cards, mahjong, or some other activities in one of the rooms here and were most likely gambling since she heard that they had lost ten thousand in just one night.

It dawned on her then that both had seen the cash in her bag back when it dropped open to the ground while they were tussling with each other. *Did it cause them to harbor ill intentions?*

She was no fool. Tucking herself at a corner behind the door, she dared not make a sound and even deliberately softened her breathing.

From behind the door, she heard Brother Dong muttering, “It’s too hard to unlock. Tsk tsk! Let’s just break this thing.”

Oh, no!

Fear gripped her heart.

He’s not going to swipe the door with a card, is he?

Are they going to break into my room?!

Word had it that the average electronic hotel locks were very easy to unlock. Some slot machine players would carry an electronic jammer with them, and such door locks were practically useless against those devices!

She nervously glanced at the door latch right then. It was a good thing that it was all latched up.

What should I do?!

What should I do?!

This was the first time she encountered this sort of situation, and her hand instinctively moved to call for help via her phone. The number that appeared in her mind, however, was none other than Mu Yancheng's.

No!

I mustn't call him for help! I can't appear so spineless in front of him!

Since I've decided to leave him, I should make a clean break. I mustn't be wishy-washy about it and continue pining for him.

Clutching her phone tightly in her pocket, the terrified woman silently listened to the sounds the men made outside.

All of a sudden, she heard several *beep beep* sounds. The door was then unlocked!

The man proceeded to push the door open but found that he could not due to the door latch. Thus, he was still stuck outside for the being.

Clang—

He tried pushing the door open again several times. Furious by the unsuccessful attempts, he let out a string of curses. "D*mn it. This b*tch is quite cautious, huh?! She even latched the door!"

"Say, what sort of family do you think she's from? Judging by her appearance, I'd say that she's a rich missy. I wonder what she's doing here with so much cash on her!"

"Who knows?! Haha! I wouldn't give a d*mn about her if not for that cash in her bag."

"She's quite the pretty, little thing. It won't hurt to have some fun with her."

The other man was lusting after her. Earlier at the receiving area, he had obviously noticed her beauty and her rather busty chest.

Chapter 2504: You guys want money, right?!

"Don't mess around with the woman; we're only here for the money. The last thing we want is for this matter to blow up, especially since she appears to have powerful connections!"

Brother Dong was obviously a veteran and knew that some things were better left untouched.

After fidgeting with the lock some more, he gave a sudden, vehement snort and cursed, "Why is this lock so hard to break loose? We can't get in!"

“Ah Dong, there should be a skylight in this room, right? We can try that window, instead.”

Meng Qingxue turned her head abruptly and drew in a sharp breath at the sight of the skylight behind her. Her breathing quickened as tears flowed rapidly down her cheeks in fearful desperation.

The two men outside the door took turns kicking the door, and that startled her at once. The woman let out a loud yelp in shock.

“Ah—w-what do you guys want?!”

The men were stunned, and then the one called Ah Dong reacted with a few gleeful sniggers. By listening to her tense voice from behind the closed door, he could imagine her hiding behind it for some time, desperately keeping mum out of fear.

“Missy, why haven’t you gone to sleep yet?”

“What are you doing? What the hell are you doing?!”

“We are here to look for fun with you!” replied Ah Dong matter-of-factly. “Isn’t this your first time in town? Why don’t we take you to the night market nearby and treat you to a barbecue?”

“No, I’m going to sleep; don’t disturb me, okay?” Her almost pleading tone revealed, no doubt, that she was already a bundle of nerves; her psychological defense was on the verge of collapse.

Alas, the man merely snorted and retorted unconcernedly, “Sleep? You’re not sleeping now, are you?”

His unreasonable behavior made the woman frown straight up. “I’m going to bed!”

“What’s so nice about sleeping? We should sleep less while we’re alive so that we can have more fun! You’ll have all the time in the world for sleeping when you’re dead!” Ah Dong pulled a ridiculous reason sinisterly.

