

Sweet Love 2721

Chapter 2721: Returning Empty-handed

The sight of the laddie shrinking his shoulders had the man lifting a brow and picking up a jacket from the side to cover the boy.

The sudden noise coming from behind jolted the bodyguard, who was sitting in the passenger seat, back to reality, and he turned around just in time to witness his boss's rare display of gentleness. He could not help gaping at the sight.

Sensing the stunned gaze of the other, the don shot his subordinate a murderous glare.

"What?"

"N-Nothing!"

The bodyguard immediately retracted his gaze and faced the front again.

A moment later, the man ordered, "Turn off the stereo."

"Okay."

The driver promptly turned it off as commanded.

As the car sped on the road, it was utterly quiet inside.

Baby Chu slept so comfortably and peacefully on the adult's legs that he dreamed of a tall man gently holding his hand. Although the person's face was vague when he studied to see his features, the imposing figure made him feel incredibly safe.

With clasped hands, the two strolled along an open field. The sun shone upon them from the pure cerulean and cloudless sky.

"Daddy..." He could not resist calling affectionately.

Gu Jinglian heard a murmur in his drowsy state; although it sounded somewhat unclear, he vaguely made out that the boy was calling someone's name. He opened his eyes to look at the lad and even leaned over to hear what he was saying, but by then, there was not a sound from him anymore.

"We're here, boss," announced the driver.

He lifted his head and realized that the car had come to a stop at a police station's entrance.

The bodyguard alighted right away and opened the back door, only to see Baby Chu lying on his boss's lap while in deep slumber.

"Should I carry him in?"

The man lowered his gaze unto the tranquilly slumbering boy. Judging from the ghost of a smile on the lad's lips, it appeared that he was having a pleasant dream.

The bodyguard took his boss's silence as an acknowledgment and, thus, reached over to carry the boy. The moment he did, however, the man broke the ensuing silence. "Wait."

Although his voice was soft and low, it held authority that allowed no objections.

The subordinate was puzzled to hear his superior say, "Can't you see that he's asleep?"

"..."

Yes, he's asleep, but so what?

Didn't he give the order to send the kiddo to the police station?

"Then... do I still carry him in?" He carefully consulted his boss, who took another long, meaningful look at the child before he finally commanded, "Let him sleep."

The bodyguard was thrown into confusion, for he did not expect to hear such a surprising reply.

"Where... do we keep him tonight?"

"Head home."

"Noted!"

He promptly returned to the passenger seat.

Only then did Gu Jinglian return to his senses and did he realize, with much surprise, what he had just said. His past self would have mercilessly kicked the sleeping boy off the car upon their arrival at the police station regardless of circumstances. However, he could not bear to disturb the boy when he saw his sleeping face.

How absurd.

I didn't expect myself to make an exception for a child.

...

When Song Enya returned home, she learned from her mother that the troop her uncle had dispatched returned empty-handed as Mu Yancheng's group had arrived first and taken away Meng Qingxue.

Her body swayed slightly and her mind became chaotic when she heard this piece of bad news.

"How did things turn out this way?"

Chapter 2722: You are still wet behind the ears.

"How did things turn out this way?" demanded Song Enya as she clutched her mother's shoulders, feeling shocked and astonished. "Are you saying that Mu Yancheng is currently in Yan City?"

"Yes"—her mother nodded—"and he hasn't returned to the capital. Word has it that something happened to Meng Qingxue, so she was rushed to the hospital."

“Hospital?” Surprise flashed across her face, then her lips curled up slightly. “Could she have suffered from a miscarriage?”

“We don’t know about that, but I sure hope so. In any case, the child in her stomach can’t live!”

The missy’s expression blanched as she asked somewhat uneasily, “What if her baby manages to cling on? Since he found her, he’ll surely take her back with him. Things’ll get even trickier when that happens!”

“That’s true. It’s indeed a tricky matter.”

“What do we do?”

She had completely lost her composure by then. She could not help resenting and cursing the two men for failing to do their duties well. *Those fools!*

That evening, when her father returned home, she immediately sought his advice. “Dad, how should we deal with that sly vixen? Uncle’s men arrived too late; Mu Yancheng managed to take Meng Qingxue away!”

At present, her father was probably the only person who was clear-headed and rational in the family.

The middle-aged man did not respond to her question and sternly questioned her, instead. “You went out in a hurry this morning. Where did you go?”

