

Sweet Love 4211

Chapter 4211: The Other Side 180

He read the instructions carefully. They made no sense to him. When Yun Shishi saw this, she panicked. She rushed forward and took the box from Hua Jin. She tore the backing off the fever patch and gently pressed it to Natalia's forehead.

She read the instructions and took out two pills, according to the prescribed amount.

The actor understood immediately. "Two at a time?"

"Yes, let's put her on medication for a day and observe."

"Should we go to the hospital?" The actor looked worried.

!!

Yun Shishi gave him a look of resignation. "If we're going to the hospital for a non-emergency case, we'll need to make an appointment with a doctor. We'll have to wait for our turn as well. I've already made an appointment in advance. If we don't see any improvement tonight, then we'll take her to the hospital."

The actor was about to nod when he heard a weak but uneasy voice behind him.

"I don't want to go to the hospital..."

Upon hearing this, everyone immediately turned their heads in the direction of the voice. They saw Natalia weakly propping herself up on the bed and glowering at them.

"I don't want to go to the hospital..." Her voice was weak but firm.

Hua Jin immediately walked over to the bed and put his arm around her shoulders, his heart aching for her. "Why don't you go to the hospital?" he said soothingly. "We'll tell them not to give you any injections, but if you're unwell and don't recover, you won't be able to go to the beach, will you?"

The girl's gloomy eyes brightened a little the moment she heard they were going to the beach.

She turned expectantly to the actor and mumbled, "I want to go to the beach..."

For this trip, the actor had bought Natalia a cute little float and a beautiful bathing suit. He'd even offered to take her out on a yacht. If she stayed sick, she wouldn't be able to go and play on the beach.

And so Natalia hesitated.

When Yun Shishi noticed this, she crouched beside the bed and looked at the girl intently. "Why are you so reluctant to go to the hospital?" she asked curiously.

Natalia fell silent for a long moment. Then she turned away, unwilling to speak.

When Hua Jin saw this, he immediately said sternly, "Natalia, no matter who speaks to you, you have to look at them, understand? This is respect and courtesy."

Yun Shishi smiled helplessly. "Why are you talking about this when she's sick?"

The twins looked at each other and immediately came over. "Shall we go to the hospital, Natalia?" they said worriedly. "Hurry up and get better so we can go sailing together!"

"That's right. Didn't we make plans to go out to sea tomorrow? We're going snorkeling. How are you going to join us if you're sick? It wouldn't be as fun without you."

Natalia hesitated for a long moment, then said desolately, "I..."

"Mmm?"

Natalia suddenly said something quietly that made everyone shudder. "My... my big sister says she doesn't want to go."

Yun Shishi and Hua Jin exchanged a stunned look!

...

At the airport, Alice hurriedly hailed a cab and headed to the private beach.

The car pulled up at the entrance and she quickly paid the bill. By then, Yun Shishi had been waiting for a long time.

Earlier on, she had asked Alice to come to Saipan for a vacation, and in addition, Alice had wanted to observe Natalia. However, as soon as the plane landed, she received a call from Yun Shishi saying that a situation had developed with Natalia.

Without bothering to collect her luggage, Alice contacted the flight service and hurried over.

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By this time, Natalia had been patiently coaxed by Hua Jin into taking her medicine. Because of the effects of the drug, she had been lying down on the bed to rest.

Alice walked into the villa and saw Hua Jin sitting at the edge of the bed with a grave expression. He looked at Natalia, his distress obvious.

"What's going on?" Alice stuffed her hands into the pockets of her windbreaker and walked over to the bed. She glanced at Natalia and frowned slightly. "What's the matter with her?" she asked.

"Shhhh." The actor motioned towards the door and silently mouthed the words to Alice, "She's asleep. Let's talk outside."

Alice nodded and walked out the door. The actor instructed the twins to keep an eye on Natalia in her room and walked out after Alice.

Alice lit a cigarette and stood by the sofa. "She's had a situation, hasn't she?" she asked quietly.

Nodding, the actor sat down on the sofa. "Does Natalia have a big sister?" he asked hesitantly.

