

Sweet Love 4131

Chapter 4131: The Other Side 100

For some reason, Yun Shishi despised her son when she heard that.

You're quite good at lying through your teeth, Little Yichen. If it doesn't taste good, so be it, but now you're putting on a show.

Although, at the same time, she was also touched. Little Yichen must have not wanted Gong Fan to be disappointed and sad, so he endured how bad it tasted and pretended that it was delicious!

"It's yummy!" The boy gave Gong Fan an exaggerated thumbs-up.

When Gong Fan heard this, he was inexplicably touched. So the doughnuts he made actually tasted pretty good? Even Little Yichen was afraid that he'd never get to eat them again.

Gong Fan pursed his lips and gave a rare gentle smile. "It's okay. From now on, I'll make them for you whenever you want some, okay?"

The boy's jaw nearly dropped upon hearing that. He was speechless and looked helplessly at Yun Shishi. At that point, she could only look away helplessly and pretend that she wasn't there.

Hua Jin tried desperately to stifle a giggle. This was too hilarious! How could a mother abandon her own flesh and blood?

Despite Gong Fan's smartness, he could not tell that Little Yichen was just being perfunctory.

In what ways was it delicious? One would think it was unpalatable just by looking at it. Besides, the boy's pained expression was proof enough of how unpalatable this was. The actor shuddered inwardly.

He was already deeply in awe of Gong Fan's culinary skills... in awe...

Gong Jie glanced at Little Yichen, then at Hua Jin, then he narrowed his eyes.

The actor cautiously leaned over and conferred with him. "Why don't we just explain the situation to Natalia and forget about the series of desserts?! Natalia will be poisoned to eat something like that."

For once, Gong Jie saw eye to eye with him.

"Uh huh."

As he spoke, he looked up and said to Gong Fan, "Xiao Fan, you don't have to make dessert."

Gong Fan was puzzled. "Why?"

"Because..." Gong Jie furrowed his brow as he made up a random lie. "Natalia has a cold. She shouldn't be eating anything too sweet."

"I see!" When Gong Fan heard this, he raised his eyebrows and complained, "I've worked so hard for so long and finally made a doughnut, and now you're telling me that she wouldn't be eating it because she has a cold. Couldn't you have told me earlier?"

Gong Jie was dumbstruck.

Emmmm... In the first place the desserts you make have to be edible!

Are you sure this is edible?!

You can't even feed the dogs with these!?

Hua Jin glanced at Gong Fan, and couldn't bear to look at the boy's expression, especially the disappointment in his eyes. The actor felt inexplicably helpless. The boy had worked hard to come up with the doughnut. He couldn't waste it!

Forget it. They shouldn't let him down.

The actor decided after much contemplation that he might as well put his life on the line and eat a piece of the doughnut. He didn't want the kid to work so hard for nothing and be disappointed. Although, he knew, the doughnut must taste horrible. He knew it. He could tell from Little Yichen's expression that it must be like chewing wax. However, he had to warm the little fellow's heart!

Therefore, Hua Jin clenched his fists and made a major decision!

Little Yichen was startled when he saw Hua Jin approach the doughnuts. He tried desperately to signal to the actor to warn him not to touch Gong Fan's "dark cuisine," but the man did not notice this.

Until the actor popped a doughnut into his mouth...

Boom!

The actor looked horrified. What was this taste!?

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What was this taste!?

This feeling... It was as if his head had been blown off by an atomic bomb.

It was crispy inside out.

"It's so..."

Gong Fan narrowed his eyes in alarm as soon as the man spoke. "...Awful?"

"No..." With a tremendous effort, the actor managed to swallow the dark lump. His entire mouth felt strangely sandy and bitter, as if he had swallowed a mouthful of black soil.

...

Being able to make doughnuts taste like this was also a skill.

The actor quickly corrected himself. "It's indescribably delicious."

Gong Fan was stunned. Beside him, Gong Jie and Little Yichen both shot him a look of disgust.

Was this PUBG? He was actually making such a big detour.

Gong Fan was a very smart boy. Even though he had been fooled by Little Yichen's superb acting skills initially, at this point he was not so stupid that he could not tell that this thing was really disgusting.

Although Hua Jin's words may fool others, but his eyes or his microexpressions can't.

In other words... The best acting skills could not hide the fact that this thing tasted terrible.