“That’s right.” His mention of the matter reminded his wife of this. “You weren’t in your bedroom when I went to wake you up for breakfast. Where did you go so early in the morning?”

The missy stuttered as she tried to evade this question, but it only infuriated her father into slapping a hand on the table. “You dared hide things from us at this juncture! Did you go do some ridiculous things behind our backs again?”

“That’s not it, dad!”

Left with no choice, she could only reveal where she went that morning and her entire plans to them.

Song Zhengguo nearly burst a vein when he heard the ridiculous things his daughter had been up to again and was absolutely livid. “How could you do such a thing!”

Despite his towering rage, the missy shot back out of indignation. “What else could I have done? It’s the only method I could come up with at that point! That child is the biggest threat to me as long as it exists!”

He lashed out. “Still, you shouldn’t have done that! What if Mu Yancheng learns of your deed?”

“What of it?” rebutted the missy stubbornly, though she felt somewhat guilty.

“It’ll only make him detest you! Your relationship with him is rocky as it is. If he finds out that you did such a cruel thing, he’ll definitely have his guard up against you in the future. From what I see, you’re still wet behind the ears; you’ll surely get schemed on once you marry into that viperous family. While the Mus may be on the decline now, you’re no match for any members of that family; they’re no weaklings!”

“What should I do, then?” she cried, feeling indignant. “We can’t possibly let her keep the child.”

“Of course not! It’s just that your method wouldn’t have worked. If Meng Qingxue lost the baby that way, she’d still be in Mu Yancheng’s favor, especially if she were to resort in hurting herself to gain his pity!”

Chapter 2723: You are the only one I can count on now.

The politician paused, then he added. “The fact that he willingly put down his face and traveled far just to seek that woman with his men showed that she has an important place in his heart. At the very least, she weighs much more than you do. If she’s a scheming person, she can put you in place even without marrying into the Mu family.”

“That b*tch...” Song Enya gritted her teeth in fury. “In that case, what should I do?”

“Since he wants to bring that woman back to the capital, we shall just let him do so.”

“Are you saying that we should ignore the situation and let him bring back that woman to continue her pregnancy?” She could not understand her father’s reason for suggesting such.

With a wicked grin, the man told his daughter, “No need to be so impatient; there are plenty of ways to make her lose the child. Things are still in your favor as long as that child remains unborn.”

The sulky missy flipped her head to the side at that.

He heaved a heavy sigh before confiding in a gentler tone. “Your brother’s future is as good as ruined after what happened to him, while your sister is still young and insensible. You’re the only one whom I can count on now!”

“Dad...” Her eyes turned red at this point. “This is a dreadful life to lead!”

“Who d’you think is responsible for this?” His anger surged again at that reminder. “Wasn’t it your fault for playing such a lousy game despite having a good hand? You refused to listen to our advice when we told you to give up on Mu Yazhe!”

“I-I...” She stuttered, knowing that she was in the wrong.

“From now on, just do as I say; d’you hear me? Don’t go making rash decisions and acting of your accord. As your father, I won’t harm you. You’re still young; don’t ever do such foolish things again.”

She bit her lip and mumbled, “I-I got it...”

...

It was a dark and windy night.

In the ward of Yan City’s First Hospital, Chu He stood in front of a window, looking solemn, as she stared at the night sky. Albeit her calm expression, feelings of unease filled her mind.

She was a person who could maintain her composure in the face of any adversary, but when it came to her son’s disappearance, she could not help panicking. It was just that, unlike the other mothers, no

hysteria or mad agitation could be seen on her face. Her worst state was just her accidentally spilling the cup of water onto the ground out of heedlessness.

Naturally, she was quite worried about her son, but she knew that panicking would do nothing to help her. She needed to stay rational and clear-headed at times like this.

Twenty-four whole hours had passed since Baby Chu's disappearance, but she did not report the case, for even she could not provide any clues to the police. Without any clues, there would not be much progress to the investigation.

In hopes of tracking her son's location, the woman rushed to the police station that morning but soon realized that she had no clue or lead on his whereabouts.

How am I gonna find him?

Black Dragon Pool is a backward village that has only a handful of CCTVs installed. Apart from speed cameras, it's rare to even find one for surveillance on highways.

Besides, I don't even have any information about the vehicle, including its license plate.

