

Sweet Love 2601

Chapter 2601: The Meeting of the Official Girlfriend and the Third Party

"It's fine"—Mu Xi had her guard put down at this point—"seeing how you're on close terms with my charge."

"Mhm!" The other lady was all ears.

Thus, she recounted the entire event to her. "An actress, by the name of Ji Yan, invited the entire production team to her birthday party the previous night. When she appeared, arms linked with her boyfriend, Shishi's expression became a little off and remained that way throughout the party. I only found out much later that that man is also currently dating her best friend, which makes him a two-timer! I got a bit tipsy in the middle, so I can't remember what exactly happened, but I recall my charge helping me to the bathroom. When I came out, I found Hua Jin and that man in a scuffle. According to my charge, the man followed us to the bathroom and insulted her and her best friend, so they got into an argument. Hua Jin happened to witness that scene and, in a bid to protect her, ended up exchanging blows with the scoundrel."

"..." Astonishment flashed across Xiao Xue's face, then she felt a pang of pain in her chest.

The assistant clearly did not notice the unusual look on her face, for she went on rattling. "This morning, on set, we learned that Ji Yan had spread rumors to the production team that Shishi tried seducing her boyfriend to clinch the lead role. Everyone's been discussing this matter, which got my charge so infuriated that she lost her temper earlier."

Just as she hung her head low in remorse, she heard the assistant adding, "I heard from Shishi that Gao Nan is a jerk who let her best friend down, so even I almost went mad with anger at Ji Yan accusing her of being the third party. My charge isn't the type of person who would do such a thing! She's got her resources, so why would she need to cheapen herself by seducing others?"

"She'll never do that!" she asserted with much conviction. "I know her well. Even when she had nothing to her name, she didn't do such a thing; what more now that she isn't lacking in support, fame, or status?"

"Agreed!" Mu Xi excitedly said. "You really are a good friend of hers to have such unwavering trust in her."

It got her lips twitching and her eyes turning red at once. Beads of tears fell from her drooping eyes, which rolled down her face as she wailed in misery. "I-I don't deserve to be her best friend..."

"Huh?" She was surprised to hear that. "Why do you say so?"

"That's because"—Xiao Xue tried her best to compose herself—"I'm the reason she ended up being defamed; she got implicated when all she did was stand up for me."

It took a moment for the assistant to process this information before she realized something. Her expression then immediately turned grave. "Are you saying that Gao Nan is your boyfriend?"

“He’s past tense now!” she astutely answered. “I broke up with him last night. The reason for my visit is to apologize to Shishi, but I’m scared that she won’t forgive me.”

Mixed feelings rose in Mu Xi, then she laughed dryly. “How’s that possible? Why would she be angry with you when she’s the gentlest and kindest person I’ve ever met? Don’t fret about it.”

“Yeah, thanks for telling me that.”

“It’s no biggie!”

She proceeded to lead the lady to the actress’s waiting room, but while the two were making their way over, they bumped into Ji Yan and her cronies.

Chapter 2602: They want to make things difficult for my charge?

Several staff members were crowding around the rookie actress to comfort her.

“Cheer up, Ji Yan. Yun Shishi was clearly out to get you when she said all those things, but don’t you worry or be sad anymore; I’ll secretly make things difficult for her from now onward.” It was the costume designer who said this.

There were many hidden rules in the production team.

Despite their low ranks, staff members—like makeup artists, stylists, and costume designers, for example—who had their jobs divided clearly, would secretly resort to using dirty tricks to get back at the artists they disliked.

This could mean having ugly makeup drawn on one’s face by a makeup artist, having a messy hairdo done by a hairstylist, or even having indiscernible needles hidden in the collars or shoes by a fashion stylist, which would lead to the celebs getting pricked without knowing why when these clothes and shoes were worn.

Mu Xi could hear their voices even from afar and could not help but fly into a rage.

Earlier, there was a scene that required her charge and the actress to film together on set, but for one reason or another, the latter just could not get into the right condition. That caused her charge to lose yet another temper, and she chewed the rookie actress out in the name of work.

The assistant happened to be there and witnessed it herself. Her mood lifted at that sight of her charge scolding and reducing Ji Yan to tears right in front of the many staff members. She had never seen such a fierce and aggressive side to her before.

The assistant reckoned that her charge must be feeling injustice for her bestie, so she took the chance to get back at the rookie actress.