Alice whirled around, her eyes narrowing suspiciously. "Big sister?"

"Yeah, well. She said her sister's name is Natalisa."

"Natalisa?" Alice's expression grew grave. She looked at him. For a moment, a million thoughts ran through her mind. She wanted to say something, but she stopped herself several times.

Yun Shishi poured out two cups of tea and served them up. Looking at Alice, she said hesitantly, "Alice, I think we've discovered Natalia's second personality. But we've also discovered some tricky stuff."

"What kind of tricky stuff?"

Yun Shishi turned to the actor. Hua Jin got onto his feet, opened a drawer in a cabinet, and took out a crystal ball from it.

Alice was shocked when she saw the crystal ball.

Hua Jin had mentioned this crystal ball to her previously. Now that she saw the actual object, she was even more certain that it was an auxiliary prop used by hypnotists.

Surprised, Alice asked, "Did you steal this thing from Natalia?"

"On the day I was packing for our trip, she kept holding on to this crystal ball, refusing to speak. I had offered to safe-keep it for her, but she didn't seem willing to hand it over to me. However, eventually we had to check it in along with the luggage because it was a fragile item. so I had an excuse to place the crystal ball in the suitcase. When we arrived in Saipan, I lied to her and told her that the crystal ball had been accidentally lost in transit."

Alice listened, then asked suspiciously, 'She was upset?'

"No."

"Then..."

"She was agitated and restless, she didn't sleep well throughout the night."

"..." Alice frowned. Something was odd..

Hua Jin said solemnly, "From my observations, I've come to realize that in addition to being inseparable from this crystal ball, Natalia has one more distinguishing feature."

"What distinguishing feature?"

"That is, she can't be without this crystal ball. Otherwise, other than being anxious, she'll have trouble sleeping. Last night, she fell asleep really late. When she woke up in the morning, I found that she had suddenly developed a fever."

"A fever?"

"Uh huh." The actor added, "Over 39 degrees."

"That high?"

"I had the family doctor over before, but he said it was just a superficial fever."

“Superficial fever?”

Yun Shishi, too, was surprised to hear this term being used.

The actor had not told her about this earlier.

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As the name suggested, a superficial fever takes into account only the surface temperature of the forehead or armpit. Measured this way, her temperature was definitely above normal. However, the temperature of the tongue was within the normal range.

Therefore, a fever on the surface of the body was definitely an abnormal occurrence. This temperature was not normal at all. Which meant there was absolutely nothing wrong with her physiological temperature.

A superficial fever is mainly caused by a lack of vital energy and blood. The lack of vital energy and blood causes the metabolism in the blood to slow down. The low temperature caused the blood vessels to contract, and the ability of blood to flow back gradually weakens. At the same time, it could also be because of sub-optimal blood circulation in the brain. They also suspected that it was due to excessive fatigue or excessive toxins in the body. In other words, poor quality of sleep was the main reason.

“Was she not sleeping well?”

The actor said, “I lied to her about losing the crystal ball. I could tell she was depressed. She usually sleeps with it in her arms, so I suspect there’s something definitely wrong with it.”

Because he suspected there was something wrong with the crystal ball, Hua Jin wanted to hand it over to Alice to examine.

Alice took the crystal ball, studied it, and came to a conclusion. “My guess is that this crystal ball may be the main cause of her fever.”

“Why do you say that?”

“It’s just a theory of mine. But, I suppose, if there are no other reasons, it’s plausible enough.”

“What do you mean?”

“According to you, she usually sleeps holding the crystal ball. But these few days, you’ve hidden the object away from her, right?”

The actor nodded.

“In that case, my guess is that the other personality created a psychological cue for the primary personality. This cue would have been guided by the use of the crystal ball as a prop. The crystal ball is an important prop for hypnosis. Given this, perhaps Natalia’s primary personality must have been under the control of the secondary personality, who used the crystal ball to control her.”

Hua Jin sucked his breath in sharply at that, horrified at the thought. He suddenly recalled that he'd had a memory gap some time ago. Initially, he did not notice anything unusual. He thought that he must have been too tired. Perhaps his memory was worsening as he aged. However, he thought through it again carefully. He'd always had a good memory, especially when it came to memorizing scripts. He'd always memorized them quickly and easily.

