

Sweet Love 2531

Chapter 2531: He is not someone whom she can pester.

Based on the car plate number that she had taken note of, she soon found out where he was headed to and chased him all the way to the hotel, only to bump into a waiter who happened to be delivering the candlelight dinner and was about to knock on the door. As she stood waiting outside, she felt somewhat nervous and lost.

She thought they would never meet each other again in this lifetime, but the unexpected reunion led her to believe that it was fate at work.

That was why she sought her way here sans any regards!

Harboring such intense emotions, she flung herself onto him as soon as the door opened and tightly hugged the solid body of the man she had missed so dearly, refusing to let him go!

“Brother Zhe!”

Just like how she called him when they were young, she softly called his name in an attempt to evoke his past memories!

His hands, which meant to push her away, suddenly stiffened!

She knew for sure that the man had recognized her!

Heavens! He still remembers me!

She was elated by this!

Alas, just when her heart was bursting with joy, his next words completely shattered her heart as well as her dream!

‘Let me introduce you to my wife.’

How formal that introduction was, though it was very much like the man’s way of doing things!

He was decisive and rigorous, and once he set his mind on something, he would stick to it to the very end.

In fact, he was also so shrewd that it was almost unsettling.

She had detected the changes in his expressions earlier, from his initial confusion and his gradual coming to senses to his eventual smile of acceptance; through it all, however, she could vaguely sense that he was keeping his distance from her.

The estrangement was due to his deep understanding of his current marital status!

He was a happily married man, who had a wife and a pair of twins that he loved dearly. As such, no matter what, he would keep a gentlemanly distance from all other females.

It also seemed that he was eager to announce his wife's identity to cut off the feelings she should not have toward him.

Once more, she found herself lamenting over his shrewdness and astuteness!

He had managed to detect her feelings for him right away, so just when she was all overjoyed about their reunion, he smilingly and gentlemanly introduced his wife to her as if he wanted to draw a line with her!

...

'Xuanxuan, I'll marry you when we grow up, okay?

'Xuanxuan, I like you; let's always be together.'

She could practically still hear the vows of her childhood sweetheart ringing in her ears, but it had been more than a decade, and things had changed.

At this moment, an unfamiliar woman was standing by his side, and she could tell that he loved her very much.

Did he ever mention to his wife the promise he had once made to me?

The thought of that had her biting her bottom lip involuntarily as speculations ate her heart away.

She had chased after him so desperately, only to realize in the end that he had found his happiness.

While she hated herself for not looking him up earlier because of her reservations, she was also annoyed with him for not doing so, too.

Have I missed my chance at happiness?

No way!

I won't take it lying down!

Nonetheless, despite her reluctance and regrets, she found no reason to continue liking him.

She was never one to pester men in the first place, much less one who was now married.

Chapter 2532: Feeling Upset

She was never one to pester men, but upon seeing him hugging another woman so intimately, it felt as though her heart had been stabbed by a knife and was now bleeding profusely.

...

In the hotel, what was supposed to be a couple's candlelight dinner now turned into a three-person affair, with each having their own trouble.

Mu Yazhe was actually feeling somewhat nervous. From time to time, he would glance at his wife sitting next to him, wondering if she was holding any wrong idea about them after witnessing that scene. He had deliberately introduced her to his old acquaintance to prevent the two women from having any wrong ideas.

To be honest, he was quite astonished to encounter this lady here in Italy, for he had forgotten that the girl whom he was fond of in his youth was staying in this faraway land.

His feelings for her were pure and innocent; he liked her, so he dreamed of marrying her and living happily ever after with her when they grew up, just like how it was in fairytales. That adoration, however, faded along with his memories of her.

Unlike how he was an indelible mark in her heart, his memories of her had gradually washed away along with that plane to Italy.

Meanwhile, Rong Xuan, who was sitting at the table, cut her steak into neat, bite-size cubes before shoving the meat into her mouth with full focus as if she could lessen the tension in the air by doing so. Unfortunately, no matter how delicious the steak was, it felt like she was chewing on wax.