Meng Qingxue felt so anxious that she was about to break down. Blocking the door with her body, she said in a trembling voice, “You guys don’t do this... I’m scared... I’m really scared... I’m just staying here for the night, and I’ll be gone tomorrow morning! I’m leaving tomorrow morning... so can you guys leave me in peace?!”

“Sister, what are you talking about?” The other one called Ah Cheng leisurely leered. “We don’t want to hurt you; we’re just looking for you to have some fun! The people in this city are warm and hospitable; since you came here, we naturally should take you out to have some fun!”

“I don’t want to!” She was almost in hysteria by then. “You just want money, right?!”

She could intuitively guess what they were really after.

The two outside the door were stunned at first before they finally admitted it. “There’s no fun in you being so direct with us, but now that you’ve said it first, we can be open about us being short of spending money; since you’re so rich, why don’t you be generous?”

“We lost more than ten thousand tonight due to bad luck. Little sister, why don’t you lend us some? We’ll go back to the betting table, win some back, and return what we borrow from you!”

“No way!” The woman had turned pale by then. “This money... is very important to me!”

This money was reserved for her to raise her baby.

Having a weak constitution, the lady knew that she would be unable to work during her pregnancy. This sum was meant to support her. Even after the baby was born, many things like nutrition fees and hospitalization fees would need money, too!

Chapter 2505: Do the weak deserve to be bullied?

I can't give them the money!

She took out her phone with a trembling hand. Looking at the empty address book, she tapped the dial interface and pressed 1; her fingers were shaking so badly she could not do much.

“If you guys insist on doing the wrong thing, I’m gonna call the police on you!”

The two hoodlums outside the door laughed aloud as soon as they heard that she would call the police.

“Fine! So you have the guts to call the police! Forgot to mention earlier that we don’t care if you call the police as there’s nothing to fear! I know all the officers at the police station here. They can do nothing to me even if you call them, but I’ll make sure you get it if you do call the police!”

These words were an outright threat!

Meng Qingxue was initially intimidated by his words, but after she calmed down and thought back carefully, she realized that earlier at the reception area, when she was being harassed by them, both rogues showed much restraint after she had told them the same thing about her calling the police. She deduced that the man’s words were merely an empty threat!

She would not be threatened!

At the thought of this, she dialed 110. After the line got through, she hurriedly explained her situation and heard the two men outside the door cursing as she mentioned the address of the hostel.

The men started swearing as soon as they realized that she had really called the police.

“D*mn it! This woman is so bold; she really called the police! She’ll take us as small fries if we don’t teach her a lesson, won’t she?!”

“B*tch!”

Ah Dong did not expect her to call the cops as well. Was she not frightened by his menacing words at all?!

By the time the woman put down the line, her unsettled heart had calmed down much. The police’s reassurance that they would rush down at the quickest possible time gave her a sense of security so she was no longer that afraid. “I called the police! They’ll be here soon, so you two had better get lost now!” She told the gangsters in a frigid voice.

Her strong will angered the two obviously.

Standing outside the door, Ah Dong took a sharp drag on his cigarette before he dumped it onto the ground with force. He gave the door a hard kick and yelled, "Stinky m*th*r*f*ck*r! You'd better open this door now! Open this door!"

She let out a scream at the loud banging at the door. The gangster had used so much strength that she could distinctively catch a cracking groan from the wooden door as if some parts of it had split. The door would soon have a hole if the man continued to kick it with much force!

"Are you crazy?! I've already called the cops; they'll be here soon! The police will be here soon!"

She pushed against the door nervously but was caught off guard by the man outside the door giving it another hard kick, which threw her backward by several steps. The woman hit the wall behind and unconsciously tried to block her fall with her elbow. Nevertheless, it was a hard knock, with her elbow turning red and swollen at once.

Clenching the painful joint, she was so aggrieved and desperate that tears started rolling down her eyes again. She bit her lower lip hard as salty droplets, which tasted bitter as well, trickled between her mouth flaps.

She called to them in despondency, "Why must you guys do this to me?! I have no intention to provoke you guys, so could you at least also show mercy and stop harassing me?!"

