

Sweet Love 4231

Chapter 4231: The Other Side 200

Alice squatted down in front of him and said gently, "I've discovered something fishy in the past few days. Do you remember the time Gong Fan was hypnotized by Natalia?"

Youyou was not impressed when he heard this. "That was just a coincidence, wasn't it! There's no proof that Natalia hypnotized Gong Fan."

"But don't you think it's too much of a coincidence? The moment the two of them made contact, something went wrong with Gong Fan. I suspect Natalia's alter ego, Natalisa, might know hypnosis."

"How could she know hypnosis?"

It was incredible that such a young child had knowledge of such a powerful hypnosis method. The boy found that hard to believe. Even a hypnotist like Alice had only completed her apprenticeship a few years ago.

"Other than Gong Fan, you haven't had direct contact with Natalia either. There are too many unknown possibilities. You can't be certain, and I am not confident in making an accurate judgment."

The boy nodded slightly at that. "I see. You want me to be cautious."

Alice earnestly explained some of the usual techniques of hypnosis. "Do you know about lucid hypnosis?"

The boy shook his head. Hypnosis was not something he was familiar with.

"Do you remember being hypnotized by me?"

"Yes, I remember that."

"Yes, that was trance hypnosis."

"Trance hypnosis?" The boy was confused. "Is there a difference between the two?"

"There's a big difference."

When one is awake, asleep, dreaming, and feeling pleasure, the brain works at different frequencies, releasing different chemicals. When the brain works at different frequencies, it may cause different physical sensations, such as fatigue or relaxation. And hypnosis interferes with this frequency. Meaning, it interferes with brain waves.

In trance hypnosis, the hypnotist achieves the goal of hypnosis by interfering with the brain waves, when the person is tired, or asleep or in a trance. However, lucid hypnosis is the highest form of hypnosis. And lucid hypnosis is not something that just any hypnotist could perform. This form of hypnosis is a test of a hypnotist's talent. Which means that age has nothing to do with it.

In reality, there are many classic examples of lucid hypnosis. For example, when people see red, the first thing they think of is the national flag or donating blood. When they see yellow, they think of

sunflowers. Then, when red and yellow come together, they think of McDonald's. This is lucid hypnosis used in commercial advertising. The general public quite commonly accepts such hints of lucid hypnosis.

Alice suspected that Natasha had hypnotized Gong Fan. However, she was not present at the time, so she did not know what circumstances were.

"But Gong Fan saw Alice once and he never returned to this body, right?"

The boy nodded. "Uh huh." After this was said, he too began to feel a little suspicious. "And... What exactly was her motive?" The boy threw out a question that stumped Alice.

Even she had no way of concluding why Natalisa had done what she had done, or how she had applied lucid hypnosis. She had thought of many possibilities, but none of them had held up.

However, her sixth sense told her that there must be some link that she had missed.

"But I don't understand. What would Natalisa gain by hypnotizing Gong Fan?"

"I don't know..."

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"I don't know..."

"But I think there's something rather suspicious about it," the boy said suddenly.

Alice was surprised. "Go on."

"Why do you think Professor Romanka so easily allowed us to take Natalia away after all the hard work he'd put in, cultivating her as an experimental specimen? Don't you find that suspicious?"

Alice looked stunned.

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Youyou studied her expression and continued, "I think it's Professor Romanka who's really suspicious. Do you think it's possible the personality could be manipulated by someone else?"

"Well... I can't say right now."

"Maybe it sounds like a fantasy, but I do find it suspicious. Maybe I'm imagining things."

Alice was at her wits' end. But now was not the time. The woman looked crestfallen. "I don't know what went wrong in any of this. Anyway, now that you're in contact with Natalisa, make sure you take extra precaution. For example, when you feel tired, never look her in the eye. Her expression, her movements..."

"Is it that ... scary?" Youyou was utterly baffled. "Can I be hypnotized by her even when I'm not asleep?"

“When you feel tired, that’s when your brainwaves are at their weakest. It’s also when you’ll be especially vulnerable to interference.”

The boy listened and nodded solemnly. “Yes, I understand.”

Downstairs, there was the sound of a car engine.

Alice sensed that they had arrived. “I’m going to my room upstairs,” she told the boy. “Let me know the minute a problem situation arises, okay? I’ll be right upstairs.”

“I’ll try not to make any mistakes. If Natalisa finds you upstairs, she’ll be suspicious. Then all our efforts will be for nothing.”

