

Sweet Love 2631

Chapter 2631: The Scheming Father and Son (2)

“How meaningless it is to just deal with it.”

Mu Yazhe mulled on it for a while before his lips arched into a sly smile. “Good boy, do you have any tactics in mind?”

The boy thought hard for some time, then his eyes shone sinisterly as he laughed darkly, which inexplicably sent a shiver down his older twin’s spine.

“Daddy, do you know that there’s a saying: ‘Swallow a thousand needles if one lies’?”

...

The night was getting gloomily dark.

From a large bedroom inside a villa came the heavy pants and deep moans of a man and a woman. The battle lasted for some time before dying down.

Another half an hour passed, then the bedroom door was flung open.

A well-dressed woman walked out; though she was dressed in a reserved manner, her messy hair revealed just how fiery the earlier session had been.

Gao Nan came out of the bathroom, leaned against the door, and sized up the woman’s back as she tidied her hair in front of the dressing mirror. Cocking a brow, he asked, “Are you going to leave now?”

“Yes, it’s getting late.”

“I’ll give you a lift.”

“No worries; I’m driving.” The woman gave him a smile while twirling the key in her hand with her finger. It was the key to an Audi R8, which the man had given to her as a birthday gift.

He smiled in return and then tried to retain her again. “At least, have a drink with me before you go.”

The woman saw through him instantly and hummed. “Are you hoping that I won’t be able to drive after a few drinks so that I have to stay for the night?”

“Why? Don’t you want that?” He threw back a question smilingly.

“Not today,” replied the woman with a serious look.

The man’s face sank speedily, his frosty demeanor revealing his grave displeasure.

The woman immediately went up to him and lazily hooked her arms around his shoulders as she gently pouted. “I really can’t stay tonight. I have a card game with some girlfriends; I can’t miss the date. How about tomorrow? Is tomorrow night okay?”

“There won’t be an opportunity tomorrow! Another woman will replace you.”

The cold retort sounded like a veiled threat.

Slightly taken aback, the woman embraced the man and planted numerous kisses on him. "Honey, don't do this... It's not that I'm unwilling to stay; I'm just afraid that if I stay longer, the paparazzi will follow my trail to this place again like last time. I'm sure that you'll be troubled if gossip about us resurfaces."

The man's silence signaled his acquiescence to her words.

She finally left reluctantly after a long kiss with him.

The rich boy had lost interest by then. He slowly walked to the bar and casually took out a bottle of aged wine. He was about to open it when the doorbell rang.

He raised his brow quizzically. Thinking that the woman had straightened her thoughts and decided to return to him, he walked lazily to the door and opened it. However, he could see no one at the door.

He was about to close the door again when a small, tender hand blocked it.

He looked down with a start to see a well-dressed boy standing before him. The lad was full of smiles as he stood at the doorway, looking courteous and gentlemanly.

"Uncle, how are you? I'm sorry to disturb you at this hour."

Gao Nan wrinkled his brows and replied coldly, "Who are you?"

No sooner had he said that when the door was pushed open by Youyou. Through the larger gap at the doorway, the man could see another boy, just slightly taller, standing next to the one whom he was talking to moments prior. Although the two had similar features, which made them seem like replicas, the aura emanating from them was distinctly different.

"..."

Chapter 2632: We are only here to watch.

Where did these kids come from!

Youyou asked politely, "Can we come in?"

"What for?" The man was rather pissed; he neither had the mood nor time to deal with two, homeless children.

Losing his patience, he moved to close the door. Little Yichen, who was even more impatient than the adult, gave the door a fierce kick when he saw that the man intended to shut them out of the house.

Caught off guard by the door swinging upon and colliding with him, the adult fell on his back.

The boy's force was so strong the wooden door, which was of excellent quality, showed a crack seam following his kick!

The younger one walked in elegantly. "Sorry to bother you."

The older twin followed suit; the expression on his face was not any friendlier than his brother. Little Yichen's gaze was like a small lion's eyes, and when he threw a sidelong glance at the adult, he could not contain his overpowering anger further. Rushing up, he grabbed the man's bathrobe lapel, raised his other hand, and threw a punch at the man's face.

Behind the boy came an adult's cool voice. "Son, stop fooling around."

"Daddy..." He pouted and glanced at the door before commenting angrily, "I don't have the patience for more nonsense from him; I wanna beat him up first, then talk later!"