“Did you even read and memorize the script? Time is precious here! Even though you’re a rookie actress, you have to be professional at all times! However, not only are you not familiar with your lines,

your expressions and positionings are all wrong, too! While there may be a reason that's causing you to make mistakes, there's no reason why all of us here should have our time wasted because of you!

"Ji Yan, this is acting; no matter how tough life might be for you, you mustn't bring your troubles here on set. Can you see your rubbish acting? You're just wasting our time!"

With her high status within the production team, she had rendered the rookie actress speechless.

The best thing was that no one, not even the director, stepped forward to stop her.

Everyone, especially the camera crew who had to hold the mics up, was dissatisfied with Ji Yan's subpar acting as well, but they were not exactly in the position to say anything to her, given that she was added to the team through a sugar daddy's help. Who would go against their investors, after all?

Things were different for Yun Shishi, who had nothing to fear when it came to backgrounds.

Later, the moment Ji Yan returned to her waiting room, she grumbled and complained to the staff members, who were standing on her side. With all her exaggerated stories added to the mix, everyone, thus, felt indignant on her behalf and held negative opinions about the other actress, thinking that she had indeed gone too far.

Unable to take this lying down, Mu Xi walked up to them and sneeringly spat, "What're you all doing here? Trust you guys to be so childish to form cliques as if you are all little students. Ji Yan, it must've been really tough on you, huh? After getting scolded for your lousy acting, you're here to fan the flames about my charge?"

"What are you rambling about, Mu Xi?"

"This has nothing to do with you, so just get lost!"

She sniggered at them in return. "How is it none of my concern when I heard someone saying that they'll make things difficult for my charge?!" She then cast an aloof gaze on the costume designer.

Chapter 2603: You are third party, are you not?!

Feeling guilty, the person in question instantly defended, "What are you staring at me for?!"

"Why? Are you feeling guilty now? If you had the guts to do it, why didn't you have the guts to admit it?"

"What's there to admit to?" The costume designer snorted and retorted contemptuously, "Are you implying that I'm taking revenge on your artist? What evidence do you have?!"

The young assistant remained cool. She shrugged her shoulders and said resolutely, "I don't need any evidence. My charge's authority in this production can banish you for good, and we're not just talking about this team. For your behavior and audacious words, I bet no other productions will dare sign you up in the future!"

The crew member immediately lost her boldness upon hearing that, but Ji Yan's assistant jumped to her defense in clear defiance. "Hmph! This is dog-eat-dog bullying!"

Xiao Xue frowned, and just as she thought that Mu Xi would retaliate, she saw the latter sneering in nonchalance. "Oh! Even a dog knows to follow the right master. I'm afraid some lackeys are bound to meet their downfall by following the wrong owners!"

"You—"

"What about me? I'm scolding you, lackey!"

"That's enough!" Ji Yan could take it no longer and finally snapped, "That's enough, everyone! Stop quarreling; I'm feeling moody enough."

"Ji Yan, you're so pretty; you'll be popular soon enough. Yun Shishi may be famous now, but it's only for a while. With her kind of character, and by the time the paparazzi expose her 'third party' status in your relationship, her popularity will surely suffer."

Xiao Xue could no longer keep quiet. "What are you talking about? You'd better watch your words!"

The other person was antagonized and, upon seeing a new face, reckoned that she could bully this one, so she rebuked with a snort, "Who are you? Am I talking to you?"

The rich missy was no kind soul. She walked up to the person, raised her hand, and gave her a slap.

SMACK! The costume designer fell to the ground upon impact, her cheek turning red instantly.

"I told you to watch your words, right, yet you still dared to challenge my patience? Are you asking who I am? Who are you to question me? What kinda thing are you to put up a fierce front before me? Did you think you could scare me?!"

Mu Xi almost wanted to clap her hands in joy!

Fantastic!

I didn't expect Shishi to have such a righteous friend!

The actress on the scene was stunned by the sudden development.

Xiao Xue added, "Is Shishi a third party? What a joke! Whose relationship is she involved with?"

Ji Yan replied coldly, "She seduced my man last night, and that's how she became the third party! The whole crew saw it with their two eyes, so there's no need for you to defend her. "

Mu Xi reacted immediately. "Aren't you the third party here? Who are you to accuse my artist of the same crime? With a man like that, my charge won't give the slightest glance even if he kneels before her!"