Alice looked stunned. She had not expected the boy to be so wise.

“Yes, I understand.”

Alice went upstairs.

Youyou, on the other hand, went downstairs. By then, the actor had entered, holding Natalia’s hand. When Natalia saw the boy, she showed more enthusiasm than she had ever shown him.

“Youyou!” She skipped over and took his hand, smiling adorably. “I’m so bored at home alone. I just wanted to come play with you.”

“What do you want to play?”

“The last time I saw you and Little Yichen playing that game, on TV... I want to play it, too.”

“Oh, on PS4?”

“Yes, it’s a boxing game.”

Little Yichen had bought the PS4 and XBOX 360. When he had spare time, he would pester Youyou for a game or two. But now that he was obsessed with PUBG, he was less enthusiastic about these games.

Occasionally, only Youyou and Mu Yazhe would play. The game console was now covered in a layer of dust. This was a console game that needed to be linked up to a television screen to play. The resolution was really sharp. Like many other games in the gaming arcade, there were combat types and intelligence types. Natalia had previously seen the twins playing Tekken 7. Intrigued, she’d said she wanted to try playing the game, but then it was time to go home, so she missed out.

Youyou turned on the game console, but was secretly watching Natalia’s every move through the reflection on the television screen. She sat on the sofa with her hands on either side of her, curiously studying his actions.

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The two little ones gathered around the television and began to play with relish.

Yun Shishi brought some dessert to the boy, but he was clearly not in the right frame of mind for that.

He stared at the television, but it was as if he wasn't watching the screen. He held the controller in his hand and hit the buttons randomly. But even so, Natalia, whose face was flushed from the effort, was still no match for the boy.

"Woah! Why do I keep losing the game!" Natalia was breathless with anger, her cheeks puffed. She was obviously very into the game.

Youyou finally came to his senses and apologized. "Oh, I'm sorry. I was thinking about something else and wasn't playing seriously."

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Natalia was flabbergasted.

The boy was surprisingly direct. "Maybe I'll lose to you if I played seriously."

He thought saying that would please her. But to Natalia, it became a challenge.

She pouted. "What do you mean? You weren't playing seriously? And if you were, I'd be tortured to death by you."

"I wouldn't go that far." The boy said matter-of-factly, "Little Yichen is better at this game. I've never been his match."

"Hmph. Why won't you give way to me?" Natalia was obviously unhappy at losing the game. She tossed the controller aside and hugged her knees, looking aggrieved.

Youyou pursed his lips. Clearly his mind was still elsewhere. Natalia suddenly stood up and ran upstairs. She was obviously a little upset.

Hua Jin saw all that. In the past, he would have laughed. She must be throwing a tantrum. He headed after her to coax her.

Her manner made it clear that she was waiting for the boy to coax her. Except that the boy remained unmoved. He knew what Natalia was up to. He even expected her to be waiting for him to coax her. Alice had earlier instructed him to try not to be alone with Natalia, to create this opportunity or indulge it.

The boy suspected that Natalia was deliberately losing the game so that she could run to her room and wait for him to come around to look for her. That way, the two of them would have a chance to be alone.

He was so convinced of Alice's warning that he made no move to run after Natalia when she stomped upstairs. Instead, he switched the game disc and played by himself.

The minutes ticked by.

Upstairs, Natalia was clearly losing her patience. She had thought that the boy would not be able to bear it when he saw her stomping up the stairs, throwing a tantrum, and he would surely come with her to coax her. However, after waiting for so long and seeing no one, she thought it was odd.

Alice had guessed right. In that moment, the manifested personality was not Natalia at all, but Natalisa.

She had tried very hard to create an opportunity to be alone with the boy. Alice, who had solved this puzzle, had warned the boy in advance. Naturally, he believed her. He didn't believe Alice would harm the girl. On the other hand, he'd already sensed something was wrong with Natalia.

Natalia was running out of patience. She carefully pushed open the door to the room and felt her way to the top of the stairs. From where she was, she saw the boy sitting on the sofa in the living room, holding the controller and staring at the TV screen and playing with a calm expression.

Her eyes widened slightly in surprise. He seemed unaffected by her petulance, even detached.

What was going on?

Natalisa had actually noticed that the boy had a special affection for Natalia.

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Natalisa had actually noticed that the boy had a special affection for Natalia.

It wasn't that kind of pure friendship between children. It wasn't exactly admiration, but she couldn't quite put her finger on it. All she knew was that Natalia must be extremely special to the boy.