Gao Nan was bewildered by now. These boys came breaking his door out of nowhere; worse still, he did not know how they had managed to locate his place to make a din. As he heard the older one speak, he followed the boy's gaze to the door.

Mu Yazhe stepped inside slowly and, with a cool demeanor, proceeded to close the door.

It was probably because he was lying on the floor, but somehow, the man, who was incomparably slender and tall, seemed stronger and bigger. Like an insurmountable mountain, he was buried under the dark and oppressive shadow of the man.

"...Why are you here?"

The new arrival hooked his lips into a devilish, cold smile. "Why? Are you surprised to see me, who is like a dog with a tail between its legs to you?"

'A dog with a tail between its legs'... H-How come he knows what I've been saying behind his back!

It was true that ever since Mu Yazhe moved out of the Mu Group, the playboy had been mocking the man by calling him an outcast who was like a dog with a tail between its legs.

Unbeknown to him, the man was Shengyu Financial Group's founder.

"How did... you..."

Before he could finish speaking, a nerve seemed to snap in his head. He turned his head over to size up the boy holding his lapel and compared his features to the man standing before him; a realization then hit him hard.

They're... his children?

After examining them more carefully, he found the child's brows and eyes to be very similar to Yun Shishi's as well.

These two are their kids?

He inhaled sharply, too stunned for words.

She has children!

"What... do you guys want?"

"Son, let go of him," commanded Mu Yazhe.

The boy refused to let go. Sighing, the adult walked over and took the angry lad into his arms. The boy struggled momentarily; that was when his father finally sternly ordered him to behave. "Be good!"

"Hm..." He finally reluctantly stayed put.

The man went to sit on the sofa with his older son in his arms, and sticking close to the little one's ear, he said, "Little fool, we're only here to watch the show today."

Mu Yichen: "..."

Gao Nan crawled up from the floor and looked at the trio sitting on his living room sofa. The three were clearly intruders, yet somehow, they appeared to think their action as a given right.

Chapter 2633: Lack of Self-awareness

He was shocked and angry for a while before commenting, "Mister Mu, what are you doing? What do you want by dragging your family to my place?"

"Mr. Gao, for the sake of your uncle, Wang Chuande, who is Wangke's president, may I give you a word of advice?"

"A word of advice?" The more the man listened, the more incredulous he felt. He could not help bursting into a fit of angry laughter. "What kind of attitude is this!"

Youyou merely blinked his eyes and looked at the man sans a word.

The adult continued talking. "Did you just say that you want to give me advice? Hehe... Fine! I may as well listen. Tell me: What kinda advice do you wanna give?"

"I saw the recording of the presscon. Mr. Gao, you could be so thick-skinned. You didn't even blink when you told a lie, but if you're willing to hold a presscon tomorrow to clarify the matter, I can leave it be."

The child's soft and innocent voice rang clear and pleasant to the ear.

The boy sounded his age, his voice music to the ears.

Gao Nan, however, merely laughed again. "Are you ordering me around?"

"That's right." Youyou admittedly it unabashedly. "I'm not here to discuss this matter with you today. This is something you must do because good children can't lie."

The man froze for a moment and then suddenly laughed contemptuously. "What right do you have to order me around?" After a pause, he side-eyed the man sitting on the sofa. "Are you ordering me based on the authority of that outcast?"

"Outcast?"

The lad glanced at his father with mild surprise and then stifled a 'pfft' while the latter remained stoic.

"Daddy, why did he call you an outcast?"

His father did not reply, but Gao Nan sarcastically quipped, "You call him 'daddy'? He he! How childish!"

He did not want to pick faults with a child. Turning his head to Mu Yazhe, he proceeded to say coldly, "I used to be in awe of you because you're the Mu Group's chairman and Disheng's inheritor. At that time, you really had a prominent position! My uncle, like a well-behaved grandson, dared not let out a fart in front of you despite your loathsome persona! Even I had to bow down to you because of my uncle's authority, but I've never once thought well of you. Who are you? You're just a bit better than me in terms of birthright and capability, but apart from that, what else do you have that's great?" After a pause, he sniggered. "As the saying goes, 'Tides turn every ten years'! Now that you're no longer the chairman of a giant corporation, you don't possess that glory anymore, nor are you someone whom everyone should be in awe of! I heard that you had been expelled from the Mu family; how do you feel about that? How does it feel to fall from the pinnacle to the depths in just one night? Isn't it humiliating? I don't know how bad your life is now for you to bring your kids just to seek justice with me after your woman has been wronged. He he! Who are you now? What can you do to me?"