The actress's face turned pale. "Y-You... What are you talking about?"

"I'm saying that you are the third party in reality! Gao Nan already has a girlfriend, whom he's been dating for a long time. You are the third party, actually; do you know that?"

Ji Yan's lips trembled momentarily. "Don't you talk nonsense!"

“She isn’t talking nonsense!” Xiao Xue lifted her head and stared at her expressionlessly. “I dated Gao Nan last year, but what about you? You’re clearly the third party, you’ve got the gall to turn it around and accuse somebody else of such—how despicable!”

Chapter 2604: A b*tch befits a dog for eternity.

Ji Yan looked terrible as she stared at the missy in disbelief, whereas the latter continued offhandedly, “I broke up with him last night after learning that he’s a playboy, though, so you can be an official item with him now; after all, there’s a saying which goes like: ‘A b*tch befits a dog for eternity!’”

“What the f*ck?!” The actress’s assistant uttered an expletive. “Who are you and where did you come from?!”

“It’s up to you whether to believe me or not. Anyway, Gao Nan and I have officially ended. From now on, he and I have nothing to do with each other, but I won’t allow you to humiliate Shishi in this way! Did you say that she seduced that guy? How dare you?! Is that Casanova deserving of her? Shishi is so outstanding; why did she need to lower her self-worth for that cheap man? Dream on! I think it’s him who pestered her. Ji Yan, you’d better take good care of your man; don’t let him lay his seeds indiscreetly!”

The missy was clearly insulting the actress with these words.

Telling her to watch over her man?

She was inferring Gao Nan as a dog, was she not?

In that case, what was she, then? A b*tch?!

The actress’s face turned red with anger.

“You... Don’t you dare create rumors!”

“May the gossipmonger be cursed with their family!” The woman smirked.

What a venomous tongue!

Standing at one side, a few people froze. They did not expect the situation to take such a drastic turn. Now, with the emergence of another official girlfriend of the man, they did not know who was telling the truth and who was making it up. Everyone was confused.

Xiao Xue held to Mu Xi and said sternly, “Let’s not waste time with this bunch of people; let’s go to Shishi’s lounge and wait for her there.”

Ji Yan’s assistant was furious and stepped forward to block her with an overbearing attitude. “Don’t go! You’d better make yourself clear!”

“Get lost! A good dog doesn’t block another’s way!” The missy shoved the woman aside.

Mu Xi was too excited by then and quickly followed Xiao Xue from behind. After some distance, the young assistant purposely stuck her tongue out to taunt the group behind them.

The actress left behind was trembling with great agitation by then, while the people gathered around her dared not make a sound.

They found that the truth of the matter was getting more confusing, and to be safe, they decided not to take sides this time!

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Xiao Xue followed Mu Xi into the actress's lounge, and the two immediately got along well with each other after what had happened earlier. They talked about many things—the assistant shared how much the actress took care of her at work, while the actress's bestie spilled the interesting anecdotes of the two of them during their college days.

Soon after, Yun Shishi finished her filming and returned to the lounge. Pushing open the door, she was stunned to see her best friend sitting on the sofa and chatting with her assistant.

"Xue?" She sized up her friend in astonishment. "W-Why... are you here?"

The missy instantly jumped up from the seat when she saw the actress. Approaching the other, her eyes turned red as she looked at her friend quietly with a heart full of regrets and sadness. She had prepared her speech while on her way to the set, but when she came face to face with her best friend now, her mind drew a blank!

There were so much grievances and remorse that she wanted to share with the actress, but she choked on her words and no sound came forth.

After holding back for a long time, Xiao Xue spouted guiltily with tears in her eyes, "Shishi... don't get mad at me, alright? Last night, I left without saying goodbye; I must've hurt your feelings!"

The actress was stunned for a while before she broke into a faint smile.

Chapter 2605: A Boyfriend's Charm

"You came all the way here just to apologize to me?"

Xiao Xue immediately nodded vigorously and asked solemnly, "I'm sorry! Can you forgive me?"

"Silly, why should I be angry with you?" Yun Shishi hooked the corners of her lips faintly and said resignedly, "I'm not angry with you; I just felt aggravated for you. What I did last night was to give you some good advice as a friend. I understood your position when you couldn't accept it at once. After all, I can see that you've poured your heart and soul into the relationship. When I personally told you that the man you love so much had cheated on you, and then I counted his shortcomings one by one, you ran away because you couldn't accept the truth. You're only trying to protect yourself from being hurt; that's all."