Chapter 2506: Policewoman Chu He

She called to them in despondency, "Why must you guys do this to me? I have no intention to provoke you guys, so could you at least also show mercy and stop harassing me?!"

The lady hated the fact that she was not a man and did not have a strong physique to protect herself in such a situation.

It was said that men and women were equal, but the most hateful thing was that both genders were born unequal!

Women were always vulnerable; they did not have the powerful built or the strong arms of the opposite sex, and in critical moments such as this, they did not even have the ability to protect themselves!

When things like this happened, what else could she do except beg for mercy?

This world is just too cruel!

The strong fed on the weak, but does that mean that the weak deserve to be bullied?!

Do they get to bully the weak at will just because they're strong?!

What kind of a strongman is that?!

The two men outside the door continued to kick it, and the poor woman, who was in shock, could only cower fearfully in a corner, covering her face and crying in anguish.

However, after some time, which she did not know how long it took, the clamor outside the door stopped.

In turn, anxious knocking at the door was heard.

“Is anyone there?!”

It was the throaty voice of a woman.

Meng Qingxue was jolted from her panicking state by the sound and she looked up. At such a critical moment, hearing a woman’s voice actually made her feel an inexplicable sense of security!

“Who is it?” she asked with tears in her eyes.

“Are you the person who reported the harassment? Were you the one who called the police ten minutes ago?” asked the woman on the other side of the door.

“I am! May I know who you are...”

“I’m the officer in charge of this area,” replied the policewoman. “It’s okay now! We’ve got the troublemakers under control! Could you please open the door?”

The helpless lady, who had yet to recover from her shock, stood up timidly and looked through the peephole. Indeed, there was a young woman in uniform standing outside the door with a somewhat anxious expression.

Only then did she relax at last. She carefully unlatched the bolt and opened the door.

The policewoman slowly pushed open the door and walked in. Meng Qingxue switched on the light and stood sullenly at one side. The cop could see the latter’s tear-streaked face and swollen-red eyes, looking rather pitiful.

She immediately reassured her. “My surname is Chu, and my name is He. Sorry, we’ve arrived a bit late. Are you alright?”

The other woman was still in a state of shock, shivering all over.

Chu He’s heart softened at the sight of the poor, helpless lady. The latter looked very young and, for reasons unknown, had traveled to this city all by herself. Seeing the latter’s frail and frightened demeanor, a surge of protectiveness rose within her, and she quickly said, “You’re safe now! Everything’s alright now!”

“Eh! Thank you, Officer Chu!” Meng Qingxue humbly expressed her gratitude.

A male auxiliary police officer was attempting to enter the room from outside when Chu He looked past her shoulder and stopped him immediately. “Don’t come in!”

“What is it, Sister Chu?”

“It’s inconvenient for you to come in.”

She had noticed the moment she came in that the young lady was not wearing a bra, so a sensitive spot was especially obvious. Thus, it was not convenient for a male officer to enter the room.

“You wait outside the door!”

“Alright.”

She walked over to the lady, gently stroked her back, and softened her tone. “It’s okay; don’t be afraid. I guarantee your safety! Still... is it convenient for you to get dressed now and go to the police station with me to make a statement?”

Chapter 2507: I guarantee your safety.

Meng Qingxue’s fraught emotions finally calmed down by a bit, and only then did she carefully raise her head to have a good look at the police.

What she saw was a lady officer in uniform, standing tall and proud, before her. With a proportionate body, the cop, under the brim of her cap, had a slim face no larger than the size of a palm. The face wore no makeup, not even lipstick, but it looked clean, with a pair of sparkling big, beautiful eyes, accompanied by a high nose bridge and rosy lips. The policewoman looked friendly yet stern and winsome in her uniform!

The policewoman’s face had a healthy glow, which was considered rare in the city of Yan. Unlike her, the lady officer did not seem to know much about makeup or any beauty regime. However, the latter’s face was clear and blemish-free, having distinctive features and sharp contours. She might not be a stunning beauty but was still a pretty woman.