It wasn't until he discovered the crystal ball in Natalia's room that he began to wonder if he'd been hypnotized by it. For some reason, he could vaguely see another Natalia in her. Sometimes, he would find the girl both strange and familiar. He felt that he had seen her somewhere before, but he just could not think where. It was as though he had amnesia.

Alice suddenly came to a conclusion. "My guess is that Natalia's alter ego had made an appearance before this. That alter ego might have known hypnosis and had hypnotized you, so that some of your memories have been erased."

"Hypnosis?!" Yun Shishi was immediately tensed when she heard this. "What are the symptoms after hypnosis?"

"Some people pass out. Others feel exhausted and want to sleep, and sleep so deeply that they have trouble waking up."

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"Some people pass out. Others feel exhausted and want to sleep, and sleep so deeply that they have trouble waking up."

"What?" Yun Shishi exclaimed and turned ashen.

It suddenly came back to her, the day when Gong Fan was trying to make the desserts to fulfill Youyou's promise to Natalia. However, he had suddenly fainted. When he woke up, he had complained of being tired and sleepy. She had taken him in her arms and coaxed him to sleep, but right up till now, he had not woken up again.

It had been a long time since she last saw Gong Fan. Yun Shishi's heart wrenched at the thought.

Alice saw noticed Yun Shishi's troubled expression. "What's the matter?" she asked worriedly. "You look terrible all of a sudden."

"So it looks like Gong Fan was also hypnotized by Natalia's other personality?"

Alice winced at that remark. "What do you mean?!"

Yun Shishi immediately told Alice the details of the incident, without going into the events of that day..

When Alice heard this, her eyes flashed momentarily, and her expression grew grave.

Yun Shishi's chest tightened when she observed Alice's troubled expression.

"I actually have no way of knowing what the reason is for Gong Fan's sudden disappearance. He hasn't woken up ever since that day. I'm so afraid that he's gone, gone from Youyou's body. But I can't ask and I can't see. I feel nervous every day but there's nothing I can do. However, as you've said, and I've thought about it carefully, it's true that Natalia was there the day of the incident. And basically the symptoms you mentioned match the symptoms that Gong Fan had. I suspect... Could he have been hypnotized by Natalia?"

"It wasn't Natalia." The actor spoke suddenly.

Yun Shishi turned to him as he said, "Perhaps it was Natalisa. Natalia could never have done such a thing."

"You don't know her well, do you?"

"No." The actor was adamant. "It can't be Natalia. Otherwise, why didn't Natalia hypnotize me?"

"..." There was a silence.

Alice couldn't shake the feeling that there was something fishy going on, but her thoughts were all over the place. It was as if some idea had flashed through her mind, but she simply could not grasp it.

"And Gong Fan has not woken up since then?" Alice asked once more.

Yun Shishi nodded grimly, her voice trembling. "I... miss him alot."

For a long time, she'd suppressed her emotions, unwilling to let them show in the presence of Youyou and Mu Yazhe. But she'd been worried, too. Even though she kept reassuring herself that it would be good for Youyou if Gong Fan's personality disappeared.

Wasn't that what she would have been most happy to see in the past? But no matter how much she tried to reassure herself, she couldn't convince herself. On the other hand, she was afraid that her indecisiveness may end up hurting the boy.

"Could Gong Fan... have disappeared?" Yun Shishi looked at Alice with reddened eyes, like someone desperate in the face of adversity.

Alice looked at the woman steadily, her brow furrowed, but she didn't know how to answer. She pretended to be calm, but the truth was, she didn't know what was wrong with Gong Fan.

On the other side of the door, Youyou stood staring silently, through the crack in the doorway, at the distraught woman in the living room. His fingertips trembled.

Thank you readers

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On the other side of the door, Youyou stood staring silently, through the crack in the doorway, at the distraught woman in the living room. His fingertips trembled. With a sharp intake of breath, Youyou turned and leaned gently back against the side of the door with a hint of pain in his eyes.