By then, her best friend's eyes became even redder as tears poured forth furiously.

"Why do you have to say all that?" grumbled the woman. "I'd rather you scold me, and scold me so hard I could feel better about this, but why do you have to be so gracious with your words when I've been ignorant and foolish? I made you angry; why are you so nice to me still?"

The missy's disguised stubbornness collapsed once and for all as she embraced her best friend with tears flowing like a raging torrent in her eyes.

"Shishi, I really hate you! You're the younger one here, but you're always so mature and tolerant of my mistakes. I'd rather you scold me, and scold me hard so I could wake up from my foolishness! I'd rather you scold me for being blind and confused..."

"Alright, alright..."

The actress suddenly raised her hand and gently caressed the back of her friend's head like a mature and trustworthy man, comforting and coaxing the latter like a loving man.

Even Mu Xi, who was witnessing the scene at one side, felt her charge to be exuding a boyfriend's charm through and through! The actress made her feel so secure and safe!

The missy broke into a louder wail upon her best friend's comfort, and tears flowed down her cheeks unceasingly.

The woman could no longer suppress her heartbreak. As she cried without restraint, she released all her painful emotions completely.

Since she cut off her ties with her man last night, she had pretended to be calm and cool when she reached home, but the whole night, as the rain fell continuously outside the window, her heart felt cloudy. She had burrowed herself in bed, under the quilt, the whole time and cried for a long while before dozing off lethargically and drained.

She wanted to pull herself together and put the love affair completely behind her, but it was not something she could immediately do when she had poured so much of herself into the relationship.

As such, she could only try to look the part of being indifferent and nonchalant about the whole affair.

However, under the actress's gentle coaxing and comforting, her sadness could no longer be concealed, and she let go of herself completely.

After crying bitterly for a long time, Xiao Xue's emotions finally settled down.

Yun Shishi then only learned that her best friend swiftly broke up with the man last night.

Although it was not explicitly stated, the hard slap she gave him last night was sufficient to show her firm attitude.

The man also did not call her following that confrontation.

After all, he held no feelings for her and had only gotten together with her to patronize his parents' wishes. Just like what he had said, it was not easy finding a marriage partner whom his parents found agreeable.

This was the only reason he had stayed with her.

The missy had given up on him completely at that point.

Still, it was a bitter pill to swallow when she realized that she had been cheated on and fooled!

Chapter 2606: Do Not Hurt Yourself

Yun Shishi said, "There's no need to stay in love with this kind of man. He's so philandering; even if the both of you get married and stay together, you'll suffer much in the days to come. You should be glad that you found out his true colors early on and broke off with him, and you should be even more glad that you're not delayed by him for too long!"

Her bestie pursed her lips and nodded her head.

"Xiao Xue, you're so exceptional, you deserve a better man."

"It's not that I can't let go of the relationship, nor is there any lingering love for him. It's just that I've taken it seriously. Being played hard, I can't swallow that!"

She clenched her fists as she spoke. She badly wanted to take revenge on the man so that he would know that women's feelings were not for fooling around.

Xiao Xue was a headstrong woman, who knew what she wanted. As such, she was not the type to stay in a dragging love affair, but her character had always been defiant; therefore, the idea of revenge was born.

The actress seemed to see through her thoughts and pressed on. "Don't tell me that you're thinking of taking revenge against him?"

Surprised, the other woman jerked her head up and looked at her in amazement.

"You... How did you know that's what's on my mind?"

"You've always been defiant and headstrong. You're definitely the type to seek revenge, especially after being toyed with."

"That's right!"

Her friend did not deny it.

She turned her head sideways and asked curiously, "Tell me: How do you intend to retaliate?"

"Hmm..."

Yun Shishi hooked her lips and said with a smile, "Do you want me to put it in bluntly? There's no greater revenge for that man except to make him fall in love with you and then ditch him ruthlessly. This is how he can have a taste of what it's like to have their feelings played with. However, from what I know of him, he won't fall in love with you at all, so this plan won't work for sure. What's next, then? Are you perhaps thinking of using another method, which you've learned from some TV series, where the heroine, after being abandoned by the male lead, goes off to bars and nightclubs to hang out with

other men? Is that how you want Gao Nan to see your shallow charms? Doing so may produce results; it's possible that he'll find it interesting, and it may even be possible to make him feel the pain of your breakup, but to engage in such a self-harming method just for revenge, in my opinion, is quite ridiculous. If you really want revenge, what you can do is put him and your past behind and live in style. There's no need to prove anything. Instead, say goodbye to your unpleasant past romance and get back on your two feet properly."