Is it that bad?? Muttering under his breath, he glanced at the blackened doughnut on his plate. Looking doubtful, he picked up a piece for himself and took a bite...

Thud.

He almost fell.

Terrified, Yun Shishi hurried over to help him. Gong Fan barely managed to brace himself against the table and gently waved his hand to indicate that he was fine.

Except that when he turned around, Yun Shishi saw that his expression was clouded over and his eyes were filled with a sense of loss.

"It tastes so bad ..." He had never tasted anything so awful! Although he didn't want, and was unwilling, to admit it, this doughnut tasted really bad...

Expressionlessly, he picked up and dumped the entire plate of failed doughnuts into the trash bin.

Everyone fell silent, unsure if they should laugh or console him.

Gong Fan said rather dejectedly, "Is Youyou's cooking really delicious?"

"Uh... uhm." Yun Shishi shrugged. "He's better at cooking, in that way..."

"Oh." Gong Fan dropped his head as though with a "thump", his head hung extremely low. It was obvious that he was sorely disappointed.

He was competitive and unwilling to be second to others. Still, he couldn't match the boy for this particular thing. He felt sad. At the same time, he felt a little indignant. The boy was too good. There was a light in him that he dared not look at.

He was very serious about making this doughnut. In fact, he had experienced several failures. But why did he fail yet again this time?

Gong Fan felt inexplicably frustrated.

Yun Shishi rubbed his head, feeling a sense of helplessness. "Well, don't be sad. In fact, you've come quite far given it's your first try! The first time I made them, they didn't taste good either. Furthermore, I didn't even come as far as you have. You're like Mommy in that way. Mommy doesn't seem to have much talent in this respect."

When Gong Fan heard this, the sadness in his heart eased a little. "Really?"

“Yes, really. So look, when has Mommy ever cooked? It’s always Youyou who cooks. Mommy can’t cook or make desserts.”

When Gong Fan heard this, he felt upset. “I’ll look into it a bit more the next time. Maybe I have a talent for making desserts, too.”

For some reason, the remark shook Little Yichen. Perhaps he had already imagined that if Gong Fan seriously studied desserts, he might become the chief tasting officer.

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Little Yichen quickly reassured him. “Actually, you don’t have to. Look, if you’re not good at cooking, you don’t have to try!”

When Gong Fan heard this, he was a little suspicious. “Why? Do you think I don’t have this talent?”

That’s right.

Still, Little Yichen didn’t dare spell things out. “Er... I think you’re better than Youyou in many ways,” he said cryptically.

“Such as?”

“For example, wasn’t Project Deva Eye your idea? I heard from Uncle that Project Deva Eye’s vision is astonishing, and Hurricane Group will control the global firearms market if it succeeds.”

When Gong Fan heard this, for some reason, there was a hint of loneliness in his eyes.

“The so-called Project Deva Eye is actually based on Youyou’s design plans. Without his plans, it would be a pipe dream even if I were to have suggested it.”

Little Yichen was stumped.

“But you’re very good at business.”

“But Youyou’s business philosophy is by no means inferior to mine.”

Little Yichen was even more stumped now.

Gong Fan pursed his lips and said indifferently, “Please leave now, all of you! I’ll try again. Even if I didn’t make the series of desserts, I must succeed at the doughnuts.”

He didn’t want to disappoint Youyou, and didn’t want Youyou to think he was useless. No matter what, he had to try.

Hua Jin and Gong Jie exchanged a glance.

Yun Shishi gave him a bland smile. “If he wants to do it himself, we might as well let him try again! The boy is particular about finishing what he starts, no matter what he does.”

Although she knew that, in fact, cooking was also a gift.

She didn't know how to cook, and Mu Yazhe wasn't very good at it either, but they had a son who naturally had culinary skills. All she could say was that he was extremely gifted at cooking, and had a rather keen nose for it. This was something beyond their control. Whether it was the genetic mutation or the boy's unique talent, cooking relied on a gut instinct for good food. Some people could create great tasting dishes even if they had never learned it. Youyou could even make many dishes that were not available in restaurants all over the world.

The four of them quietly left the kitchen.

Gong Fan looked at the kitchen counter silently. In the end, he took a deep breath, rolled up his sleeves, and started afresh.

Natalia stood at the entrance of the kitchen and quietly pushed open the door slightly. She peered through the gap to see the slim figure standing at the kitchen counter.