Gong Fan had indeed disappeared for a long time, but he didn't know why. However, he did not know that his mother was so worried about Gong Fan.

She was probably afraid that he would be sad! Afraid that he'd think that her love was divided between him and Gong Fan, so she pretended to be calm, as if she was not worried. In reality, she must be very worried!

Mommy also has feelings for Gong Fan.

He even realized that during this period of time, when she would wake up in the mornings and hurry into his room, there would be a momentary but obvious hint of dejection in her eyes, when she found that it was him.

The boy closed his eyes and murmured silently, "Where are you, Gong Fan?"

However, the depths of his body was silent and still.

Gong Fan... had vanished.

Youyou was feeling lost when he heard Yun Shishi's stern voice outside the door.

"No! You can't take Youyou and Natalia away." The boy turned and looked through the crack in the door. He saw Yun Shishi sitting on the sofa, looking determined. "I'll never let you take Youyou and Natalia away!"

It turned out that Alice had tactfully hinted at her hopes of taking the boy and Natalia away for some research study.

At that, Yun Shishi's hackles rose like an enraged cat's, and her manner was decisive. Although she maintained a calm and polite attitude, the resistance in her eyes was unmistakable!

"No way!" She said firmly, "I know you want what's best for the boy, but I will not allow him to leave me again."

Alice took this with a little sigh of resignation. She understood Yun Shishi's misgivings. However, she had reaped what she sowed. After all, she had performed hypnosis on the boy and erased his memories. Of course Yun Shishi was wary of her.

"Wouldn't you feel better if you left the boy to me?"

Yun Shishi said nothing. She bit her lip hard and clenched her fists.

Alice continued, "As you said, there's something very wrong with Gong Fan disappearing for such a long time. I'm as worried as you are, but if we don't take Youyou and Natalia back to study them now, I have no way of knowing what's happened to them, and I have no way of coming to a conclusion. Therefore, I want to take them back to study them. We won't be able to reach a conclusion until then. Besides, I also think Natalia is in a dangerous situation. I have no way of guaranteeing..."

"No way!" Yun Shishi was as determined as steel on the subject.

Alice immediately hung her head limply and scratched her forehead with a headache.

Hua Jin heard all this and was worried. "You said that Natalia is in grave danger. In what ways?"

"You have not seen her second personality up till now?"

"That's right," he replied truthfully. "But Shishi said she suspected that Gong Fan had been hypnotized by Natalia's second personality."

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"But Shishi said she suspected that Gong Fan had been hypnotized by Natalia's second personality."

"That's right."

"Then, that speaks volumes ..." Alice said hesitantly, "This is a personality who knows how to disguise herself. That means she might have shown up. You just didn't realize it at all. She disguised herself as Natalia's personality but managed to deceive you and hypnotize you."

Everyone fell silent.

These words were a little terrifying.

If this personality was good at disguising herself, as Alice had said, then it would be terrifying.

For some reason, Hua Jin seemed distracted. Now that Alice had said that, he suddenly recalled. Indeed... Sometimes, Natalia did seem like a complete stranger. Now that he thought about it, that personality might have been Natalisa, disguised as Natalia. Maybe he just hadn't taken too much notice.

Feeling uneasy, the actor fidgeted. At once, he looked up and asked solemnly, "Do you think there might be such a possibility..."

Alice listened intently.

"Perhaps Natalia's second personality has already appeared. Perhaps I've seen it too. But she could have used this crystal ball to hypnotize me. At the same time, she hypnotized Gong Fan. And that memory has been erased, so that we no longer have the knowledge, or know the fact that she exists. Is it possible then, that through this crystal ball, she indirectly hypnotizes Natalia, controls her, so that she would eventually be free to undergo a personality transformation?"

Alice didn't look too surprised to hear this.

"In other words..." the actor continued to analyze the situation with Alice, "now that I've put this crystal ball away, Natalia is feeling anxious. I've looked up information on hypnosis. If a person is hypnotized for a long period of time and this gets interrupted at some point, the mind will experience an extremely anxious rejection. It might even result in drowsiness, illness, degeneration of various immune systems..."