Yun Shishi took a long look at the woman, then shifted her gaze onto the man next to her while quietly cutting and eating the steak on her plate absent-mindedly.

Amid the thick tension, she finally broke the silence by asking, "Aren't you going to make formal introductions, hubby?"

Her question pulled Mu Yazhe out of his reverie and he looked up at her.

"Rong Xuan."

"You've already told me her name. Have you forgotten about that?" she said, adding, "Isn't there anything else you can tell me about her apart from her name?"

These words came out a bit unfriendly!

It was obvious that she detested this woman named Rong Xuan. Women were extremely sensitive creatures, and it was even more so for the actress. Even a fool could see that the way the unannounced visitor looked at her man was different!

She clearly adored him in a way she was not happy about.

After all, which woman could tolerate sharing a table and eating a meal with her love rival?

None! Not even for a second!

It was why gunpowder filled the air the moment the actress opened her mouth.

Her husband could tell that as well, but just when he was about to speak, Rong Xuan smiling said, "I apologize for my abrupt intrusion. After being apart for more than ten years, I was just too happy to meet Zhe again, so I couldn't contain myself. For that, I express my sincerest apologies!"

After a pause, the latter turned toward the former shyly. "I'm really delighted and lucky to have met my childhood sweetheart again! I totally didn't expect this!"

Childhood sweetheart?

What a jarring term!

Her heart skipped a beat!

They were childhood sweethearts?!

Her expression turned slightly frigid as she felt somewhat upset!

Chapter 2533: She looks petty in contrast.

The woman seemingly did not notice the uneasy expression on the other's face and proceeded to speak softly with a smile. "I'm quite surprised to know that Zhe is married already, though. Oh, that's right! I still don't know your name."

The thing was Rong Xuan could tell that the actress was silently showing her power, but having migrated to Italy at the age of ten and growing up in this country, she had adopted the forthright attitude that was unique to Europeans and did not bother concealing her hostility toward her.

Her tone was not exactly polite when she asked for the actress's name.

"My name is Yun Shishi."

"Yun Shishi? Does it mean picturesque and poetic?"

"Yes. 'Yun' for clouds and 'Shi' for poems."

"Whoa! Bingo!"

Mu Yazhe was somewhat surprised and impressed by her standard of Chinese; her mother-tongue remained fluent and she articulated her words clearly even though she had migrated to a foreign land at a young age.

Seemingly understanding his quizzical look, she told him, "Zhe, I'm currently working at the embassy; do you know?"

"Is your mother still working as a diplomat at the embassy?"

"Yes."

There was an indescribable air of nobility to her from the elegance and calmness she displayed through her words and actions. If one had to put it into words, the woman simply looked like a noblesse!

Her graciousness, however, made Yun Shishi appear like a bitter and petty woman in contrast.

After all, she was now the man's wife, while the other woman was nothing but his childhood friend. There was nothing wrong with them doing some catching-up over dinner, having reunited after so many years, yet she took it personally and treated the other woman with gruffness!

“Childhood sweethearts?” The actress faked a laugh and glanced at her husband. “I didn’t expect you to know about love when you were little! I thought you were rigid and broody like how you are now, a little, old man!”

“Haha—no way!” Rong Xuan laughed in surprise.

“Zhe wasn’t this mature as a kid! He might be a little brooding and gloomy, but most of the time—hm... at least, when he’s around me, he loved to laugh! His eyes were beautiful and mesmerizing even back then; it’s as if he had countless, little stars hidden in them! It was because of his eyes that I fell in love with him.”

Yun Shishi was somewhat uncomfortable by her candor and open-mindedness, though it was only inevitable that they might have some clashes in personalities, for one grew up in a European society, while the other was a typical Oriental woman.

Hearing her love rival talk about her husband’s childhood days gave her mixed feelings. On one hand, she was really curious to hear more about his childhood, on the other hand, she was opposed and resistant to the idea of hearing it from this woman’s mouth!

In her silence, she saw the woman smiling at her man with affection shining in her eyes; it seemed that she was recollecting their carefree childhood days by looking at his face.