Mu Yazhe did not display any anger despite being outrightly humiliated. Instead, he smiled elegantly and replied unhurriedly, "You got something right and something else wrong."

"What d'you mean?"

The playboy did not understand what the man was driving at.

What did he mean by getting something right and then something else wrong?

Chapter 2634: Let us play a game.

"What d'you mean by that?"

"It was well-said when you mentioned that I used to be so prominent that your uncle had to behave like a good grandson in front of me. As for tides changing every ten years and me no longer possessing that glory, well, both aren't facts when it comes to me."

He was struck dumb by that.

Mu Yazhe looked at him coldly, then broke into a devilish beam with dancing eyes. "I'm even more powerful than before."

Gao Nan was speechless as the magnate continued speaking softly. "Do you think that I can't do anything to you just because I'm no longer the Mu Group's president? You're naïve. I hope that you understand one thing: Even if you were to die in my hands today, your family wouldn't be able to find faults with me."

He sneered angrily. "What kinda b*llsh*t are you spouting!"

Yoyou got impatient. "Mr. Gao, are you saying that you won't clarify the matter?"

"You have no right to talk!"

The boy's face sank as a sharp gleam flashed across his orbs.

In the next second, Mu Yichen jumped off his father's lap, walked to the other man, and looked up. "Pray, tell me: Why doesn't my brother have the right to speak?"

Before the adult could respond, a flash zapped across the older twin's eyes. His hand then struck the man's knee with a swift movement. The playboy gave a muffled grunt, then his face broke into a grimace. Within a second, his legs gave way and he fell to his knees.

He could feel pain, and this was no ordinary pain!

He did not know how much force the kid had actually used on him, but he heard his bone cracking when the boy's hand struck his kneecap.

"Kneel down and talk."

The man glared at the lad.

Are you kidding me? You want me to kneel in front of a kiddo?

No way!

Squatting on one knee at that moment, he tried to get up with some effort while his body swayed. The older boy saw what he was intending to do, lifted his leg, and gave his weakened joint a vicious kick. This time around, the boy broke the adult's completely.

"Ahhh!" The man cried in pain sans a regard for his image as he fell to the ground, holding his knee and stifling a grunt.

Mu Yichen stepped forward. Without any feelings, he lifted his foot and sent it crashing down the man's knee again. The broken bone was crushed by the impact anew. The playboy's face became covered in cold sweat instantly.

"Must you suffer some pain before you learn how to behave?"

Youyou suddenly stood up, walked up to the man, squatted, and patted the latter's cheek heavily with his small palm. Frowning in disbelief concurrently, he asked, "Am I too gentle with you, so you didn't heed my words?"

"What... d'you actually want!"

The man gnashed his teeth.

"Well, you bullied my mother, so can't I bully you in return?" After giving a chilling snigger, the boy asked with eyes forming two crescents. "Let's play a game, alright?"

Though the child was smiling, the gloom in his eyes sent a shiver down the man's spine. This was a look that did not belong to a kid. The man could only mock his cowardice. This was the first time he had gotten frightened to death by a child's look.

Youyou's words rang lightly into his ears again. "Do you know that a liar has to swallow a thousand needles?"

"...What?"

“I used to wonder: What would a person’s reaction be if he were to swallow a thousand needles? It must be very interesting, right? Do you wanna try it?”

The adult backed away in shock; he suddenly realized how terrifying this child in front of him was!

Don’t tell me that this kid wants me to swallow a thousand needles?!

Chapter 2635: Crying for Mercy

Youyou furrowed his brows before beaming. “It’s better for you to cooperate. You’ll definitely suffer more if you struggle, so it’s not worth the loss.”

“D-Don’t... you mess around!”

Gao Nan lost it right then. Although this boy seemed six or seven years old, which was considered to be very young, the glint in his eyes suggested that what he had just said was no joke!

He subconsciously looked at Mu Yazhe, only to feel Mu Yichen strangle him from behind sans a warning.

He struggled violently, but the boy did not give him a chance to do anything more. With a small hand, the kid sent a vicious chop down his shoulder. A loud sound ensued, which indicated that the joint had become misaligned—the boy had dislocated his shoulder!

“AHHH!”

He yelled in pain. Cold perspiration immediately covered his entire back. Alas, the boy did not give him time to breathe at all because, at the next moment, another cracking sound echoed; this time, the man’s elbow was pulled into a strange angle.