Alice nodded, finding his analysis pertinent. "I suspected as much. And that's why, because of this, I'd like to take both of them back for observation for a while. Otherwise, I won't feel at ease. But, as you can see, Shishi may not feel comfortable with me taking them away."

They fell silent again.

Even Hua Jin was worried about what dangers Natalia might face after leaving with Alice, let alone Yun Shishi.

After spending a moderate amount of time together, it was impossible to say that the actor had no affections for the little girl. He was reluctant to hand Natalia over to Alice. It was too risky. He simply couldn't bear it. He couldn't even begin to imagine Natalia being held in a lab, undergoing those inhumane experiments.

However, if he kept Natalia with him, he could not guarantee that her condition would stabilize.

What should he do? The actor was also torn.

He looked towards Yun Shishi and saw that the woman was lost in thoughts. He had no idea what was going through her mind, but at least, he was sure that she would never take any risks again.

Thank you readers

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Alice cracked her knuckles and suddenly looked up. Her expression was firm, as if she'd made a great decision. "Since you can't bear to part with Youyou," she said with determination, "I'll come over and stay with Hua Jin, if he doesn't mind. On the one hand, I can take care of Natalia and observe her. On the other hand, I'll be able to monitor Youyou's condition. That way, mother and son won't be separated. What do you think?"

Hua Jin and Yun Shishi listened in disbelief. Yun Shishi, in particular, found it hard to believe that Alice would leave everything in Hurricane behind, and come here to take care of Natalia.

"What ... what about your work at Hurricane? What will happen to it?"

"What else can we do? I'll have to run things on both sides. Otherwise, I don't feel at ease with Natalia's and Youyou's situation. This is the only thing I can do." Alice said it casually.

Yun Shishi had learned from her brother, Alice was young, but she had achievements that far surpassed most people of her age. As a result, she had a rather onerous portfolio in Hurricane. Would she be willing to drop everything to take care of Natalia and Youyou?

!!

Yun Shishi felt a twinge of guilt.

The actor hesitated. "Are you sure? I hear you've got a busy job. You can't go back and forth all the time, can you?"

"It's okay." Alice let out a long sigh. "Actually, I can understand Shishi. After all, she has been traumatized by my hypnotism work. She's afraid to take the risk, and I understand that. And while I also understand you, I'm still surprised. You've developed a strong bond with Natalia in a relatively short time."

The actor smiled sheepishly at that. He said helplessly, "I just... felt sorry for her, that's all. I wanted to give her a good childhood. At least, she should not be spending all her time in a hospital."

A hint of warmth developed in Alice's expression when she heard that, but she couldn't help teasing, "Did Gong Jie threaten you? Is that why you're so cautious? You're afraid Gong Jie will blame you if you don't take good care of Natalia."

"Uh..." The actor hesitated for a long moment before admitting, "Well... there's that reason. Gong Jie said he'd kill me if I didn't take good care of Natalia."

Whoosh...

It was as if a chilling wind had blown past. Alice and Yun Shishi looked at each other for a long, awkward moment.

They were almost moved by the father-daughter relationship between Hua Jin and Natalia. Now it seemed... Gong Jie's threat worked better!

It was obvious that to the actor, Gong Jie was like a demon king. Despite the fear he had, he treated Gong Jie's words as imperial edicts.

Alice resisted the urge to laugh. "Are you... so afraid of him?" she asked curiously.

"Er... not exactly afraid." The actor spoke cautiously.

"What is it then?"

She and Alice spoke almost in unison.

The actor's response was a well-considered one. "Well... I suppose it's respect!"

Respect...

The word almost made Yun Shishi burst into uncontrollable giggles.

It was too funny to use the word "respect"!

Alice tried not to laugh. "He's... a bit bossy, but he's been like that since he was a kid," she said helplessly. "Still, you don't have to be so scared, do you?! He's not a tiger. He won't eat you. Hmm?"

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"Er... so you say."

Now that he thought about it, Hua Jin agreed that there was nothing to fear about Gong Jie. Although his identity was a little intimidating to most ordinary people, once they became familiar with him, they wouldn't be so afraid.