She took advantage of that.

Natalisa bit on her finger in silence. She was not far from the time checkpoint Professor Romanka had set for her. She had to complete this mission quickly. Otherwise, she wouldn't be able to account to Professor Romanka.

Yun Shishi walked from the kitchen to the living room. Out of the corner of her eye, she caught a glimpse of Natalisa lurking at the corner of the stairs, but pretended not to see her. She went to the boy and brought him the freshly squeezed apple juice.

"Your favorite apple juice."

Youyou loved apples. Add to that the fact that Alice had given Yun Shishi a nutritional plan, the boy was required to nibble on three apples a day to replenish his nutrients. The boy's current priority was to build up his health. However, just the thought of chewing on three large apples made her cheeks ache.

Initially, the boy found it impossible to follow through on this. Having to gnaw on one apple was bad enough. Three was beyond him. Hence Yun Shishi came up with the idea of juicing the three apples. The juice was sweet with a hint of tartness, and the boy loved it. It was the best of both worlds.

She lowered her voice when she handed him the apple juice. "She's at the stairs, peeking at you."

The boy took the apple juice without saying anything. At the same time, he sneaked a glance in the direction of the stairs.

Natalisa didn't even notice the boy surreptitiously studying her.

The boy suddenly crooked a finger at her. "She's Natalisa."

"Uh... How do you know that?"

"Alice said so."

Youyou spoke again. "Alice won't allow me to be alone with Natalisa. She's worried that Natalisa knows hypnosis."

"Hypnosis..." Yun Shishi shuddered at that word.

It reminded her of that time, when Youyou had been hypnotized and his personality sealed, she had thought for a time that his personality would never return. For this reason, she was nervous and naturally, very cautious.

"Take it easy." The boy assured her, "I'll protect myself. Just pretend you didn't hear anything. Nothing happened."

"Okay."

Youyou and Yun Shishi acted as if nothing had happened. He continued playing the game, she looked down at her phone, while the actor focused his attention on the boy's game. Everyone seemed to be ignoring Natalisa.

The girl was especially upset! Could it be that she had been discovered?

Impossible.

She had tried so hard to imitate Natalia in every way. How could she be discovered? Except that the change in the boy's attitude towards her was obvious. Natalisa went back into the room and waited. Before she knew it, she fell asleep.

Alice was on the third floor, texting the Hua Jin. He replied that he'd checked on Natalisa in her room and found the girl asleep. Alice then said, "Take her home while she's sleeping!"

"Why? What if she wakes up?"

"She's not going to wake up. Kids that age don't wake up easily once they're asleep."

Suspicious, the actor went upstairs, pushed open the door, and picked up Natasha. True to Alice's words, the girl didn't stir when he touched her.

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The actor carefully lifted Natalisa into the car and headed home.

Alice finally came downstairs. When Youyou saw her, he stood up immediately and said bluntly, "I sensed it too. Natalia's second personality is called Natalisa, right?"

"Yes, I remember mentioning that name to you."

“She seems quite able to create opportunities to be alone with me today.” The boy frowned. “What’s going on? Have you finally noticed something wrong with her?”

Alice answered truthfully. “There aren’t many clues yet. I’m worried that Natalia’s second personality, being too shrewd, will eventually discover that I’m observing her. If she raises her guard, it will make it difficult for me to observe anything else that’s fishy.”

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“Then are you sure that Gong Fan’s disappearance is related to her?”

Alice took a deep breath at that. “I’m sorry,” she said grimly. “I can’t be sure, and I only suspect it. But I think it’s highly likely that she has something to do with it. That’s why I want you to be on high alert to avoid a repeat.”

Yun Shishi’s heart went out to the boy at that.

Youyou looked up at her forbearing gaze and turned to Alice. “How can we find out about Gong Fan’s current condition?”

Alice winced. “What do you mean?”

“As you know, Gong Fan has disappeared for too long. Has he really disappeared, or is he in danger because of what Natalisa did? I want you to help me find him.”

Alice listened with some surprise. She said half-jokingly. “Isn’t Gong Fan’s disappearance good news for you?”

The boy was stunned for a long time after hearing this. He lowered his head and said in a quiet voice, “In the past, I probably thought that if Gong Fan suddenly disappeared without a trace or sound, it would be something to be happy about. At least his departure wouldn’t be accompanied by much pain. But now I don’t think so.”

“Why do you say that?” Alice didn’t know if she should ask, but she wanted to know more about how Youyou felt.