Meng Qingxue was still sleeping at the hospital, so the policewoman could only return there and wait for the woman to wake up before asking her for clues in order to make further plans.

Chapter 2724: Important Clue

By the time she reached the hospital, her friend had fallen asleep again after having her blood drawn. Mu Yancheng stayed by her side throughout. The cop was quite surprised by the amount of patience and sense of responsibility the man had for his woman.

She walked up to him and asked, "What are your plans?"

He lifted his head and frowned at her. "What plans?"

"What are you going to do about Qingxue and her unborn child?"

There was a moment of silence before he finally replied, "Once her condition improves, I'll take her back to the capital."

"Are you going to let her give birth to the child?"

"Yes."

His answer did not satisfy her, though. "Are you going to marry her?"

That question completely shut him up, and she tossed him a disdainful look.

"Jerk."

Sullen anger surfaced in his expression. "What did you say?"

"I said 'jerk'. If you're hard at hearing, I don't mind repeating it for you."

"Such impudence!" he spat. "You have no right to criticize me."

"Qingxue is a good woman. If you're not keen on taking responsibility for her and the child, I want you not to trample on her feelings at least."

"You!"

"If you still love her, then as a man, you should take responsibility for them."

At that moment, the person on the bed stirred, which got the both of them whipping their heads over, only to see Meng Qingxue slowly peeling her eyelids open while frowning. She seemed to be in great discomfort.

"Qingxue..." The young scion rushed forward right away. "You're awake."

The first words she spoke, much to the policewoman's surprise, was: "...Where's Baby Chu?"

When she fully sobered up and saw the lady cop standing next to her bed, she sat up right away and asked worriedly, "Chu He, have you found your son?"

She was so concerned about the kiddo that she totally ignored the man next to her.

The policewoman shook her head. "No. There's no clue to his whereabouts."

"Ah..." The pregnant lady's face fell out of utter disappointment. Feeling remorseful, she bit her lip and then apologized. "I-It's all my fault..."

"It's not your fault." She did not blame her for her son's disappearance. "Don't think too much about it."

"I..."

"Do you remember anything about the two men who took him away that day?" Chu He cut to the chase, instead.

Upon hearing that, Meng Qingxue's eyes glazed over. While she massaged her temples to soothe her splitting headache, she forced herself to recall the events that had transpired that night.

"I remember their faces!"

"Go on."

That can be considered a clue.

"One of them has triangular eyes, low nose bridge, thick lips, and dark skin. He's not very tall, just a bit taller than I am."

"About 5.5 feet?"

"Yes!" She nodded vigorously. "From his accent, he seems to be a northerner. Oh, the other man has the same northern accent. He looks fierce, sporting thick brows, bulging eyes, a high nose bridge, and thin lips. Both of them were wearing black that day, and..."

“And?”

She fell into deep contemplation once more. Her eyes then suddenly lit up as she recalled something. “I remember their car plate number. Are you able to locate them with it?”

“You do?” The policewoman was surprised by this; it sparked hope in her.

The car plate number can serve as an important clue, provided that she remembers it!

Chapter 2725: Will you take up the responsibility of a husband?

“Yes. Though it’s dark, the house has lights, so the license plate was somewhat discernible to me. I chased the car, but when I realized that I wouldn’t be able to catch up, I memorized its license plate number, instead.”

“What’s the license number?” Chu He prompted immediately.

“Black A87B9L.”

The policewoman memorized the number quietly. “Alright. I’ll make a trip to the police station right now to check on the number plate.”

“Can it be a clone number?” Mu Yancheng posed a sudden question.

“A lead is better than no lead at all!” she retorted.

The lady cop then picked up her coat from the hanger. She was about to walk to the door when Meng Qingxue propped herself up from the bed. “Chu He, I’ll go with you!”

“No way! Your body is too weak.” She immediately refused. “You stay here to rest and see if you can come up with any other useful clues!”

After saying that, she hurriedly left.

The pregnant lady returned to the bed in a daze. When she caught sight of her man sitting at one side from her periphery view, her face sank instantly and she looked the other way.

“Qingxue...” With furrowed brows, the man questioned her all of a sudden. “Why did you just walk away that night?”

“What did you expect?” she coldly retorted. “If there’s not any hope in waiting, shouldn’t I let go swiftly? Were you expecting me to give in unconditionally and accept whatever you throw at me like how I used to? I was a pathetic fool then, staying by your side even though there’s no hope in this relationship. Do you really expect me to accept quietly and dumbly your uncaring and selfish attitude, hoping, against hope for you to change your mind?”