“Zhe, you really grew up to become a mature man! Good thing you look the same as how I remember you; it’s just that you have deeper eyes, a sharper nose and a more defined facial shape. What about me? Do you think that I’ve changed a lot?”

Chapter 2534: Fleeting Happiness

“A big change.” Mu Yazhe put down his knife and fork, picked up some napkin, and elegantly wiped the corner of the mouth. With slightly hooked lips, he spoke. “To this day, I can still remember how you looked when you were a child. Your eyes were big and watery, and you were always crying. Once you started bawling, you wouldn’t stop. Your nose would turn red and the tears would flow nonstop; no amount of coaxing worked on you.”

He did not continue his reminiscence thereafter!

Rong Xuan could not help laughing. “Who said coaxing was useless? At that time, when you see me crying, you would try all means and ways to coax me, but you were clueless on coaxing a girl and didn’t have any idea on how to stop my crying, so all you could do was hold me in your arms and coax me gently. I asked you to sing and you obeyed! I would then listen to your singing and stop crying. Do you remember? When you were a child, you could not sing well; you couldn’t even hold the tune correctly. Your singing was a mish-mash. As I cried, I was so humored by your silliness that I forgot to cry after that!”

As the woman recounted their childhood days, a faint smile of utmost tenderness emerged on her face. She was immersed in fond memories, but the more she recalled, the more melancholic she became

when she could not shake off the fact that the man she once adored had a family now; her heart was vaguely in pain again!

Bearing such unhappiness inside her, she wanted to give Yun Shishi a taste of her pain. As such, she deliberately brought up the topic of her shared childhood with the man to antagonize his wife.

Just as she wished, Yun Shishi's appetite was flipped by her. The protagonist suddenly put down the cutleries in her hands, lowered her head, took the napkin, and wiped the corner of her lips silently. The unhappiness inside her heart was infinitely magnified by the rumination verbalized so casually by her love rival.

She could tell that Rong Xuan was trying to spite her.

Why is there a need to talk about the past now?

Did she do this to piss me off deliberately—that I had no place in the boyhood of the man I love so much; I've neither participated in it nor known anything about it. In fact, these beautiful memories didn't hold my existence except for hers!

Is this woman showing off? Is she trying to make fun of me now?

With these thoughts in mind, she gently took a sip of the red wine and gave an elegant smile, saying, "How nice to hear from you that my husband has such a cute side to him. It's a shame to think that I had no part in his youth, but, well, his future has my name and only mine. I feel very satisfied when I think of that."

The look on Rong Xuan's face froze for a few seconds before she glanced pensively at the man and said with a smile, "Shishi, you know what? I really envy you! I can see that Brother Zhe loves you deeply, but some things aren't meant to be envied. I think happiness is momentary, so the more happiness we have, the more we need to hold it firmly. If one isn't careful, happiness will flee; therefore, one must learn to grasp happiness!"

"I definitely understand this truth," she replied with a faint smile.

"Times have passed and men are no longer the same!" added the other woman emotionally.

Just then, a voice called weakly, "Daddy, I'm hungry... I want to have a cake..."

Chapter 2535: Got married at a young age?

"Daddy, I'm hungry..."

Startled, Rong Xuan turned in the direction of where the voice had come from, only to see a little boy, in a tee-shirt, rubbing his eyes as he pushed open the door to enter the room.

Youyou was awakened by the pangs of raw hunger. When he opened his eyes and turned his head to see his older brother still sleeping—with his four limbs spread-eagled as he occasionally rubbed his small tummy, he decided to leave the latter alone, got up, and went looking for food.

Just as he got dressed, he could vaguely hear voices coming from outside the door. He heard his mother's voice, immediately pushed the door open, and walked out.

He was unexpectedly greeted by the sight of three people in the dining area, however.

One of them, a pretty lady with brown hair, was a stranger to him.

The boy was stunned for a while.

She's probably daddy and mommy's friend, right?

With this thought in mind, he ignored her presence and ran over to ask for a hug from his mother.

Yun Shishi carried him up when she heard him asking curiously, "Mommy, what time is it now?"

"It's after seven o'clock at night."

"Oh, no! Have I slept for so long? I guess I won't be able to sleep again tonight. Whoops..."