She looked around, saw that he was alone in the large kitchen, and tiptoed in. She quietly stood behind Gong Fan and watched him in silence as he stirred the eggs.

Gong Fan was so focused on what he was doing that he didn't realize that there was someone standing behind him.

Natalia's footsteps were light. As sharp as Gong Fan was, he didn't notice her immediately.

It wasn't until Natalia saw that he hadn't finished making even one dessert that she asked curiously, "Is today's series of desserts ruined?"

Gong Fan jumped, not realizing that there was someone beside him. He spun around and looked surprised to see Natalia. "You... you are?"

Natalia widened her eyes, blinking slightly, looking rather puzzled.

"Have you... forgotten me?"

Gong Fan frowned and pondered for a moment before quickly guessing her identity.

"Nata..."

"Good memory. Do you recognize me now?"

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Gong Fan looked at Natalia intently, deeply attracted by her purple eyes. He'd never seen anyone with purple eyes. She was breathtakingly beautiful.

The boy couldn't help being stunned by her.

Natalia froze, too. She recognized the child before her at once. It might be Youyou's body, but it was not Youyou.

She recalled hearing that the boy had a split personality.

Natalia studied Gong Fan's unfamiliar expression and pouted slightly. "You're 'him', aren't you?"

Gong Fan was stunned and didn't understand what she meant.

Natalia reminded him, "What ... is your name?"

"Gong..."

"Gong Fan?"

Gong Fan turned ashen. "How do you know my name?"

Natalia looked pleased. "I've heard Auntie Alice mention you. One Gong Fan and one Youyou."

Seeing that he had been exposed, Gong Fan said indifferently, "Yes, it's me..."

"I see!" Natalia turned her back on him and closed her eyes. She too had decided to tell him her secret.

"Actually ... I'm just like you."

Gong Fan was stunned for a moment before he quickly understood what she meant. "You too..."

"Uh huh. I have a sister who looks just like me, and her name is Natalisa. I've always been afraid of her, though."

"Why?"

"She's evil." Natalia frowned, looking very grim. "She... would hurt me and others. That's why I'm afraid of her. But it seems she lives inside me and I can't get rid of her."

When Gong Fan heard this, he opened his mouth to speak, but hesitated and fell silent again. He had actually wanted to ask Natalia and Natalisa, exactly who was the primary personality and who was the secondary personality.

However, he almost asked but eventually did not.

"Sometimes I see her in my dreams, just standing there, smiling coldly at me, and I'm fear-stricken and can't move. That's when I wake up in a cold sweat."

Gong Fan listened attentively. Only he could fit into her world. Because he understood the world of split personalities.

Natalia turned around with her hands clasped behind her back, looking as pretty as a doll in her dress. "But sometimes I sleep. When I do, it's always for a long time. I'm obviously conscious and grateful, but my eyes are closed. I can't keep them open no matter how hard I try."

Gong Fan also felt the same way. "I do that sometimes."

"I'll sleep for a long time. And no matter how hard I try to open my eyes, there's just darkness all around me." Natalia's voice suddenly turned cold as she spoke. "It feels like death."

Gong Fan's body stiffened. Indeed, this feeling was no different from that of a walking corpse.

"Do you know..." Natalia asked him, "I've undergone electric shock therapy."

"Electric shock therapy!?" Gong Fan realized that the "shock therapy" she was talking about was the crazy treatment plan that Yun Shishi had unintentionally mentioned.

Electric shocks was a painful method.

"I know. Romanka is trying to get Natalisa out of my body, but Natalisa is always hiding inside me. The pain can only be borne by me."

Natalya closed her eyes, her vision replaying that nightmare.

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Gong Fan was silent for a while before suddenly asking curiously, "Have you... heard of the Land of the Dead?"

Natalia turned around, her eyes flashing. "You mean... the 'Place of the Banished'?"

"Place of the Banished?"

"Yeah. I heard those patients at the hospital talking about it. People like us. It's meant to be our way back."

Natalia paused, her eyes darkening. "What's the difference between not being needed and being banished?"

Gong Fan looked at her purple eyes and his heart suddenly palpitated. For some reason he couldn't look her in the eye. Those purple eyes seemed to hold a magic beyond words. It was as if one would be bewitched if they looked at it for too long. He turned around and stopped looking at her.