Seeing that the other just kept staring at her, Chu He touched her face curiously and asked smilingly, “Why do you keep staring at my face? Is there something on it?”

“T-There’s nothing!” Meng Qingxue lowered her head in embarrassment, then she asked, “What about those two?”

“Which two?”

“The two... with one called Ah Dong and the other something like Ah Cheng...”

“Oh, they’re outside.”

“Outside the door?” The woman could not help tensing in fear again.

Those bad guys haven’t left yet?!

Then...

She called the police, so if the two got away scot-free, would they come seeking her for revenge afterward?

The policewoman seemed to have guessed her concerns and comforted. “Lass, don’t be afraid; with me around, they can’t do anything to you!”

From this cop’s mannerism, the sense of justice that appeared in her was by no means pretentious!

She could not help liking this lady officer standing before her.

In the past, she had come into contact with some police officers, and they gave her no sense of security despite wearing the same uniform. Those cops seemed very indifferent to the victims' plights, in fact.

This was not the case with this policewoman, though. Unlike her male counterparts, she was gentler and more emphatic.

"Lass..."

Meng Qingxue broke into a smile when she heard that call. "Your age doesn't seem to be far from mine!"

"I should be a few years older than you. I'm twenty-four years old."

"Huh? You look about the same age as I am, though."

The two exchanged friendly banter, which somewhat loosened the tense atmosphere.

In order to appease the young lady's fretful emotions, Chu He chatted with her briefly before saying, "Change your clothes and come down to the police station with me to make a statement!"

"Oh... okay."

She waited outside the door, and ten minutes later, the young lady emerged from the room after washing up and changing into another set of attire.

Meng Qingxue had just stepped outside when she saw the policewoman standing in front of the two rogues with her hands behind her back. Somehow, the three seemed to know one another, and what was even more unbelievable was that the lady officer seemed to hold extreme power over the two punks. They trembled and bowed their heads in front of her and dared not tarry with their answers whenever she threw them questions.

"You guys are gambling again, aren't you?" asked the female officer.

"It isn't gambling exactly... Just token sums that come and go; not much..."

"Not much coming and going?" Chu He snorted. "So you tried robbing a lady when you didn't have much coming and going?"

"Sister Chu... are you on duty tonight at the station?"

Inwardly, the two could only sigh at their bad luck.

Chapter 2508: A Demoness

What bad luck!

Why is our luck so down and out to have this demoness on the shift tonight? Now, we're back in trouble with her again!

Gone was the gentle look on Chu He's face when she was talking to Meng Qingxue moments ago; now, she wore a fierce look of authority as she faced the two men. "You don't have to care who's on duty tonight. You just have to answer my questions honestly."

Ah Dong leaned forward slightly with a flattering smile and remarked playfully, "It was... just an attempted robbery, wasn't it? Hey, we aren't for real, you know! It's just that we had too much to drink tonight, and the alcohol got into our heads, so... we just wanted to scare her a bit!"

With an impatient snort, the officer lifted her foot and kicked him so hard that he landed on the floor.

It was hard to imagine how she got the strength to sweep a nearly-six-foot man to the ground in one swift swoop!

Meng Qingxue's eyes widened in shock and disbelief.

The gangster stifled a yelp of agony dully, while the policewoman continued sans any expression, "Scare her?! Why does a grown-up man like you want to bully some lass when there are better things to do out there?! Count yourself lucky that it's not me you two met; if it were me, I'd definitely break your arms!"

Ah Dong climbed up warily from the ground with a forlorn expression. "Sister Chu, I'm an asshole. I know I'm wrong; I'll do whatever you say! Just be gentle with me. I... I am stupid and brainless! I should've remembered your words! I was wrong; I know I was wrong..."

The man's fear of this police lady was not without reason.

There was a time when he committed an offense against a widow in the east capital. He had stolen some money from the widow's shop. It was not a large sum, amounting to just a few thousand yuan, but these few thousands were meant to cover the family's expenses for a year.