His mother's gloomy mood was instantly lifted. Gently pinching his small cheek, she said discontentedly, "I should've woken you up long ago. You'll be full of spirit again at night when you oversleep during the day. This means that you won't be able to sleep tonight again!"

During this period, the other woman, tongue-tied, could only watch the child with wide, open eyes as she tried to decipher his identity.

Earlier, when she saw the boy running out from the room, she was rather taken aback upon catching sight of his handsome, little face!

The cherubic face, with big, sparkling eyes, was so fair that it looked like a jade carving. His small nose was pointy and complemented by thin, pinkish lips and white pearlies. When he smiled, a cute dimple would appear on his cheek. The delicate face was so perfect that one had the urge to touch him to see if he was real and not a piece of art!

Like a true gentleman, this fair and adorable lad was so docile, elegant and charming that he could melt anyone's heart with a smile!

What was more astounding was that she could instantly tell that this kid was Mu Yazhe's son the moment she set eyes on the boy!

If the boy put on a tense expression, he would look exactly like his father when he was young. She could imagine how handsome and cool the boy would turn out to be after he grew up.

The only thing was this child's lovely side was only meant for a selective few!

When he happened to glance at her, the eyes went icy-cold instantly for a few moments, sending a prohibitive warning for her not to approach him!

However, when he turned to look at his mother again, that lovely, shy smile would reemerge. Blushing, the corners of his lips would lift to reveal his white pearly teeth, and the way he called in his tender voice was enough to soften anyone's heart!

How enviable!

If she could have such a lovely child, she would willingly trade her precious youth!

Is the boy their child?

He's big, isn't he?

If she remembered correctly, he was only twenty-nine years old. Now, the child looked about six or seven years old, so did he get married when he was twenty?

Did he get married at such a young age?!

Chapter 2536: He is unfriendly toward her.

Did he get married at such a young age?!

He was a proud man—free as the wind and did not like to be subjected to any constraints. Marriage, to him, was just a formality, so how could he get married at such a young age?

Rong Xuan's heart turned cold instantly!

Her initial unhappiness turned into a helpless loss and empty loneliness all of a sudden!

It was not as if she had not had relationships before. Some were short-lived while others lasted about two to three years. In fact, she had met all kinds of men, but none could let her experience the exuberance and naïve sweetness of her youthful first love.

First love?

Could he be considered her obscure first love?

Maybe it was just her wistful thinking!

She could feel her countenance, which was usually gracious, stiffening somewhat, and she tried her best to maintain a calm demeanor. She made a point to smile even though it looked forced.

“Brother Zhe, is this your son?”

Mu Yazhe raised his head at her question and hummed in acknowledgement; his cool expression revealed a doting, or even proud, affirmative smile. He took pride in his two,

lovely lads!

“Youyou, this is Auntie Xuanxuan.”

The younger lad finally turned his gaze on the stranger to acknowledge her after his father said that.

“Auntie Xuanxuan!” He greeted her like a gentleman. Despite the lovely smile on his face, though, he sounded impassive and unwilling.

He was not affectionate at all!

A child was always sensitive and he could tell that his mother did not like this stranger. No matter what, he would stand by his mother, so despite greeting the other woman as told, he maintained a cold reception to her.

The smile on the woman's face faded and stiffened somewhat due to embarrassment.

The protagonist's mood, though, was lifted by her son's response!

He's truly my son to take my side.

Her son's apparent cold treatment of her rival warmed her heart!

This little boy has probably perceived that I don't like this woman, so his attitude toward her is unfriendly, too.

Rong Xuan, however, was not discouraged, and in front of her first love, she naturally tried to get into the boy's good graces. She attempted to get him to talk as she asked affectionately, "Your nickname is Youyou; am I right?"

"Yes." The boy gave a simple reply and then pestered his mother to cut steak for him.

"Alright, alright... How can you have such a big appetite when you just woke up!" muttered his mother lovingly as she started to feed him after cutting the steak.

The boy opened his mouth wide, bit the meat with a loud 'ah' and, with his mouth bulging with food, uttered unintelligibly, "I'll go foraging for food while my brother is still not up."