The boy was honest. “It doesn’t matter if it’s him or me. We’re all part of each other. Without him, I’m not me. Without me, he’s not him. We share the same name, the composition of this miracle. I can’t lose him. Mommy can’t lose him, either. Yueyao can’t lose him, and Little Yichen can’t lose him. He’s so important. Why did he just disappear?! In the past, I thought he was occupying my body for so long that I couldn’t spend more time with Mommy. Now, if he can hear me, I want to say that when he comes back, I’m willing to sacrifice more time. If he wants, I can make Mommy tell him bedtime stories and sing to him every night...” Tears rolled down the boy’s cheeks as he spoke.

This was heart-wrenching for Yun Shishi to watch. She hugged him with an aching heart. “Don’t be sad, Youyou...”

“How can I not be sad?” The boy tried not to wince. “He left without saying goodbye. No one knows where he went. I call out to him repeatedly every night before I go to bed, but he doesn’t seem to hear me either.”

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The boy tried not to wince. "He left without saying goodbye. No one knows where he went. I call out to him every night before I go to bed, but he doesn't seem to hear me either. I wonder where he went. Does he not want Mommy or me? He's upset Mommy. I hate him!"

Frustrated and sad, Yun Shishi discreetly wiped away his tears and chided, "Don't be so upset, Youyou."

Still sulking, the boy said, "If he doesn't come back, forget it."

"That won't happen." She cupped his face in her hands and nuzzled him affectionately. "It doesn't matter if he doesn't come back!"

"But Mommy must really want him to come home!" The boy gazed earnestly into her eyes. "I heard everything you said that day." Youyou lowered his eyes in disappointment. "Mommy must miss him, mustn't she? I didn't protect him. It's my fault..."

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Alice scratched her brow sadly. "We can't jump to conclusions just yet. No one knows what Natasha did to Gong Fan, but Gong Fan's personality shouldn't disappear so easily."

The boy stared at her in surprise. "How can you be so sure?"

"If it were possible for Gong Fan's personality to disappear so easily, the field of multiple personalities wouldn't have become one of the most complicated topics in the world. There are countless patients with multiple personalities who haven't been cured. A problem that can be solved so easily won't exist in the first place." The woman added, "Besides, Natalisa is a dual personality patient herself. She's a patient herself. How can she heal another patient?"

"Oh..." The boy listened to this, then ventured, "In other words, it's impossible for this Gong Fan personality to disappear?"

"The clues and scientific evidence I have so far tells me it's impossible for him to disappear." Alice gave a firm conclusion.

The boy's brow finally relaxed at that. He suddenly said, "If you need to carry out any research, I can avail myself anytime. Since you said I'm having problems, I can do it anytime you want."

Alice said in embarrassment, "I wish I could, but your mommy isn't very reassured. If I really want to carry out a study on you, I'll have to get your guardian's permission."

Yun Shishi looked hesitant, even though she was already familiar with Alice now, and even though the woman had once saved Gong Jie's life and was definitely someone he could trust. She could not stop being wary and would not easily hand the boy over to her.

"I'm not at ease." She made no attempt to hide the truth. "I don't know exactly what kind of research you'd be doing on him, but I can't possibly trust you with the boy."

Alice shrugged innocently with a look of resignation, as if expressing, "It's up to you now to convince your mommy. I have no right without her consent."

The boy knew well that his mother was worried about him. After all, they'd been through so many life-and-death situations together, she wasn't willing to take any more chances.

It wasn't really Alice that Yun Shishi was worried about. Instead, she was worried that Youyou would be separated from her again in the instance that some unforeseen event were to happen. Or perhaps, he would disown her as his mother again, like he had done in the past. She didn't want to go through that again.

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"It doesn't matter, does it, Mommy, if you stayed by my side through it?" he asked carefully, tugging gently at her sleeve. "Just once, please?"

Yun Shishi looked hesitantly at the boy, then back at Alice.

Alice put her hand over her heart and expressed earnestly, "Don't worry, I definitely won't cut up Youyou. I'm just going to dig up Gong Fan's shadow by examining his sleep pattern and through trance hypnosis."

Yun Shishi hesitated again, then finally nodded with difficulty. Alice had not expected her to agree, and was stunned when she did! She had initially expected to be rebuffed again, but the woman actually agreed! She was stunned for a long time before snapping back to her senses.

Yun Shishi said solemnly, "I trust you because the boy trusts you, too."