Natalia smiled as she clasped her hands behind her back and walked to his side. Her speech suddenly slowed to a drawl. "Are you content to be exiled?"

"What?"

"Do you wish to go there?"

Gong Fan pursed his lips and said, "I won't go there."

"Why?" The girl seemed doubtful. "Are you so sure?"

"They won't give up on me!"

"You must be the second personality!"

Her words jolted him awake. Gong Fan's eyes regained focus as he said in surprise, "How did you know that I'm the second personality?"

"I sense a similar aura between us."

Natalia let out a brittle laugh. "Uncomfortable, lost, a kind of loneliness that comes from the fear of being abandoned."

"..."

"Don't you feel that you've been given up on?" The girl continued, "Sometimes, do you sleep for a long time?"

Gong Fan was stunned.

Could it be... Was Natalia a second personality? And Natalisa the first personality?

He turned around in surprise. His gaze fell on Natalia, but she suddenly reached out and gently pressed her finger to her lips. "Shh!"

He watched as she raised a hand and held it out in front of him. She opened her fingertips slightly, and a pocket watch suddenly appeared and fell gently before his eyes.

It started to swing.

"Right now, empty your mind, don't look at anything. You just have to close your eyes and listen to what you can hear." Natalia's words seemed to have a certain magic to them. She breathed like an orchid. Her cherry-blossom lips moved slightly as she uttered a few sounds made with a lazy drawl.

"Can you hear that?"

Click ... click ... click ...

The sound of the watch hands moving drowned out all other noise for a moment. In an instant, all Gong Fan could hear was the sound of the watch hands moving.

Click!

Click!

Gong Fan suddenly felt his eyelids getting heavier and heavier. He tried to keep his eyes open, but they were growing heavy. Gradually, he could no longer keep them open. His eyelids gradually closed, and his world gradually fell into darkness...

...

"Daddy..."

Gong Jie and Hua Jin were sitting in the living room when they heard what sounded like a kitten.

The latter rose to his feet, he saw Natalia snuggling against the side of the door. "It's Youyou again," she said timidly, cautiously.

"What's the matter?" Hua Jin had no idea when she'd strolled into the kitchen, and was curious.

He guessed that she had probably wandered into the kitchen and must have been frightened by Gong Fan's "masterpiece". He laughed and said, "You won't have a series of desserts to eat today!"

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"It's not that..."

Natalia said hesitantly, "I think... he's suddenly fainted."

"What?"

As Hua Jin and Gong Jie stood there looking stunned, Yun Shishi and Little Yichen were already on their feet and heading towards the kitchen.

As they entered the kitchen, they saw Gong Fan leaning against the wall, his face pale. Yun Shishi walked over anxiously and picked him up, patting his face gently.

!!

"Fan... Fan?!"

Little Yichen was scared out of his wits when he saw that Gong Fan was unconscious. "Should we call for an ambulance?"

Gong Jie and Hua Jin walked in as well. Their faces fell when they saw the unconscious Gong Fan in his mother's arms.

"What's going on!?"

Natalia followed them in. Hua Jin saw her from the corner of his eye and immediately asked her uneasily, "What happened?! He was fine just then. Why did he suddenly pass out?"

"I... I don't know..." Natalia said innocently, "I found him passed out here when I walked in. What should I do?! Should I call for an ambulance?"

Hua Jin froze. For some reason, the Natalia who was standing before him now seemed completely unfamiliar. As if he had never met this girl. She was different from the timid little girl who spoke carefully. Her eyes, even if they seemed worried and uneasy, were frighteningly dark.

She...

...

The actor knew about Natalia's split personality.

Having entrusted Natalia to his care, Gong Jie had spoken of the matter in advance. But none of them had ever witnessed Natalia's second personality. Therefore, no one knew what that personality was like. However, Hua Jin's intuition told him that it was even more terrifying than what he was sensing.

The person before him was not Natalia at all. Then again... His guess didn't seem to have a good basis. Perhaps he was imagining things!

He focused his full attention on Gong Fan.

Little Yichen was about to call for an ambulance on his cell phone when Yun Shishi noticed Gong Fan's eyelids twitching.

With renewed hope, she whispered, "Fan?"

"Uh huh..." Gong Fan responded softly and finally opened his eyes a little.