Mu Yancheng was at a loss for words.

“That night, I originally wanted to put my foot down between you and me.” The woman continued speaking. “I made plans, packed my bags, and called you, wanting you to make a choice; either we get married and live together or I leave you and give back your, as well as my, freedom!”

“You called me? I was drunk that night; I didn’t receive your call at all!”

“That’s right! You didn’t answer the call; another woman did.” She smiled bitterly. “She said that you’re at her place and so very tired you had fallen asleep. Do you think I should foolishly pretend not to know what happened between you two, then wait for you to return to my side after you have your fun with other women, just like those concubines in ancient times?”

He was rudely stunned by her words. He remembered that he was at Song Enya’s place that night. Did the missy say something that provoked his woman enough for her to leave out of pique?

“What did she say to you?”

“I forgot, and I don’t wanna recall it, either.” It was a cold and distant reply.

The man explained himself. “Nothing happened between us that night.”

“Do you think I’ll believe your side of the story again?”

“When have I ever lied to you? If I did it, I would say so; if I didn’t do it, I would say I didn’t.” He argued.

She smiled. “Do you dare to swear upon it?”

“If it works, I’ll swear an oath on my life.”

Meng Qingxue: “...”

He continued speaking. “Qingxue, return to the capital with me. Don’t worry; I’ll take good care of you until you give birth to the child. I’ll take up the responsibility of a father and raise the child properly.”

“Then...” taking a deep breath, she asked calmly, “will you take up the responsibility of a husband?”

Her question silenced the man.

Chapter 2726: Except a Status

“Well, you’re willing to take the responsibility of fatherhood, but... you won’t marry me; is that right?” Meng Qingxue looked up at the man in anger, and when she saw him maintaining his silence, she could stand it no longer. “Say something!”

“If you don’t care about status, I can bring you back home, but, you know, I have a betrothal; I... I can’t make you my formal wife, but other than that, I can give you everything else. You’ll enjoy a superior lifestyle, excellent food, and clothes. There’s absolutely—”

“Shut up!” The woman’s eyes widened. As she fought back her tears, she felt so ridiculed that she burst into laughter. “Everything else except status? Do you mean that I can live like a mistress and only receive your love in secret?”

“...”

The utterly furious woman grabbed the pillow by her side and hit the man hard, yelling hysterically, “Mu Yancheng, why are you always saying things with such justified dignity? A privileged life? Wealth and glory? You know very well that I don’t care about all those things!”

“Qingxue!”

“Let’s break up!” she cried, clearly in pain. “I don’t wanna love you anymore. I don’t wanna go through that kind of pathetic life again where I’m unable to see the light!”

The man bit hard on his lips.

It was not that he was unwilling to marry her; rather, he did not have Mu Yazhe’s courage!

Yes, he loved her, and it was only when he almost lost her that he realized whom he really wanted to be with!

The name ‘Meng Qingxue’ had taken over his heart.

If possible, he wanted to marry her in style.

Alas, his family would never allow him to bring her back!

The Mus placed a lot of emphasis on their partners’ background and upbringing.

As for her background, the fact that she was a model was sufficient for them to boot her out of the door.

However, asking him to give her up was impossible.

“Qingxue, I promise you: I can sever all my relationships with other women; I won’t be a Casanova anymore and go after women! I’ll love you and you alone, but... I can’t marry you. My identity and family background mean that you won’t be able to marry into the family properly. Still, my uncle promised me that, when the time is ripe, I can bring you into the Mu family. Although you won’t be my formal wife, you’ll still be my woman!”

“Am I going there as your mistress?” she asked in return. Her eyes had gone dull and lifeless by then.

The man looked at her despairing face with his heart aching badly. “Qingxue, I—”

She sneered for some time and interrupted him. “You always have a justification to trample on me.” She then stared hard at him and uttered through gnashed teeth, “Do you have a heart? Do you know that, when someone is hurting, the person can really feel pain in their heart?”

Her questioning made him feel annoyed and frustrated.

He suddenly stood up and, with a resolute attitude, declared, “I will bring you back to the capital.”

“...What?”

“I’ll let you think this through overnight. You can’t live without me, and I can’t live without you, either.”