The widow had a child and two elderly people with her. They lived under strained conditions, and to keep themselves afloat and make ends meet, the widow opened a fast-food restaurant next to the factory in the east of the city.

The family's livelihood all depended on that small shop.

A few years ago, her husband went to Africa for work on building a railroad. Alas, he contracted an infectious disease during an epidemic and died in foreign land. They could not even ship his body back home.

After losing her husband, the poor woman had to earn her living, so she toiled to run the fast-food restaurant for their daily expenses.

After Chu He found out about this, she detained the rogue and beat him up severely.

In short, he received a very heavy-handed treatment.

In fact, the money he stole was not enough to treat his injuries.

This ruffian, Ah Dong, was notorious in Yan City for his ruthlessness. Many did not dare to do anything to him, and even if he went seeking trouble with them, they would not even consider calling the police for fear of his retaliation.

He also had a lot of brutal minions, and because of that, their nefarious deeds were rampant in this city. However, since Chu He took office and had a few dealings with the ruffian, this ill-famed, small-time gangster was completely taken into hands by her!

This woman can't be trifled with!

She's a demoness.

It was not as if he had not tried to retaliate, but the crux of the matter was that this woman was so ruthless; he did not know where she got her skills from. Once, he led a group of men to ambush her, and they all ended up getting a good thrashing.

After she took office, her righteous spirit brought the local security to a whole new level.

Many veterans in the bureau who were unconvinced had sought her out to compete in private.

Turned out that these male officers, with many having experience in the army, were no match for her, either.

Chapter 2509: The Domineering Chu He

Turned out that these male officers, with many having experience in the army, were no match for her, either.

As for the ruffian, he had learned to behave himself after she taught him a lesson. Whenever he saw her, he would quickly put on a submissive stance, too scared to say anything.

Unfortunately for him, this time, he fell into her hands again.

Meng Qingxue sat in the passenger seat while an auxiliary police officer accompanied the two gangsters to sit in the back on their way to the police station. Chu He was the one driving the car back to the bureau.

At the bureau, a statement was made and recorded. However, as their act essentially did not constitute any serious injury, the two men only got a tongue-lashing at most; there was no detention even.

The policewoman was so mad that, after scolding the two, she called them to the detention room and closed the door.

Meng Qingxue was curious about where the three people went and quickly asked the auxiliary police next to her, who then gave her this reply: "They were summoned for a lecture, I suppose."

"Lecture?"

"Yes!" The policeman's face sank slightly as he explained, "Sister Chu's way of dealing with such pieces of trash is to rough them up first before giving a reformatory lecture."

"Rough them up?"

“Those two have multiple police records with us and are regulars here. Sister Chu finds them an annoyance, so I guess that they’ll get it pretty bad from her this time!”

Sure enough, when the policewoman emerged from the room again with the two men in tow, their faces were bruised and swollen, especially around the eyes. Finding their steps slow, Chu He kicked one of them and sternly rebuked, “Couldn’t you walk properly?!”

“Yes! Yes!”

“If I ever catch you guys again, you can bet that I won’t be nice to you like today!” threatened the policewoman with a look of disgust on her face. “Fancy two grown-up men troubling a helpless lass—how shameless!”

“Sister Chu, we know we’re wrong; we’ll never do it again!”

She told them off coldly. “Hmph! Don’t ever do it again, or you’ll find yourselves in jail next time!”

The two men left the police station with their heads hanging low, looking utterly ashamed and defeated.

Chu He walked up to Meng Qingxue’s side, raised her eyebrow, and said smilingly, “It’s okay now; you can go back!”

“I...” The latter suddenly looked worried. She moved to speak but stopped herself. After a while, she opened her mouth again and stammered with some anxiety, “I-I de-definitely don’t dare to stay in that hostel anymore, but I don’t know if there is another lodging that I can stay for the night; do you know any cheap hotels or guesthouses that I can stay overnight? I’ll look for a house tomorrow morning.”

“Look for a house?” The lady officer was rather surprised to hear that. “Are you planning to find a place to stay in this city?”

“Yes.”