Her bestie was dumbfounded as she listened. The actress had, surprisingly, gauged her mind clearly.

"Shishi"—her friend admitted it ashamedly—"I'm the one who's being too childish."

"It's natural for you to have such thoughts; after all, you've been hit. However, don't be impulsive and hurt yourself, understand?"

The other woman nodded her head solemnly.

"Alright, let's stop talking about these unhappy things!"

"Eh! Let's stop talking about this unhappy affair! Anyway, we've broken up, and this relationship was in the past! Still, I'm worried..."

"What are you worried about?"

"I heard some gossip among the crew, so I'm worried that this matter will trouble you."

"No worries; I'll settle it!" replied the actress firmly before smiling. "Since you're here, let's have dinner together." Thereafter, she turned to her assistant and invited her. "Come along with us. Tonight is my treat."

The young assistant responded with much enthusiasm. "Yay! Today is my lucky day; I can dine out for free tonight!"

"It's not as if you rarely get to enjoy dinner treats, you know!"

"He he!" The young woman could only laugh.

Chapter 2607: The walls have ears.

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The night after Hua Jin and Gao Nan had a conflict at the bar, the word quickly spread among the crew.

Following the incident, everyone seemed to look at Yun Shishi and the idol in an odd manner.

No wonder.

No matter how they looked at it, somehow, they felt that the man seemed a little too enthusiastic over the actress. His care for her was unprecedented, and many of them speculated that the two might be having a secret relationship.

The last time, they witnessed how protective he was over her. The idol even got into a fight with Gao Nan, injuring his face in the process.

Many were familiar with him. He was disdainful of fights because he hated the thought of hurting his face.

Once, while filming a costume drama, the staff responsible for the wire fu made a small mistake, but because of it, his face was cut by a tree branch and he even hit the roof; in the end, the entire wire fu team was booted out of the production.

The director and a few high-level executives dared not object.

If a man, who was so conscientious over his looks, went to the extent of damaging his face for the sake of a woman, what could this say about his feelings toward her?

This proved how important the actress was to the idol.

However, ever since that day when Yun Shishi flew into a fury and Gao Nan's official girlfriend suddenly appeared, the rumor about the actress being a third party had become confusing at best; a lot of people were unsure what to think of it anymore.

The rumors continued, unabated, even after Hua Jin returned to the set.

One day, after shooting, he went back to his rest lounge. As his face was dappled with some ash, he went to the bathroom to wash it off. This was when he vaguely overheard two women talking from the bathroom.

"I have a growing feeling that there's something between Yun Shishi and Hua Jin. Their relationship is very ambiguous."

"Oh? Why did you say that?"

"During the shoot today, did you notice that, no matter what she's doing, his gaze never left her? What's even more surprising is that, whenever Yun Shishi finished her scene, Hua Jin would cosy up to her with a smile on his face. He looked like a man in love!"

"Are you sure? The two of them don't seem compatible, do they? How can the two be a couple?"

"I really see something fishy between the two, though. Actually, I don't quite believe it as well, but... I used to be a huge fan of Hua Jin; I saw him looking at Yun Shishi in the same way I used to stare at him."

"How long have you been in this business? Wait a second... Don't tell me that you joined this industry because of him?"

"Yes! I studied costume design in the past and even had the opportunity to study abroad, but because I was so crazy about him, I joined the crew without a second thought when his team put up a recruitment drive for costume designers. I've followed him since his second costume drama."

"Don't tell me that he's in love with Yun Shishi? She's a third party—a mistress, you know?! Didn't Ji Yan say that the woman had taken the initiative to seduce Gao Nan in order to climb up in ranks? I didn't expect her to be such a person in private when her public image is one of an innocent and clean maiden!"

Although she denied it at face value, I still find her hypocritical. She should just admit to what she did; why was there a need to deny it? Don't tell me that the b*tch wants to set up her name-sake?"

"Shh! The walls have ears."

Chapter 2608: That was what Ji Yan said!

"Shh! The walls have ears."