After saying that, he turned around and left the ward.

The woman stared at his departing figure in a daze, tears rolling down from her eyes, unbridled.

In the end, he was as selfish as ever, not sparing a thought for her feelings.

That kind of man did not know what love was.

Chapter 2727: Sorrow

With the license plate number, Chu He went to investigate at the police station and soon found some leads to the kidnappers' car.

After the car left the Black Dragon Pool Village, it headed for the capital via a provincial road. It was six in the morning when the vehicle reached the capital; after which, it drove to a remote place, all the way to Yishan Town, on the capital's highway.

There were no traces of the car afterward.

Other than finding out that the car had violated several traffic rules, there were no other leads.

However, the leads she had now were invaluable. At least, the license number was not a clone and the description of the van matched the clues Meng Qingxue had provided. Thus, she knew that the vehicle should be within the vicinity of Yishan Town.

However, when she proposed to arrest the suspects, the officer she worked with appeared to have some inhibitions.

"Chu He, this matter has to be reported to the director. The process to conduct an arrest is very cumbersome; the funds for manpower use need to be approved by the director before we can mobilize them. The problem is, the director is currently out of town on a business trip, so even if the proposal is handed to him, the approval will take a while and may even be rejected; this will cause a long delay, but it's a different story if you can finance this search-and-rescue yourself!"

"Finance it myself?"

"Yes. For example, paying the police station for the manpower deployed. However, as the leads are limited, even if you rush to Yishan Town with a large team, you may still be unable to arrest the culprits."

The policewoman's face stiffened for a moment.

"Yan City is a small county, after all. The provincial bureau is given limited funds every year. The director is unlikely to approve your proposal. Are you really sure it's your son in that car?"

"I'm positive!" She seemed to struggle for a while before continuing. "I'm also willing to pay the cost; what is your estimate of it?"

The man pondered for a while as he mentally calculated before replying, "A conservative estimate should be about one hundred thousand yuan or so."

“A hundred thousand yuan!” The woman was quite dumbfounded by the figure.

“Yup.”

Her face turned grimmer for a few moments.

“If the criminals shift the target to another place and we fail to catch them in Yishan Town, the money will go to waste.”

She suddenly grabbed his lapel and said coldly, “This has nothing to do with money; a few millions aren’t worth even a strand of my son’s hair!”

“Chu He, take it easy; calm down.”

“My son is missing. How am I supposed to calm down? I’m already calm enough!”

“Then... if you offer to make an inter-provincial arrest at your expense, I can report to the director and have him deploy his men.”

“But... there’s no way I can come up with that sum.”

She gave a self-deprecating smile as she realized now how ironic the system was.

She obviously had a good grasp of her son’s whereabouts, yet she was truly powerless to do anything about it.

“We also care about Baby Chu and are worried about his safety, but there’s nothing much we can do about this matter. After all, you don’t even have a household account here, so the director won’t pay attention to this case.”

“It’s enough.” She did not want to hear any more self-justifications. “I’ll find a solution on my own.”

Deeply disappointed, the policewoman returned to the hospital. As she drew closer to the ward’s entrance, she saw Mu Yancheng standing at the door, smoking a cigarette in silence as he leaned against the wall.

She ignored him completely and stepped into the ward. Meng Qingxue immediately inquired nervously when she saw her return. “Did you find any leads?”

She looked at the woman on the bed with a gloomy expression.

Chapter 2728: Exchange of Conditions

Meng Qingxue saw her grim look and could not help feeling disappointed, too. “What happened? Did we not get the license number correctly, or...”

“We found the car’s location. It’s a white Baojun 730.”

“That’s right, but I don’t know what the car model is, except that it’s seven seaters; it is very spacious, with the seats in the back dismantled. The car logo is of a horse.”

“The car drove to the capital before proceeding to Yishan Town.”

“Well... since we already have leads, shouldn't we go after the criminals immediately?”

“The station director needs to approve the proposal.”

The pregnant lady gazed at her friend in puzzlement. “What does that mean?”

“We are just insignificant folks, so the director won't pay attention to this case at all. Even though we got hold of the suspects' whereabouts, the director won't use the limited annual funding, issued by the provincial bureau, for a nobody like me. The inter-provincial arrest requires one hundred thousand yuan and I can't afford that amount at all.”