“Why?” The policewoman was really baffled. “I only know people from Yan City who are willing to give a hand and foot to flee to the capital, but I’ve never seen anyone from the capital wanting to settle down in this backward city.”

“I...” Meng Qingxue started, then stopped herself again, looking all glum.

The other knew that she was staying alone in that hostel and, not wanting to take any chance in case those two rascals went seeking revenge, she told her in a resigned tone, “How about you stay over at my place tonight? That’s if you don’t mind it. It’s time for me to knock off, too, so I can drive you back.”

“Can I?” She was a bit uneasy over the suggestion. “Will I disturb you?”

Chu He shook her head and said openly, “No! There’s only my son and me at my place, and the house is rather big. I happen to have a vacant room, too.”

Meng Qingxue was rather surprised to hear that the other party had a child. “Son? Are you married?”

The other woman looked too young to be married with a kid in her opinion.

“Nope,” replied the policewoman with a shake of her head.

“Then... How did you...”

Chapter 2510: Keen Observation

Meng Qingxue suddenly realized that she had asked something personal. She stopped herself and apologized ruefully. “I’m sorry; I shouldn’t pry into your affairs.”

“It’s fine,” Chu He replied. “I don’t know how to answer your question, for I’m clueless on who the father of my child is, either.”

“How’s that so?” The other woman furrowed her brows quizzically.

The reason she was more concerned about this topic was, perhaps, she thought she had found a kindred spirit.

Single mother?

Unmarried and pregnant?

A single woman living alone with a child?

The qualities of Chu He matched her too well as if she was a projection of her. Perhaps there was more to this than what met the eye!

However, the answer ‘I’m clueless on who the father of my child is, either’ of the other woman shocked her thoroughly.

How can she not know who the father of her child is?

Chu He saw the inquiries in her eyes but did not seem to resent her curiosity. Hooking her lips into a smile, the policewoman told her casually, “This is a complicated matter. Let’s talk next time. I’ll get changed first; you wait here for me.”

“Alright.”

Meng Qingxue sat quietly in a chair to wait, and when she saw Chu He coming out in plain clothes, she stood up immediately.

“Let’s go. We’ll return to the hostel first!”

“Eh?” Just as she expressed her surprise, she heard the policewoman explaining, “Your clothes are still there, right? There’s also your deposit; you should collect it.”

She immediately explained, “Actually, it doesn’t matter if I don’t collect it.”

“Are you sure that it’s alright?” The cop stopped in her tracks, casually sized her up, and gave her a hint with a smile. “Since you want to have a baby, you naturally need to be prudent with your money. You’ll need it to meet the child’s needs.”

Meng Qingxue was taken aback. She opened her mouth to speak, but no words came forth, and eventually, she chose to follow the other woman in silence.

The policewoman's vehicle was a motorcycle. She started the engine, put on the helmet, then patted the back seat, and said to her, "Come on up!"

She did as told.

"Hold on to me. It's rather windy, so you should hide behind me."

"Don't you feel cold?"

"I'm used to it. I have a good constitution."

"Alright."

Chu He drove her to the hostel, where she got back the deposit and clothes. The inn-keeper felt bad about the incident she had encountered at his place and, on account of the policewoman, returned the room fee as well.

On the way back, Meng Qingxue asked curiously, "Officer..."

"You can call me Sister Chu."

"Okay. Sister Chu... how did you know that I'm pregnant?"

She had never told anyone about this since the beginning.

"While we were in the car on the way back to the station, you were sitting on the passenger seat with your head down and were silently caressing your belly. Only a pregnant woman would make that kind of movement."

She was stunned for a while before finally responding admiringly, "You have keen observation."

"Where's the child's father?" asked the policewoman all of a sudden. "How come you are alone? Why isn't the child's father with you?"

An expression of loss flashed across her face abruptly before she hooked her lips into a self-deprecating and bitter smile. "The father doesn't want his child, so..."

"So you went out of your way to leave him and came to this poor countryside, where you intend to give birth to the child anonymously?" finished Chu He for her.