When she saw that he was awake, she finally exhaled and relaxed her brow. "Are you feeling unwell?"

Gong Fan was still in a daze. His vision gradually came back into focus. Only then did he see the person in front of him clearly and call out in a quiet voice, "Mommy..." It was so weak that it made one's heart ache.

Worried, Yun Shishi asked, "You suddenly fainted. What happened? Are you feeling unwell?"

Gong Fan looked around. He was also a little surprised upon hearing Yun Shishi say that he had fainted. "Did I... pass out?"

"Uh huh..." She said, "You startled us all."

Gong Fan was puzzled too. He had no memory of what had happened just now. He only recalled that he was making doughnuts, and then everything suddenly darkened and he fainted.

"I don't know what happened as well..." Gong Fan gently propped himself up and held his forehead. "I probably didn't sleep well last night..."

He didn't know how to explain what had happened, so he made a random excuse, hoping that it would help settle Yun Shishi.

However, this reason did not appease Yun Shishi. Instead, it made her even more uneasy.

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Didn't sleep well? She had never passed out from not having slept well. However, no one would know what was going on in his body. The doctors won't be able to figure it out even if they were to go to the hospital.

Ever since the boy's return, she knew that Youyou had been trying to make peace with Gong Fan. But, as Alice had said, the two personalities coexisted, so sooner or later, the boy would not be able to keep up.

Yun Shishi had no idea what it meant by "not being able to keep up". However, seeing that Gong Fan had suddenly passed out like this, it was difficult for her not to associate the two matters.

"If you're tired, go to your room and rest for a while, okay?"

Gong Fan nodded gently, but he was a little reluctant. "If I fall asleep, would it be for a few days..."

Yun Shishi understood what he meant. He was worried that if he were to fall asleep, it might be days before he'd wake up again.

Her heart ached for him, so she coaxed him gently. "Then... Mommy will stay with you, okay? Just stay in bed. Mommy won't leave, okay?"

Gong Fan nodded gently. She stood up, carrying the boy in her arms. Gong Fan had grown taller and heavier. He was no longer as easy to carry as before.

Little Yichen helped support the boy.

Still holding Gong Fan, Yun Shishi turned and said guiltily, "Natalia, I'm sorry. Today... he's feeling unwell. The series of desserts will have to wait, but since he has promised to make it for you, he'll keep his end of the bargain. Just that today..."

Natalia was stunned for a moment. "It's all right," she said quickly. "If he's unwell, he should go to bed for a while!"

"Uh huh!" Yun Shishi stood up, carrying the boy in her arms.

Hua Jin said, "I'll bring two cups of hot water up to the room."

Gong Jie nodded. "Do hurry!"

...

In the bedroom, Yun Shishi gently placed Gong Fan on the bed and covered him with the blanket. Just as she was about to get up to draw the curtains, Gong Fan thought she was leaving and nervously pulled at her clothes.

Yun Shishi smiled and assured him gently, "Mommy's going to draw the curtains. I'm not leaving, okay?"

Only then did Gong Fan relax. She drew the curtains and immediately returned to the bed. She sensed Gong Fan's gaze on her and understood his fear that she would quietly leave if he were to accidentally fall asleep.

She knew in her heart, Gong Fan was more dependent on her than Youyou was. She took off her coat and got under the covers too.

She put her arms around him and comforted him. "Don't you believe what Mommy said?"

"I do..."

"Mommy has given my word that I won't leave. I'll stay here with you. I feel like you don't believe Mommy."

Gong Fan bit his lip and remained silent.

Yun Shishi gently pinched the tip of his nose. "Mommy doesn't mean to blame you! I just think that if you're tired, you should close your eyes and sleep. If you don't want to sleep, just close your eyes and Mommy will accompany you!"

“Mommy...”

“Mmm?”

“I want to ... listen to you sing.” Gong Fan paused and immediately said, “It’s okay if you don’t want to sing. Just talk to me.”

She asked the boy, “What song would you like to hear?”

“Anything will do.” For some reason, he suddenly felt exhausted. He really wanted to sleep, but he simply couldn’t sleep peacefully.

Maybe if he could hear her voice, it might help! Or so he thought.

Yun Shishi nodded, and so began to hum softly and casually.

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Little Yichen stood outside, in the doorway, staring through the gap at the door into the bedroom. He frowned at the way she had her arms around Gong Fan, then turned around with a grave expression.