But... for some reason, no matter how he'd tell himself that Gong Jie was an ordinary man, and that there was no need to be particularly afraid of him, every time the man was around, he'd be overwhelmed by his invisible aura.

Even though he might show no visible expression on his face, a person with a powerful aura was nevertheless a force to be reckoned with.

Oddly though, the actor had an insatiable curiosity about Gong Jie. "Did you grow up with him?"

"Er... sort of! He was a greenhorn when I met him, but after all those years in the Hurricane, I've heard about what he was like as a child, from his father."

Yun Shishi's interest was piqued, too. She and Gong Jie had been separated since they were children. It was many years before they met again. Therefore, she was very interested in Gong Jie's youth.

"What was Gong Jie like as a child?"

Alice narrowed her eyes and frowned slightly. She thought long and hard about where to start. "How should I put this?"

Yun Shishi gave her a starting point. "When did Xiao Jie return to the Gong family?"

Alice was a little stumped. After a long hesitation, she said, "I have a vivid memory of the Old Master mentioning that it was because of an accident that Gong Jie first returned to the Gong family. I think you know about that accident, Shishi. When Old Master brought Gong Jie home, the boy seemed to have lost a part of his memory because of a car accident. All he remembered was that he had an older sister. According to him, the rest of his memory is blurred."

He returned to the Gong family at a young age, having lost his older sister and mother in the car accident. However, that accident felt like a dream to Gong Jie at the time.

When he returned to the Gong family, the little fellow did not cry or make a fuss, but he had trouble eating and sleeping. It was only later that the long-term hunger strike caused malnutrition, so he began to receive intravenous drips.

Later, after Gong Shaoying and Gong Jie had a talk. The two of them spent the afternoon in the study where the older man brought a bottle of whiskey for the little guy.

At the time, everyone was terrified. Gong Jie was a noble young master, but Gong Shaoying actually gave alcohol to such a young child. At that time, many people tried to stop him. Except that no one could really stop Gong Shaoying.

All they knew was that Gong Jie got drunk that day. Although he was drunk, he did not argue or make a fuss. He simply sat on the sofa stubbornly, his eyes reddened from crying, his tears wetting the carpet. The more he drank, the harder he cried, sobbing for his mommy, for his big sister.

Gong Shaoying had no choice but to tell him a cruel truth. His mother was dead. His sister was dead too...

In an instant, it was as if a floodgate had been opened. The little guy cried all night and developed a high fever the next day. He almost got pneumonia.

When the fever subsided, he finally came to his senses, but his temperament had changed drastically. He didn't like to laugh anymore, neither did he easily cry.

It was as he had become impervious to everything and everyone!

Thank you readers

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Yun Shishi recalled, "When he was younger, he was never so overbearing. In fact, he loved to smile. I loved to see him smile. It was so infectious. No matter how sad I was, his smile would instantly chase away the gloom."

"But since that time, he had not smiled much."

From then on, Gong Jie stayed at the Gong family residence, and began to receive military training. As he grew older, he gradually rose to prominence among his peers.

Gong Shaoying was proud of such an outstanding son. When Gong Jie reached adulthood, the Old Master handed over more and more Hurricane Group to him over time.

Gong Jie was very hardworking. He could always complete any task Gong Shaoying assigned him. However, Gong Shaoying had clearly underestimated his son's ambition.

As the saying goes, the younger generation will surpass the older. This is true.

Gong Jie's ambition would only be greater than Gong Shaoying's.

The Gong family had a main family and many branch families. In the huge family, juniors of the same age as Gong Jie were inevitably interested in girls and romance. The young men were given to debauchery, however Gong Jie was not interested in women.

"Did you know that at that time, the Old Master was so anxious thinking that his son had taken an abnormal turn! Therefore, he also kept hinting to Gong Jie to find himself a girlfriend."

Oddly, at this point, Hua Jin found his eyelids twitching at Alice's words. He couldn't quite bring himself to meet Alice's eyes. Could it be that Gong Jie really wasn't interested in women!?