The adult had gotten completely powerless to put up a struggle by then. The older boy grabbed his hair and, with phenomenal strength, threw him onto the ground. *BANG!* The back of Gao Nan’s head hit the floor with a great impact, giving him a concussion!

At that moment, he was in complete panic mode!

Even though it was rather unbelievable, he realized that the two kids were no kind souls!

This was especially so when he watched the younger boy take out a small box from his pocket and gently open it. The inside was full of silver needles of varying thickness. Some were pins, whereas others were fine needles. The boy carried the box, walked up to him, squatted, and narrowed his eyes with a smile.

“Let the game begin, alright?”

“No... don’t...” Gao Nan shook his head desperately, his eyes widening out of pure fear. He now knew what fear was and desperately begged for mercy. “Don’t! This game isn’t fun at all; I won’t play with you!”

“It isn’t for you to decide.”

“No... I can’t! I’ll die; it’ll kill me!” He shouted desperately. He finally knew the severity of the matter, and out of fear, his eyes rimmed red as he pleaded, “I promise you! I promise you that I’ll hold a press conference tomorrow. I’ll explain to the public and tell them that what I said that... day were all lies. I was just acting with Ji Yan to destroy your mother’s reputation because I couldn’t have her! I’ll say whatever you want me to say, so... can you let me off?”

His pleading did not move the boy at all.

Wrinkling his shapely eyebrows and cocking his head in distress, Youyou replied with a look of dilemma, “What should I do? I’ve decided to go back on my words now. Even if you want to hold a press conference, I still won’t forgive you.”

“Chairman Mu... Chairman Mu!”

The adult struggled to look at the boy’s father, begging him for forgiveness, but all he saw from his peripheral view was the other man calmly taking out a cigarette case; with a flick of the wrist, he brought a cigarette to his mouth. His painful cries for mercy fell on deaf ears as Mu Yazhe silently lit the stick and took a slow puff.

Gao Nan fell into utter despondency at that very moment!

Chapter 2636: Heart-stopping

“Son, don’t be too rough.” Mu Yazhe finally opened his mouth to make a nefarious comment. “Don’t get carried away. Do just enough and rein the rest in, alright?”

“Got it, daddy.” The younger boy gave a sweet smile like an elegant little gentleman, but in Gao Nan’s eyes at this moment, the smiling child was as terrifying as the devil!

Gao Nan watched in horror as Little Yichen walked up to him, grabbed his jaw with one hand, pinched his cheeks, and forced him to open his mouth wide. With the box in one hand and a stitching needle in another, the other boy slowly strode up to him with a wide beam on his face.

“AH—AHH! AHH...”

...

An ambulance rushed into a hospital in the middle of the night; a group of medical staff nervously carried down a shivering victim from the vehicle. Several doctors were already stationed at the entrance, waiting. Earlier, someone had reported that a man had accidentally swallowed some needles and needed help.

The doctors on duty were perplexed.

Accidentally swallowed some needles?!

In all their years working as physicians, they had indeed come across ignorant children who swallowed odd objects by mistake, but how could an adult of sound intelligence swallow something potentially lethal like those by accident? Could the man be delirious?

The victim, who was sent to the hospital, was none other than Gao Nan.

At that moment, he was lying stiffly on the stretcher while his muscles twitched all over.

The doctors initially thought that he was having an epileptic fit, but upon sending him to the emergency room for a careful examination, the former was shocked to realize that the reason the man was trembling so badly was that his joints had been severely dislocated, and some of the dislocated bones had compressed on the nerves, which led to the involuntary shaking.

What was most alarming about the victim, though, was his mouth.

It was a horrifying sight to behold with blood dripping all over his oral cavity.

The man's lips, tongue, and buccal surface were pierced with silver needles of varying lengths. Some were piercing from the tip of the tongue, while others were directly piercing the mouth walls, which sent chills down any onlookers' spine at a glance. It was difficult to imagine how painful it was to have so many needles piercing the mouth's insides.

The wound treatment was relatively simple, though. After all, these were not considered grave injuries as long as the needles were removed slowly and antiseptic solution to prevent further bleeding was applied. As for the obvious fracture in the right wrist, the broken left kneecap, and the contusions over his knees, the staff would need to do a CT scan to understand the extent of the injury.