"Is your brother still asleep?"

"Yes!"

The man told his son, "Get your brother out of bed, or he'll ask for food again at night because he's hungry."

The younger one pouted but did not say anything more. He jumped down from his mother's arm and ran into the room to wake his brother up.

It was such a loving family!

Taking in the harmonious scene, the visitor found herself to be superfluous!

She tried to break the awkwardness by saying with a smile, "How adorable! Don't people usually say sons tend to resemble their mothers more? Youyou, however, is a carbon copy of your young self!"

Chapter 2537: He resembles his mother more!

"How adorable! Don't people usually say sons tend to resemble their mothers more? Youyou, however, is a carbon copy of your young self!"

The scheming woman deliberately brought the topic back to their childhood days so that the actress could not join in the conversation. In short, the former was simply ostracizing the latter through her words and actions!

Mu Yazhe asked, "Is that so?"

"Yes! He looks exactly like you when you were young."

"Well, he's my son, so it's only natural for him to take after me." After a pause, he added, "But then again, we're not a hundred percent alike; his eyes resemble Shishi's more!"

Shishi...

How affectionate it sounded!

Once upon a time, he used to call me 'Xuanxuan' in such an intimate manner, too!

Rong Xuan bit her lower lip silently, her eyes turning slightly reddish out of envy and jealousy.

"How nice it is for you to have a son already. I'm envious. Unlike you, I'm still single and unable to find my fated match to date. My parents have been urging me to get married, but I feel that it's better for me to stay single, for there are still certain things that I have yet to let go and I don't wish to force myself to let go!" she lamented miserably, which caused the actress to lose her appetite, for she did not know what exactly the other lady was trying to hint at.

...

Meanwhile, in the bedroom, Youyou climbed up to the bed, pried the blankets off his brother with much effort, and grabbed the latter's collar to shake him awake.

Little Yichen peeled open his bleary eyes to see his twin's close-up face before him, spitting, "Mu Yichen, there's an evil witch bullying our mother out there!"

"What?!" His sleepiness disappeared at once as his eyes bulged wide. "Who is she?! The nerve she's got to bully mommy!"

"Hmph! Beats me!" huffed his younger twin. "I noticed the strange atmosphere as soon as I was with them! I'm wondering if that woman is one of daddy's old flames?"

As if he were to face his enemy, he sat up straight and raised his hand in the air. "Impossible! I swear that there's no other woman by his side throughout my childhood!"

"How would you know that for sure? It's not like you stick by his side twenty-four seven."

"Forget it if you don't believe me!"

"I don't care! Just get up this instant and go chase that wicked woman away!"

The older boy nodded and proceeded to get dressed at once.

...

Back in the dining room, Yun Shishi had completely no idea of the ‘huge conspiracy’ her two kids were planning! Her head was bowed as she listened to the conversation between her husband and his childhood sweetheart.

“So you’re here in Italy for your bridal photoshoot?”

“Yes!” The man gave her an indulging look as he smiled. “I can’t be sloppy with the wedding affair. Even the photoshoot has to be done properly. After all, I owe her a perfect wedding, and it’s been long due!”

Rong Xuan’s smile faltered some more at that; she found her visit here to be torturous, which was only inevitable, for she had to endure seeing the man whom she still loved dearly pouring his entire love and affection onto another woman!

Chapter 2538: What right do you have to call me ‘little fool’?

“Can you recommend some good places for our bridal photoshoot?”

“There are several beautiful shooting locations in Italy, but the unique ones like the Royal Palace of Caserta and the Residences of the Royal House of Savoy aren’t open to the public. I can use my connections to get permission for you guys, though. Your bridal photos will surely come out nicely and nobly if they’re taken in the palace!”

The man’s eyes gleamed when he heard that. Since he did not have any business ventures in Italy, he lacked the extensive connections and resources that his childhood friend, who was an ambassador of the Embassy of the Republic of China in this country and whose mother was a highly respected diplomat, had. It would be easy for her to get permission for them.