"It doesn't scare me! I'm someone who speaks frankly and does things out in the open. Since I dare to say this, I'm not afraid to admit what I said in front of others! I'm different from that b*tch who dared not admit her sordid affairs!"

The two people were happily chatting away as they exited the bathroom, only to see, much to their horror, a frosty-looking Hua Jin standing right at the entrance.

Their eyes went wide in shock as they nervously stammered his name and then bit their tongues.

The man trained his frigid, expressionless orbs on the two as he silently sized them up. His gaze was akin to two sharp blades, which sliced into their flesh.

"Who was the one who said 'that b*tch wants to set up her name-sake'?"

"..."

The ladies hung their heads low with their bodies trembling hard from fear. They dared not even make a squeak, much less come forward to admit their wrongdoings.

"What? Didn't I hear someone claiming that they speak frankly and do things out in the open? What is going on now then? Why are you being such a coward and not daring to come clean with me?"

His usual voice had a youthful quality, which was as crystal clear as a flowing stream, but right now, it was low and solemn. One could not help shivering at the coldness of it as if a chilling fog had seeped into their bone marrows.

"I—"

"What? Speak properly! Which one of you accused Shishi of being a 'third party' and a 'b*tch'?" He looked at the costume designer and barked, "Is it you?"

"N-No! It's not me..."

The woman waved her hands in the air in a frantic attempt to clear her name.

She had all along been a fervent fan of his, which was why she felt so upset at seeing the idol being on such close terms with Yun Shishi.

The other female, on the other hand, was scared witless. The moment she felt his piercing gaze on her, she suddenly recalled his reputation of being a cruel and vicious person, and her legs almost gave way at that point.

She was on the verge of tears as she squeaked, “I-It’s me... I was the one who said—”

Before she could finish her words, his hand went around her neck and pinned her to the wall behind her.

“Ah!”

“N-No, Hua Jin—don’t!”

Her companion rushed forward at once and pleaded for mercy on her behalf, only to be shaken off by the idol with a fling of his arm.

His temper flared. “Get lost!”

“Hua Jin...”

He ignored the crying woman beside him and stared straight at the one in front of him, questioning, “You accused Shishi of being a third party? How did this start?! How did she end up being a third party for no rhyme or reason?!”

Although he appeared to be choking her, he did not actually exert much force in his hand. This was to give her some leeway to breathe and speak.

Since his return to the production team, he could vaguely sense that the atmosphere on set was a bit off. He did not pay much attention to it at first, but the conversation he inadvertently heard between these two ladies shocked him.

Shishi is a third party?

The production team is talking about this?

Why?

“Hua Jin...”

“Get talking!” Fury burned within him as he barked his question at her. “Just what the hell is going on?!”

“T-That’s what Ji Yan said!” stammered the woman, pushing all the blame onto the actress.

“Ji Yan? Her?!”

The answer got him frowning in perplexity, while surprise and anger shone in his eyes.

Chapter 2609: She is my kin.

The answer got him frowning in perplexity, while surprise and anger shone in his eyes.

“According to her... Yun Shishi’s a shameless sl*t who tried to seduce her boyfriend outside the bathroom while at the party that night. The entire production team, including Yun Shishi herself, knows

about this. Even though she's denying it, she can't produce evidence to suggest her innocence. From what we see... that's as good as... an admission of guilt!"

"That's a load of bull!" He let out a string of expletives before saying, "This is an outright lie! Shishi isn't that sort of woman!"

Standing next to him, the costume designer anxiously asked, "Hua Jin, do you really like her? Don't be deceived by her appearance! Everyone is saying that the reason she managed to get her hands on so many golden resources is her resorting to the hidden rules. A loose woman like her isn't worthy of you! You deserve better!"

"What are you driving at?!" He turned his glowing red eyes on her. He was relatively calm despite his anger.

"There are rumors about you liking Shishi, you two having intimate relations, and you both being in an underground relationship... Do you truly know her well? Ji Yan would never lie! Some people might appear pure and innocent on the surface, but who knows what really lies beneath?"

"Ji Yan..." He muttered this name through gritted teeth, then he shot the two women a fierce look. "I'm warning you: Shishi is someone very important to me. Whoever dares talk behind her back and spread false rumors about her must be prepared to face my wrath!"

He then turned around and stormed away in a hurry.

...

Meanwhile, Ji Yan was in her waiting room, touching up her makeup, when she heard storming footsteps from outside. She turned her head to the door, only to see it burst open with a *bang* the next second. The idol broke the door with just one kick!