Standing behind him with two glasses of water, Hua Jin lowered his voice and asked, “How is it going? Is he asleep?”

Little Yichen shook his head. “I can’t see clearly, but... Mommy’s putting him to bed!”

“Well then...” Hua Jin looked the two glasses of water in his hand. “Should I send this in?”

“Better not for now! Let’s not disturb Little Brother.”

!!

“Okay... alright.” The actor turned and placed the water on a nearby cabinet, his expression grim.

It was not a small matter that Gong Fan had suddenly fainted. How could this have happened for no reason?

“Has this happened before?” The actor was compelled to ask.

The boy shook his head at that. “Not at all.”

“Well then...”

Little Yichen continued, “Little Brother had never passed out for no apparent reason. Even though he’d been in poor health before, this has never happened.”

Gong Jie joined him and peered through the crack in the door. Relieved to see mother and son in bed, he eased the door closed.

“Let him sleep for a bit!”

Hua Jin knew that Gong Jie was aware of much of what was going on and asked anxiously, "Is he okay?"

Gong Jie shot him a dirty look. "How should I know?"

"..." Well, so much for asking.

"I too, feel that this sudden fainting is a little unusual." Gong Jie paused for a moment, then said, "I'll ask Alice later! We can't jump to conclusions now."

"Okay."

When Gong Jie and Little Yichen were out of earshot, the actor turned and suddenly caught sight of a slender figure standing near the door of another room. He looked closer. It was Natalia. He noted that she was leaning against the door and secretly looking over.

When she became aware of Hua Jin's eyes on her, she was clearly stunned for a moment. She didn't expect to be discovered and quickly shut the door.

The actor frowned suspiciously, his eyes narrowing a little.

...

"Natalia's second personality?"

Gong Jie's expression faltered for a moment as he gripped his glass of water. "I... have not met her."

"I feel that Natalia's a little strange today. Besides, didn't you say she has a split personality? I don't think I've met her second personality yet."

Gong Jie looked somewhat suspicious too, when he heard this. "Now that you mention it, I did forget about her being a split personality."

"Gong Fan is Youyou's second personality, Youyou being the primary personality. So, if Natalia is the primary personality, what's the name of her second personality? Now, you're still here. If her second personality manifests itself while you're gone, it would be a complete stranger, I won't be able to cope."

Gong Jie raised an eyebrow. "Do you depend on me that much?"

The actor felt extremely uncomfortable with his ambiguous statement, and protested, "Don't misunderstand me!"

The man replied, "Who's misinterpreting whom?"

Hua Jin was rendered speechless again! This man always seemed to have the ability to distort the truth!

Little Yichen, on the other hand, got the point. "You're worried that Natalia's other personality isn't a good one?"

"We've never met her second personality, isn't that so?" Hua Jin sat down and said hesitantly, "I can't conclude that Natalia's second personality would be as gentle and kind as her primary personality."

The actor made this remark because he thought Natalia was acting too strangely today. Gong Fan was obviously fine when they saw him in the kitchen, but why did he faint soon after she had walked in?

What was more startling, was that he had inadvertently caught a glimpse of an indescribable coldness in Natalia's expression as she looked at Gong Fan. It gave him a sudden sense of unfamiliarity.

Gong Jie felt helpless, however. He had already overstayed and if he continued to delay returning to the Hurricane Group, it would probably be in chaos.

Hua Jin saw his hesitation and immediately said, "Actually... it's fine if you don't stay. I'll try my best to deal with it."

"I'll send someone to look after her. If anything unusual happens, just let me know."

!!

The actor nodded. "Yes, alright."

...

Yun Shishi accompanied Gong Fan so that he would go to sleep. As she hummed softly, the boy gradually allowed his exhaustion to take over and finally fell asleep in her arms.

Seeing that he had fallen asleep, she considered getting up, but was worried that if the boy should wake and find her missing, he'd be sad and disappointed, so she simply slept next to him.

At some point, she was woken up by a movement beside her. She opened her eyes subconsciously and saw that the little one was already awake.

She was about to call out "Gong Fan", when she saw him rubbing his eyes and opening them. His stunned gaze made her realize that it was not Gong Fan who had woken up, but Youyou.

"Are you awake, Youyou?" She patted his cheek gently.