Just when the doctor was ready to push him into the radiological room, the man on the gurney suddenly let out a hoarse groan. His facial features were contorted in pain as he cried helplessly,

"AHHH—so painful!"

The doctors thought that it was his fractures inducing pain, but as the nurses on his side tried to soothe him, the man leaned forward slightly in a rigid fashion and, with his eyes looking hideous, pulled a doctor's sleeve while gasping some jaw-dropping words. "I-I swallowed three needles... Take them out—take them out!"

Just as he finished his statement, he spat a mouthful of blood, probably due to overexertion.

The doctors were greatly alarmed by then, realizing the seriousness of the matter, and proceeded to do another check on him. Only then did they shockingly find out that the man had not dared to talk the whole time because there was a very small needle nestled within his throat cavity. The subsequent examination also revealed two additional needles in his esophagus and stomach. His life was so precarious that any wrong move would cost it!

Gao Nan was immediately pushed into an operating room.

Chapter 2637: Just Too Evil

Gao Nan was immediately pushed into the operating room.

The operation lasted for an entire night before he was finally out of the woods.

Youyou actually did not go heavy-handed on the man this time by making him swallow a thousand needles, but the experience still caused the latter to develop aichmophobia, instinctively feeling fearful whenever he saw any sharp objects.

These were stories for another day, though.

He was hospitalized following his surgery.

The next day, when his family rushed over to visit him, he did not answer any of their questions on what had happened to him and only told them that his throat was hurting so he needed some peace and quiet to recuperate.

The truth, however, was that he dared not say anything, for he truly feared the father-son trio. They were just too evil and vicious, even daring to do what they said. The boy named Youyou, in particular, was basically a little demon king.

On the third day of his hospitalization, his uncle, Wang Chuande, came to visit. He sent the rest of their kin away upon his arrival, claiming that he wanted to talk to his nephew alone.

As soon as he closed the door, the elderly man turned and sat next to the sickbed, looking worried. "Haven't I told you, time and again, to stay clear of Mu Yazhe's path and not to touch his woman! What have you done, instead? You ignored my words, huh!"

As he lay on the bed with his eyes shut, his brows knitted and he kept his silence.

His uncle continued lecturing him. "Did you naively assume that that man had devolved into a penniless loser just because he left the Mu Group? Aren't you aware that he's the founder of the recently listed Shengyu Financial Group? The people of the Mu Group now can't help but grit their teeth in anger whenever they hear his name. He, in all those years, controlled the most resources in that corporate empire; following his cool exit, he took with him the company's most valuable resources, so you're no match for him!"

It was the first time the young man had heard of this matter. Even though he knew about that newly listed company, he did not pay it much attention; thus, he was unaware that Mu Yazhe was its owner.

"H-How's... that possible?" Gao Nan uttered painfully in his fragmented voice.

"When he left the company, many of the core technical personnel left with him. Some even gave up their jobs, which paid millions a year, to join Shengyu! D'you still think that the Mu Group is as glorious as how it used to be? It's nothing but an empty shell now! Haha! Although 'a starving camel is still bigger than a horse,' I can already foresee the Mu Group's demise!"

His eyes turned vacant at that.

"I knew that your philandering ways would land you in trouble one day! Don't you know how dangerous pretty women are? All men dream of courting fair ladies, after all. Any pretty lady surely has other suitors besides you, so they always spell trouble! Sure, you can play with the willing ones, but you must never force yourself on the reluctant; who do you think you are? Even in our country, there are countless men who are richer and more capable and influential than you! You can only blame your infallibility for this!"

He said nothing throughout.

Wang Chuangde took a gander at his nephew, then he let out a heavy sigh. "Good thing I managed to help you settle this matter. As long as you behave yourself and don't go creating trouble for Yun Shishi, Mu Yazhe won't make things difficult for you anymore."

"..."

Chapter 2638: We cannot ignore the matter anymore.

To be honest, he really wanted to ask about Mu Yazhe's sons, but he found his question to be really ridiculous. He could not believe that he had lost to two kids, so he was feeling really lousy right now. However, after much consideration, he decided against asking or saying anything.

During his hospitalization, the online discussion about Yun Shishi did not abate even for a moment.

At first, Huanyu resolved to ignore the matter and give no response, be it an acknowledgment or a rebuttal, for any reaction from it would only fuel the gossip. Besides, the people from the entertainment company could not produce any substantial evidence to prove that the other actress's words were nothing but vile accusations. The more they tried to explain, the more likely the matter would worsen, causing things to be in her favor more, instead.