He quickly expressed his desire to do the shoot at the palace, so she suggested, “How about this: Let’s meet at the hotel entrance tomorrow at 9 Am, and I’ll take you there myself.”

She paused a bit and turned to face Yun Shishi, who was caught off guard by her confusing display of friendliness and kindness. “What do you think? I’m sure your bridal photos will turn out brilliant if you guys shoot at the palace.”

How ‘kindhearted’ of her!

I wonder what motives she has for doing this?

“I’m fine with it!” answered the actress with a smile.

She, thus, concluded, “It’s all set then? Tomorrow at nine o’clock in the morning.”

“Yeah.”

Right at that moment, Youyou came pushing his twin brother out of the bedroom with a snort.

“Mommy, Mu Yichen is complaining that he’s hungry and that he wants to eat cheesecake!”

Mu Yichen?

Who's that?

The lady looked past her shoulder and, much to her shock, saw two identical-looking boys standing side by side.

Two kiddos? Apart from their height difference, they look exactly the same.

She soon realized that the two of them were identical twins!

The other is called Mu Yichen?!

This woman bore Brother Zhe a pair of adorable twins?!

No wonder he's so doting on her!

As the saying goes, 'A mother's status is elevated with the birth of a son.' She must be enjoying his generous love because she bore him two sons!

Rong Xuan was beyond surprised, for the probability of conceiving twins was very low!

She could tell that the man was very doting on Youyou, which showed his love for children. That love, in turn, had been apparently shared with his wife, the mother of his children. She found this to be really unfair!

She voiced her astonishment. "Shishi, so Youyou still has a twin brother?"

"Yeah..."

It got Mu Yichen asking, "Mommy, who is this auntie? How come I've never met her before?"

"Your father and I have known each other long before you were born, little fool. I grew up with him!"

Feeling disgusted by her pretentious act of friendliness, the boy turned his head away arrogantly and told her firmly, "Don't call me 'little fool'; no one but my parents is allowed to call me that!"

His repulsion to her term of endearment caused her face to stiffen in awkwardness once more. It, however, soon faded, replaced by a weak, piteous smile. "I'm sorry; I didn't mean to call you that! It's only because I'm fond of you!"

"You called me 'little fool' because you're fond of me? Hmph! Where's the logic in that?"

After all, only his mother could call him 'little fool'; he would even get a bit upset when his father called him that at times!

Chapter 2539: Crestfallen

Feeling slightly fed up with the woman, he whined, "Mommy, I don't like this auntie! I hate her! Can't we get her to leave?"

Youyou's eyelid twitched when he heard that.

This brat has gone slightly far with his words!

Still... I like it.

“Yichen!” chided the twins’ father, who was seemingly somewhat displeased with his older son’s attitude toward his elder. “Watch your manners!”

“Woo...” mewled the boy, like an aggrieved, little kitten while feeling quite angry with his dad.

Why is my foolish father helping an outsider?

A crestfallen look fell over Rong Xuan’s face as she eked out a smile and defended the boy. “Don’t scold the boy, Brother Zhe; he’s just an insensible kid! It’s only natural for him not to like me since he finds me unfamiliar.”

“Even so, children shouldn’t be spoiled,” said the man, telling his son thereafter, “Aunt Xuanxuan is our guest. As a host, shouldn’t you be more polite to your guest?”

The words ‘guest’ and ‘host’ lifted a weight off his wife’s chest, for the difference in status could not be any clearer!

What did it say?

His childhood sweetheart was nothing more than a distant memory and a guest to him now; him being polite to her was only out of courtesy as a host. It also meant that she, Yun Shishi, was the wife while Rong Xuan was just an outsider!

Enlightened, Little Yichen instantly understood his father’s position. Thus, he reluctantly walked over to his mother and sat on her lap obediently.

His brother soon joined him and squeezed himself onto her lap as if they were their mother’s guardian angels!

Because of the man’s words, Rong Xuan could barely keep the smile on her face; it was drooping fast like a withering flower!

His attitude was clear. As it turned out, she was just indulging in her fantasy.

In an attempt to diffuse the awkward atmosphere, she turned to face the younger of the siblings and smilingly asked, “You’re Youyou, right?”