The news was a great shock to Meng Qingxue. She pressed on anxiously. “Do we just sit back and do nothing then? We obviously have a good grasp of the suspects' whereabouts, so are we not gonna do anything just because of such a reason?”

“Qingxue, this is a very pragmatic and cruel society. Everything depends on your status. Nobody will pay attention to you if you've got no status.”

She did not know what to say.

“I'll have to think of some other ways.” Chu He sighed.

“I can help you find your son.” Mu Yancheng's calm voice was heard from behind.

The two women turned their heads over in unison, to see the man calmly walking into the room.

“Finding someone is nothing difficult for me; I can help you.”

“Really? Are you so kind to help me?” The policewoman was unconvinced by his gesture of goodwill.

“Of course, there's a condition attached”—his gaze then fell on Meng Qingxue—“and that's for you to return with me to the capital.”

The policewoman cocked a brow in disapproval. “Are you using my circumstance as a bargaining chip to force Qingxue?”

“This isn't something like that; it's simply a condition.”

After saying that, the man stopped looking at Chu He and focused on his ex-girlfriend. “I can help you find the boy but on one condition: You must return to the capital with me.”

The woman on the bed sniggered. “Why must you insist on me returning to the capital?”

“I can't leave you alone here.”

She bit her lower lip hard for a long time as she gripped the quilt hard. Suddenly, she smiled and nodded faintly. “Alright.”

Chu He was alarmed. “Qingxue, don't force yourself—”

"I'm not forcing myself." She cut her off with a gentle smile. "It's alright. I'm just returning to the capital with him. This isn't a harsh condition. Right now, the most important thing is to find your son." After saying this, she turned to address Mu Yancheng. "Can you really help us find Baby Chu?"

"Yes."

"Alright, then. As long as you're able to locate the boy, I'll return to the capital with you."

On another end.

At the Gu residence.

In a large bedroom, Baby Chu lay in bed, spread-eagle. He slept extraordinarily well without dreams all night.

He woke up at dawn, but when he opened his eyes, the morning sun was already shining outside the open window.

He sat up and surveyed the surroundings. The spacious room was full of classic, oriental charm, where even the furnishings looked grand and possessed an air of solemn elegance.

He looked down and saw that the dirty clothes on him had been removed. A pile of clothes was neatly folded by the side of the bed, and when he took them, he realized that they were brand new.

Chapter 2729: Uncle is not old!

They must be from that kind-hearted uncle!

Eh?

He didn't drop me off at the police station?

The boy climbed off the bed and exited the room.

It was a commodious suite, which had a bedroom, a living room, a study, and a massive bathroom.

He was amazed to find a large bathtub in the bathroom when he went in there.

"Wow! It's so spacious!" he exclaimed, rather exaggeratedly.

Upon hearing his voice, the white pup, which had been resting in the living room, quickly padded its way over and circled the boy excitedly with its tongue lulling.

"Arf! Arf!" Its barks sounded crystal clear.

Baby Chu picked it up and rubbed its small head, only to realize that someone had given the puppy a bath. Its dirty fur had become beautiful and snowy-white, and it even smelled refreshing.

"You smell so good, Xiaobai! Who bathed you?"

The pooch, whose tongue was sticking out as it panted, naturally could not answer him.

Its barks, however, had alerted the maid, who was standing at attention outside the suite.

A knock was soon heard, quickly followed by the opening of the door, which revealed a maid in a cheongsam, who asked smilingly, "Are you awake, boy?"

The startled boy regarded the maid with wariness and caution.

"Who are you?"

"You can call me 'big sister'."

The servant crouched before the boy and spoke in a gentle tone, "Should I give you a bath? I wanted to bathe you last night, but the old master ordered us not to wake you up since you're fast asleep."

"I-I can bathe on my own; I don't need assistance!"

Despite his tender age, he understood that men and women were inherently different, so he naturally felt shy at the thought of a stranger of the opposite sex bathing him.

The maid, however, merely said, "The old master instructed me to help you bathe."

"Old master?" His lips twitched when an image of a grey-haired, old man appeared in his mind. "Who's this old master?"

"We, the servants, aren't qualified to address the old master by his name."

He pouted. "I want that handsome uncle from yesterday to bathe me."

"Handsome uncle?"

"Yes! That mean-looking but handsome uncle."

His reply amused the maid. "Are you referring to the old master?"