Unfortunately, with how Ji Yan continued to gain momentum through the vilifying articles about Yun Shishi being a shameless hussy, this matter had become a phenomenal affair at this point. The majority of netizens were criticizing their artist all over the Internet, from forums to Weibo, and it was the same with the news articles about her.

Some netizens even went so far as to dig up old contents of her dating the superstar on 'The Love Diary'. The pure and innocent image she had displayed then was now especially glaring to the public's eyes. Netizens satirized her for being pretentious and behaving as if she were a pure and innocent lotus flower.

What they did not know, however, was that the reality program was actually scripted and that the actress was just doing her job by following the script.

When things got out of hand, several actors and actresses, who got along pretty well with Yun Shishi, stepped forward to show their support for her. Among them was Yang Mi, who posted a line on Weibo, saying, [The truth will eventually prevail. Hang tough, girl!]

Netizens then started launching tirades at the celebs who were in Yun Shishi's camp. Yang Mi, in particular, received the brunt of it all, with many netizens accusing her of trying to gain fame. In a fit of pique, she disabled the comment section and very nearly wanted to shut down her Weibo account, but under the strict orders of Huanyu, she stopped using it for the time being, instead.

Thereafter, Huanyu took swift actions to suspend Yun Shishi's Weibo account and strictly forbid the actress from accessing the Internet.

With nowhere to vent their anger, the netizens targeted the production team of 'Lethal Beauty' and the TV stations that were broadcasting the show. In a unified protest, the masses said that they would boycott any shows the actress appeared in.

This led to a great drop in these TV stations' viewership. Left with no choice, the production team could only temporarily suspend the broadcast on the pretext of rectifying sensitive content.

This was the first time ever that the TV stations and the production team were forced to stop airing a series because of the public's boycott.

The scarier thing was that many fans even banded together to make a scene at the production set of 'Extreme Youth'. The superstar's fans, however, refused to join them, claiming, "You can boycott the show all you want, while we will do our best to protect it!"

Therefore, Gu Xingze's and Yun Shishi's diehard fans teamed up to guard the entrance and protect their idols' safety.

Eventually, a fight broke out between the two factions at the entrance of the production set, leading to many people injured. There was news coverage on this incident, and soon, even the production team of 'Extreme Youth' announced the suspension of filming.

...

"We can't ignore this matter anymore."

Inside the head producer's office, Ji Lin had his arms crossed before his chest as he fixed a solemn gaze on the glum-looking Yun Shishi, who was sitting across his desk with a hand propping her head. He frowned, then added, "It's pointless to feel depressed over it."

Chapter 2639: Ji Lin's Rare Display of Gentleness

"Things will only get worse if this goes on."

"I know," said the actress, feeling troubled, "but I don't know what I should do or how I should explain things to the public when I did none of the things they're accusing me of. It's ridiculous how they want an innocent party to come up with evidence to prove their innocence."

"Fans can be very blind at times because they judge only with what they hear or see. Now that they've formed an opinion, they'll think you're just making excuses no matter how hard you try to explain yourself; it'll be hard for them to believe your words again. Your pretty face is your advantage as well as your flaw. Women make up the majority of the fanbase, so they'll instinctively find faults or flaws in beautiful ladies like you; do you understand what I'm saying?"

She nodded and hummed in acknowledgment. "Yes."

"Good to hear that."

"I didn't expect things to become so serious, though."

"You didn't expect it at all?"

The producer proceeded to open a drawer, pull out a stack of letters, and spread them in front of her. She was surprised to see all the letters. “What are these?”

“These are your fan mails—rather your anti-fan mails. They contain dead rats, knife blades, and other disgusting stuff.”

Right from the start, Ji Yan hired the most top-notch PR team to work on this scandal. One must admit that the PR team really had got some brilliant moves. Not only did they portray her as a victim of love, who tried to commit suicide by slitting her wrist, they also managed to smear Yun Shishi’s reputation and drag her to the mud.

Yun Shishi stared at the letters; some of which were still sealed. Despite so, she needed not imagine far to know the sort of malicious words these letters contained.

The fans must be hating me to the core and are terribly disappointed in me.

She initially thought of taking this chance to step down from acting and leave this industry, but in hindsight, she could not help thinking, *Won’t it be too cowardly of me?*

I did nothing wrong, but if I announce my retirement from the industry, it’ll be as good as owning up to the matter as if I have something on my conscience.