“Mm.”

She then turned to face the older twin again. “And you’re Yichen?”

“Yes.”

“These two are like peas in a pod! If not for their different hairstyles, I really would be unable to tell them apart!” As she spoke, her hand reached out to the younger boy, wanting to pinch his small, chubby cheek.

The younger boy, however, turned his face away in disgust as if the woman before him were a viper or a starving wolf!

"Youyou..." His mother smiled apologetically at the other woman. She then explained, "He might be young, but he's a smart boy with a temper. He doesn't allow just anyone to touch his face."

Rong Xuan could not help feeling a bit upset at that, which was only inevitable, for it was on the man's account that she was trying to please the twins, yet she was met with snub!

"I'm a petty person. Not everyone gets to call me by my nickname, especially those I dislike." After a beat, he added in feigned graciousness, "However, since you're my parents' guest, I'll give you the special right to call me 'Youyou'!"

The little fellow even specifically placed much emphasis on her status as a guest to imply that she was an outsider.

She could no longer stay further.

The mother-son trio was working together to spite her. Despite their friendly exterior, their revulsion for her could not be any more blatant!

Chapter 2540: Son Teaching Father a Lesson

The other woman was positively embarrassed by now, so after exchanging some pleasantries, she stood up and said, "It's getting late; I have to rush back to take care of some things."

"What happened?"

"I need to deal with a traffic accident."

"Traffic accident?"

She nodded. "Eh! I was rear-ended by a Bentley today, so I'm not done dealing with some matters yet."

"Are you hurt?" The man expressed a token of concern.

The woman shook her head. "Nothing much. It was a case of tailgating, and nobody was seriously injured."

"That's good."

After nodding her head, she said, "I'll be going now. You guys rest early; see you all tomorrow!"

After saying that, she stood up, picked up her handbag, and slinked away like a defeated soldier.

Mu Yazhe sent her to the door, and after she left, he turned around to see the smile fading from his wife's face suddenly. She stood up, put the cutleries aside, left the room sans any expression, and closed the door with a loud *bang*.

The older son saw what happened, and with his face looking somewhat panicky and worried, he immediately chased after his mother.

The man frowned and was about to walk over when his younger son suddenly stepped forward and stopped him.

“Daddy, shouldn’t you give me an answer or an explanation?”

“Explanation?” The man was lost. “What happened?”

“Who is that woman?”

“A friend.”

“A friend?” The boy shook his head like a little adult and commented in dissatisfaction, “The word ‘friend’ is too general. An ex-girlfriend is also a friend, and so is an old flame!”

The corners of the man’s lips twitched as he furrowed his brows. “Old flame? Where did you learn that word from?”

“On TV.”

“You have to watch less TV in the future,” quipped the man. He was about to walk to the bedroom when his son blocked his way. “Stop.”

The little one was insistent.

He was rather patient, though. “What is it again?”

“Is that woman a childhood sweetheart of yours?”

His son’s keen perception startled him.

From their conversation, though, the lad had probably figured out the identity of the stranger.

He hummed in acknowledgement, not denying his son’s guess.

Youyou shrugged. “Actually, I don’t care who that woman is, nor do I want to explore the past deliberately, but! If her appearance makes mommy unhappy, shouldn’t daddy find a way to handle the situation?”

“...”

The boy snorted. “Even a fool could see that the way that woman looked at you then was different! No wonder mommy felt aggrieved. She certainly can’t stand another woman overtly showering affections on her man in front of her. Since you labeled her as a childhood friend, this should be something from the distant past. Daddy, you weren’t magnanimous; you didn’t consider mommy’s feelings at all!”

His father had no words for rebuttal.

The adult suddenly squatted and looked at his son. “Do you know that you’re behaving like a judge right now? Do you intend to stop only when you have convicted me?”

“Hmph! You’re my daddy; I don’t dare!”

He could not help pinching his son’s small nose. “Why won’t you dare? You’re clearly trying to convict your ‘dear daddy’ now, aren’t you?”

“Of course! I’m mad at you because you made mommy upset!”

“ ... ”

He looked at the little one meaningfully.