He responded with a deadpan expression. "He's not old at all; he's obviously very young."

"..."

The maid was tickled pink.

'Old master' here did not mean an elderly man but was rather a form of address. Everyone in this mafia residence was required to address the boss as 'old master'.

Being a century-old, prestigious family, the Gus held on to old customs and traditions. 'Old master' was a respectful term reserved for the patriarch, and since Gu Jinglian was the family head, everyone had to address him as such.

"The old master is still resting. I'll help you, instead."

"No." The gauche kiddo hung his head low as a blush crept up his cheeks. "It feels weird to have you bathe me!"

"In that case... how about I keep watch from the side while you bathe by yourself?"

The maid was concerned that a child as young as him would accidentally slip and drown in the deep bathtub almost filled with water. Eventually, the boy acquiesced to her suggestion despite his reluctance.

Thus, she carried him into the bathroom and ran a warm bath for the little lad before finally placing him in it.

Covering his fleshy body, the boy requested with a blush, "Can you turn around? I feel somewhat embarrassed if you keep looking at me..."

This little fella even knows how to feel shy!

She could, therefore, only agree, turning around as per the kid's request.

Chapter 2730: The main Gu residence has an area of over a hundred acres.

The boy knew how to bathe on his own, though his execution was quite clumsy. Half an hour later, he carefully climbed out of the bathtub and grabbed a towel to hide his private parts before announcing, "I'm done!"

"Oh, okay; I'll help you get dressed."

"No need! I can wear my clothes on my own; I don't need your assistance."

The helpless maid brought the clean set of clothes to the boy, who put them on rather clumsily and then walked to the full-length mirror, where he admired his reflection rather shamelessly. However, he could not help feeling slightly disappointed when he noticed how untidy he looked.

Thus, he fixed his clothes again until the mirror reflected him looking clean and tidy, and only then did he smile in satisfaction.

The clothes were slightly oversized on him, but it was because they were not bought based on his measurements. Last night, when Gu Jinglian ordered his subordinates to give the boy clean clothes, they could only search all around the house for kidswear since apparel shops had already closed by that time. Luckily, the butler had some new clothes, which were originally meant for his six-year-old son and offered a set to the boy.

Even though the sleeves and hems were slightly long, the clothes fit him rather nicely.

"Ooh, those look cute on you!" gushed the maid in admiration when she took a look at him. Finding the boy so irresistibly adorable, she could not help but keep staring at him.

Baby Chu's face turned scalding hot from shyness as he wrung his top's hem nervously and uneasily.

"Don't keep staring at me," he mumbled, only to hear a rumble from his empty stomach a second later.

Ah, I'm hungry again.

He looked up at the maid with doe eyes, which got her suppressing the urge to laugh as she asked gently, "Should we get you some breakfast?"

“Yes!”

The mention of breakfast had the boy’s eyes twinkling in delight, and he allowed the maid to take him to the dining room.

The Gu residence was located at a pricy, suburban estate villa. It was said to be a piece of auspicious land which was hard to come by and had been passed down through generations, so this mansion had a history of over a century. A decade ago, though, it underwent a massive renovation and received a spanking, new look.

It was so huge that it could accommodate the elders, the four hall masters, and the over a hundred members of the main family, all living there in relative comfort.

Precisely put, the land covered an area of more than a hundred acres, about sixty-five percent of which was a courtyard with finely pruned trees and plants. The north-facing mansion had nearly a hundred fifty bedrooms, a side door facing the east meant for the servants, and five other secret exits.

Aside from the two majestic lion statues placed at the main entrance to ward off evil spirits and bad luck, the gates had ornate hardware, including knockers with ancient beast heads and totems of tortoises, snakes, lions, tigers, phoenixes, et cetera.

Further in from the main entrance was a spirit screen, made of marble and jade, which had rosewood relief carvings of various animals. Right behind it was the courtyard, where artificial waterfalls, pavilions, and a long, winding promenade could be found. There were also the servants’ dormitories—male at the left and female at the right. The horse stable was located much further inside on the left, while the kitchen, laundry room, and storeroom were on the right.

Past the courtyard was the main hall, which had an altar unit, a table, and chairs, and connecting to it was a long cloister, leading one to the main abode. A large pond, which was home to many beautiful red carp, and a garden could be found on the two sides of the cloister.

Baby Chu felt a little breathless as he followed the maid while being held by the hand.