Why should I quit showbiz when I didn’t do anything wrong?

The one who’s done wrong is Ji Yan. If anything, it should be her who ought to leave the industry.

It was because of this ball of anger that she had managed to hold out for so long amid all the slanders.

She had never once told her husband about her feelings, but since he had told her that he would settle everything, she chose to bear with all the insults and patiently wait for the day the truth finally came out.

Upon seeing this stack of hate letters, however, her walls finally crumbled. The grievances she had endured for days all turned into tears, but she stubbornly bit her bottom lip and refused to let them flow.

“I’m so sorry for all the trouble I’ve caused the company.” The actress offered her most sincere apologies to the head producer. She felt that she had caused the company to bear such a huge burden due to her not handling private affairs properly.

A rare look of helplessness and heartache surfaced on Ji Lin’s aloof visage when he noticed the artist’s remorseful expression. He could not help thinking if he had been a tad too strict and impatient with the young lady.

To the actress, he was a strict teacher and a fatherly figure, who rarely smiled and had strict as well as high expectations of her, while to him, she was the most well-behaved and sincerest artist the company had, executing his orders well despite her being a magnet for trouble.

Chapter 2640: Sudden Wedding Announcement (1)

He could not help thinking if he had been a tad too strict and impatient with the young lady. His icy-cold heart softened slightly at the sight of her aggrieved look.

He felt that he should not have been so harsh toward her. After all, despite being an innocent party, she had suffered grievances and was silently enduring a lot of pressure, too.

At the thought of that, the man smiled resignedly at her. "It can't be considered any trouble; it's my job to deal with the aftermath, after all. That said, I'm not blaming you for this matter."

Yun Shishi glanced up at him, only to hear him keep speaking. "You know it, too; I'm not good at expressing myself. I tend to take work seriously and be strict with my artists. Your aggrieved expression, though, reminded me of my younger sister. She's always complaining that I don't smile enough, instead always looking strict and unapproachable."

She had no idea what prompted the man to say this to her, but seeing his gentle expression made her think that he was more approachable like this.

She stumbled on her words for a while before she eventually said, "Uh... I-I'm not exactly used to you being gentle with me, so I think it's best if you maintain that poker face of yours."

Ji Lin: "..."

Is this foolish woman a sadist, after all?

Suddenly, he said, "I heard that you want to quit showbiz."

The abrupt change in topic left her confused for a moment before she eventually nodded. "Yes."

"It's just as well. You're actually not cut out for this industry, where one will be placed at a disadvantage if they're not scheming enough. Chairman Mu is a good husband who can afford to support you even if you don't work. It's quite a wise decision for you to leave showbiz and become a stay-home wife, instead. You have nothing to be ashamed of; rather, you should feel blissful about this."

He rarely talked to her about such matters, so she inevitably felt quite overwhelmed hearing all these from him.

"Still, you should have a glamorous exit from the industry. You can't be looking like a sorry mess, or all of us—you, me, and the company—won't be able to take it lying down."

"What should I do, then?" She felt somewhat helpless.

The man mulled over it for a second. He was just about to answer her question when Qin Zhou's voice floated to them. "What else but hold a presscon to turn things around."

The startled woman, as well as the producer, turned their heads to the door, only to see the ace manager leaning against its frame while looking all confident and determined.

Ji Lin frowned. "How did you get in here?"

"The door is unlocked."

"Don't you know how to knock?" His expression turned cold.

Hearing that, the manager lifted his hand and lightly rapped on the door laughingly. "Will this do?"

"Come on in."

Qin Zhou, thus, ventured into the room and took a seat next to his charge.

Unlike his prior dejection, he now appeared all high-spirited, which prompted the producer to arch a brow in question. "Have you come up with a plan?"

"Mhm! According to Chairman Mu, the time has come for us to hold a press con and clear this matter up."

"Hold a presscon?" The woman echoed his words dumbly, whereas Ji Lin proceeded to ask, "What are your plans?"

"What plans could I possibly have? Of course, we must let the two parties, Shishi and Ji Yan, confront each other in person."

A face-to-face confrontation?

"She won't turn up," she told her manager, "not when a face-to-face confrontation will put her in an unfavorable situation. Things are in her favor right now, so she'll never turn up for the presscon."

"I have my ways to make her appear. I'm just worried that you'll get so nervous that you can't even speak when the time comes."