Yun Shishi was worried, too. "I don't think he's interested in women, either, but I really don't know. I don't think a straight guy like him would be into men!" She paused, then added, "But even if he likes men, I'll support him. I'll support him unconditionally, no matter what his orientation is."

"Cough." Hua Jin happened to be drinking water and choked at this remark.

Yun Shishi shot him a look and rebuked him. "You can't even drink water without choking?"

"I'm fine!" The actor quickly added, "I was just shocked by what you said. But I'm sure Gong Jie doesn't like men!"

"What makes you so sure?" Alice was unimpressed. "Most of the men I've met are creatures who think with the lower half of their bodies. It stands to reason that the grown man would have his biological

needs, just like any other men, right? Even if we don't talk about relationships, it's unbelievable that he's not had a woman all these years. Anyway, everyone in the Gong family thinks he's abnormal."

"Ahem, well... not necessarily! Some men are able to exercise better control over themselves."

"Haha!"

Alice couldn't help laughing. "You don't understand men. Have you never had a woman, either?"

"Uh..." The actor looked away guiltily.

He'd had women. However...

It had never been out of his own will. Given that, it didn't seem he'd ever had any special feelings for any women.

Least of all Lin Xueya. With Lin Xueya, all he had was a sense of business transaction.

Initially, after spending so much time on the same set as Yun Shishi, he had assumed that his muddled feelings for her were some sort of romantic affection. But in essence, it was just a desire for the reliance one could place on a family member!

He treated her like his own sister, and there was nothing complicated about it.

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He treated her like his own sister, and there was nothing complicated about it. So he didn't quite understand why those men had a particular obsession with women. He figured he could probably do just as well being alone.

Yun Shishi agreed with Alice, though. "You think, Hua Jin, that you don't understand men. But most men can sleep with a woman even if they don't have feelings for her, unlike women."

"Uh, is this what they call a biological need?"

"That's one way to look at it." She continued, "People have emotions and desires. It's not like they're immortals or saints. So how is it possible to have a pure heart and few desires?"

The actor's blush deepened. Although Yun Shishi did not notice this, Alice did, and wondered at the oddity of it. Why had Hua Jin turned so red? She didn't dwell on it.

!!

"Anyway, Gong Jie has been obsessed with work for a long time. Back then, he didn't hesitate to go to a war-torn area like Africa. He was young and reckless. He didn't hesitate to go where no one should go. He always laughed at me for being a workaholic, but when it came to work, he took it way more seriously than I did, to the point of perverse. Besides, he has a domineering and paranoid nature. Once he's made up his mind about something, he'd never allow anyone to overturn it, not even Old Master."

“I don’t think Xiao Jie is very domineering!” Yun Shishi was perplexed. “He normally goes with whatever I say.”

“That’s because to Gong Jie, you’re absolutely the Special One.”

“Once he finds himself a girlfriend in the future, I’ll cease being the Special One!”

Alice smiled suddenly at that, her eyes shining with envy. “You know what? I really envy you.” She made this as a heartfelt comment.

Yun Shishi was puzzled by that. “Why? What is there to be envious of? I’m the one who’s envious of you. You’re so young, yet you’ve achieved so much.”

Alice couldn’t help but smile bitterly. No matter how good she was at work, she was, ultimately, a woman.

Once upon a time, she had yearned for love and family. She envied Yun Shishi because, whether it was her husband, her two sons, her friends, or even a man as insufferably arrogant and unruly as Gong Jie, they doted on her like she was a princess.

She had made herself a strong career woman. Yun Shishi, on the other hand, lived the life of a princess. Which woman wouldn’t yearn for it? If one said she didn’t yearn for it, it was only because she couldn’t have it.

People differ.

Yun Shishi might not have a strong personality, and she might not be the sort of career woman who could hold her own, but because of that, everyone willingly pampered her like a princess. There was a special quality about Yun Shishi that made even Alice want to treat her well. Perhaps there was a kind of innate nobility in her! But that regal air was gentle and she could get along well with anyone. There were no rough edges, the woman was gentle as water. Even someone as naturally odd as Chu He liked her.

Alice yearned for a family. It was just that this word seemed so out of reach for her. Even now, she didn’t dare dream about it.

Chapter