"Ji Yan, you'd better come out here right now!"

Startled, she jumped off her seat and met his gaze with bewilderment.

"Hua Jin?"

Upon noticing the anger written all over his face, she took a gander at the broken wooden door. It had crack lines all across its surface. It was unimaginable how his slender body could possess such great strength!

"What are you doing?"

The woman looked at the idol warily. Somehow, she could sense the storm brewing in his bloodshot eyes.

"I heard that you'd been talking trash about Shishi to the production crew!" he spat expressionlessly. "Did you spread rumors about her being a third party?"

Surprise flashed across her face for a moment before she curled her lips into a smirk. "Rumors? Aren't those pure facts?"

“My *ss!” the man cursed. “Gao Nan is a scumbag who doesn’t deserve her! Even if she has poor taste in men, she’ll never fall for someone like that!”

“Oh?” She kept the smile on her face as she threw out questions. “How do you know for sure? You seem to be very concerned about her affairs and feelings. Do you perhaps like her?”

Feeling utterly speechless, he took several moments to recollect himself and then told her, “We’re not in that sort of relationship you imagine us to be! She’s my kin.”

“Kin?” She lifted a brow in amusement.

“She’s the most important person to me, so I won’t allow anyone to insult her!”

“Hah! That’s interesting.”

Chapter 2610: Solemn Look

The actress shrugged her shoulders. “The truth is, she’s indeed a third party who got involved in my relationship with Gao Nan. For the sake of getting resources, she had no qualms about seducing my boyfriend and climbing into his bed!”

“You’re clearly out to defame her!” Hua Jin let out a scoff. “I really doubt your motives here, Ji Yan. ‘For the sake of getting resources, she had no qualms about seducing my boyfriend and climbing into his bed.’ Oh, please. Shishi is already—”

His words came to an abrupt end just as he was about to say that the woman was already married.

The moment these words reached his lips, however, he could not bring himself to verbalize them, for she had not announced her marriage to the public. If he accidentally revealed this matter in a fit of pique, he might end up causing problems for her. Thus, he chose to bite his bottom lip and to swallow the words, instead.

“Go on; why did you stop?” The actress before him urged.

His lips remained mum about that, though. “Anyway, I’m here to warn you: Stop spreading lies.”

She laughed at that but did not comment further.

A weird, calculative expression surfaced on her visage right then, and emotions seemed to be churning in her eyes. It was hard to tell what exactly she was thinking at that moment.

Since he had already made things clear to her, the idol did not want to pay her any more attention. *She can go figure out my unsaid words on her own.*

He then turned around, only to hear her say, “How arrogant you are! Trust you to come running over just to throw your weight around me; what are you trying to say? Your status is no longer the same; get that?”

His back stiffened while Ji Yan continued speaking. “In the past, you’re only able to throw your weight about and enjoy authority within the production team because people feared the person backing you.

However, I noticed that you've been looking quite poor recently. Why's that so? Did you two split up for good?"

"Shut it!" He turned around and spat these words. "You have no right to comment about my affairs!"

It only earned him an amused look, alas.

Just like that, they stared into each other's eyes for a long time, but the longer he looked at her, the more confused he got. Somehow, he found that expression of hers very familiar yet very unfamiliar at the same time.

His brows knitted together and his eyes flickered as a name popped out of his mouth. "Yan Bingqing?!" That was who she reminded him of.

He had his suspicions about Ji Yan's true identity even from before, and now that he saw that profound expression of hers, he became increasingly certain that she was that long-gone actress!

He had filmed a period drama with the actress in the past, where she acted as a scheming consort, so he had a deep impression of that calculative look of hers.

"Yan Bingqing?"

She smirked in amusement but did nothing to deny or confirm his guess.

"Certain things are just between Yun Shishi and me. Likewise, you've got no right to meddle in our affairs; capiche? There are things that I have to get back from her!"

With that, she threw him a haughty look and bypassed him to leave the room.

The man pivoted sharply on his feet; his heart churned with uneasiness and shock as he watched her back disappear from his sight.

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When Yun Shishi returned to her waiting room after finishing filming her parts, she found the idol sitting on the sofa, looking all distracted. He seemed to have been waiting for her for quite some time.

However, there was something off about his expression; he appeared somewhat fretful and restless.

"What's wrong? Why the solemn look?"