The boy opened his eyes and looked dazed for a moment, because when he had gone to sleep the night before, it had been in his own home.

Now he had woken up in a strange room. He was smart enough to realize that he had been asleep "for a while", and the person who had woken up earlier would have been Gong Fan.

"Where am I?" Youyou's voice was hoarse from just waking up.

'At Natalia's house.'

"Eh? How many days has it been since I fell asleep?"

"Today is the day you were going to make a series of desserts for Natalia. Have you forgotten? However, it was Gong Fan who woke up this morning. It's understandable that you don't have any impression of it."

"Ahhhhh..." The boy tapped his head. "What time is it?"

"It's past noon! I've already spoken with her for you to be 'excused'."

"Why?" The boy paused, then caught himself. "Oh, I forgot. Gong Fan doesn't know how to make desserts."

"He did try on your behalf today. Maybe he thought that since it was something you'd promised, he should deliver your promise for you, so he gritted his teeth and tried," she explained.

The boy could not help feeling exasperated. "How would he know how to do it?"

"Uh huh. It failed several times." Yun Shishi was silent for a moment. "In the morning, Gong Fan suddenly fainted. I thought he hadn't slept well, so I put him to bed for a while."

The boy nodded at that, feeling warm inside. He too, realized that when he opened his eyes just then, Yun Shishi was stunned for a moment, but she had quickly recognized that he was not Gong Fan, but Youyou!

It was heartwarming. In the past, when he and Little Yichen stood side by side, many people would mistake them for each other. But Yun Shishi could always tell them apart.

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In the past, when he and Little Yichen stood side by side, many people would mistake them for each other. But Yun Shishi could always tell them apart. And now, it was also only Yun Shishi who could distinguish between the two independent personalities.

Youyou was touched and put his arm around her shoulders. He gently kissed her forehead. "Mommy, I love you."

"Uh huh!" She wrapped her arms gently around him. "Are you still sleepy? Do you want to take another nap?"

"I'm not sleepy anymore. I just want to keep hugging Mommy like this." The boy snuggled his head gently into her arms as he spoke.

Yun Shishi found herself chastising him. "You're all grown up and you're still clinging to Mommy. How are you going to get yourself a wife in the future?"

"Wife is as important as Mommy."

"Hmm... Our Youyou is really a mommy's boy. In the future, you're not allowed to cling to Mommy like this. Girls don't like mommy's boys."

The boy pouted. "Is it wrong for me to love Mommy? If Mommy has said and done nothing wrong, why wouldn't I do whatever Mommy says?"

"Will you still be so clingy when you grow up?"

The boy thought for a moment. "It depends," he said solemnly. "If Mommy becomes senile, I won't do whatever you say."

"Mommy will never be senile, even when you're all grown up!" she said bitterly.

The boy laughed at that. "Yes! Mommy is so young. When I turn 30, Mommy will only be 48!"

Angry and amused, she rubbed his head to soothe him. "Close your eyes again and rest for a while more."

Obediently, Youyou wrapped his arms around her waist and closed his eyes.

"Mommy..."

"Mmm?"

"It's very strange that recently, Gong Fan seems to sleep for a long time before he wakes."

When she heard this, she knew that the boy was worried about Gong Fan. "Isn't that a good thing?" she reassured him. "At least then you'll have more time for Mommy."

"But..." The boy found it rather unbearable. He said sadly, "Wouldn't he have very little time to see Mommy if this were the case?"

"..."

"He feels a lot lonelier than I do and needs company more. Subconsciously, I wish I could give this body to him and let him spend more time with Mommy, but... he's been so strange recently. He always sleeps for a long time."

"Uh..." Yun Shishi found herself hesitating. She realized that Youyou had noticed some minor changes in his body. He was apprehensive about these changes that would come, just as she herself was nervous. But no matter what, she would be there for him and she would accompany him through it.

"Don't overthink it. Anyway, if you let your imagination run wild, it won't change anything. Just know that whatever happens, Mommy will be there for you."

The boy smiled at that. "Okay!"

...

The boy lazed in bed for a while longer with his arms around his mother. When he was no longer sleepy, he got up.

By then, Hua Jin had reheated the food. At noon, everyone had eaten except the two of them. Yun Shishi only just realized it was already 2pm, but she did not feel the least bit hungry.

She asked Hua Jin, "Where's Natalia? Is she taking a nap?"