"Yes, I understand. Don't worry, I won't let you down."

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Sleep monitoring didn't require complex equipment. Alice secured a sleep monitor from the headquarters and hurriedly returned that night with it.

Inside the room, she instructed the boy to lie on the bed, and then put a sleep-monitoring headrest on him. When she turned on the power, his brain waves were displayed on the compact screen.

"What's this?"

"This is your brainwave."

"So, what's the theory, based on sleep monitoring?" The boy suddenly realized he wasn't asking the right question. "Why do you want to monitor my sleep?" he asked again.

"I'll be able to pinpoint many problems from the frequency of your brainwaves during your sleep. You can tell a lot from the details of the frequency."

Alice said to the boy, "Get some sleep!"

"I can't sleep just yet."

Alice was stunned. "Your mommy said you usually sleep at this hour!"

"But it's very uncomfortable to wear this instrument!" The boy fiddled with the device on his head and frowned. "It's falling off."

Alice made another careful adjustment for him. "How about this?"

"That's better."

Yun Shishi entered the room quickly, and the boy's eyes lit up when he saw her. "Why don't you let Mommy tell me some stories? That way, I might be able to sleep."

"You don't have to make a point of telling bedtime stories. Just shut your eyes. I want to monitor the quality of your sleep, including the extent and duration of your sleep," Alice said.

The boy lost interest and told her earnestly. "Usually, Mommy tells me bedtime stories. I'll feel uncomfortable if that doesn't happen."

"It means you rely too much on your mommy. Can your mommy tell you bedtime stories for the rest of your life?" Alice said, nudging him urgently. "Close your eyes and sleep!"

The boy gave an old-fashioned sigh at that, and closed his eyes briefly. He lay down and stared at the ceiling. Then he closed his eyes briefly and squinted, but there was no sign of sleep.

Alice asked, "Don't you want to sleep?"

"Yeah, I can't sleep." The boy mumbled something. His eyes were closed, but his eyelids were twitching..

"Relax." Alice turned back to the monitor. On the screen, the frequency was bouncing wildly, suggesting that the boy's mind was racing.

No wonder he wanted Yun Shishi to tell him stories. His attention would be focused on her storytelling voice. Instead, he would enter a trance and slowly fall asleep.

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"Do your thoughts run rampant like this every night before you go to bed?"

"Uh huh."

"What do you think about?"

The boy closed his eyes. When Alice asked, he answered, without reservation.

"I think about Gong Fan and our future."

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Yun Shishi sat down beside him and listened quietly to the exchange of questions and answers. It was in such a relaxed state that the boy was unguarded. He could be honest about everything he was thinking.

“Do you like Gong Fan?”

“Average.”

“Do you hate him?”

“No I don’t hate him.”

“Then what exactly are your feelings for him?”

The boy was silent for a moment, then finally let out a long sigh. “I owe him. Guilt.”

“Why?”

“Because... I forcefully created him. It’s just that, before, I’d been trying to drive him out of me.” The boy’s eyelashes suddenly fluttered violently. On the screen, the monitoring frequency increased.

“He suffered pain he shouldn’t have, and I was cowardly enough to avoid it. He endured so much pain on my behalf, but I saw him as evil. Actually, he didn’t have a bad nature. It was just that he was always receiving negative repressed emotions, so he developed a dark personality. But instead of being understanding, I...”

Yun Shishi’s heart ached at that. She clamped her hand tightly over her mouth, overwhelmed by a sense of guilt. She did not want the boy to hear her choking. Her heartache. Her powerlessness. Her uneasiness.

She knew what kind of childhood the boy had had. She had kept him with her out of selfishness, but she had not given him a peaceful childhood.

She should have understood. She simply wasn’t capable of giving him a good childhood. And out of sheer selfishness, she’d kept him by her side. It was all her fault. She felt forlorn.

Alice continued to ask, “Did you create him?”

“Yes.”

“Why?”

“Because...” The boy’s relaxed brow furrowed slightly, and a streak of tears ran down his face.

“I felt lonely.”

“...”

Yun Shishi’s eyes widened in dismay.

“Lonely. Why do you feel lonely?”

“When I was young, everyone else had a daddy and a mommy, and brothers, and sisters. And so many friends, but I felt that I couldn’t get along with those children.”

“Why? Why couldn’t you get along?”

“Because it always felt like their world was different from mine. They’d have their mommies and daddies to take them to school. After school, someone would pick them up and take them home. When they got home, they’d have a warm dinner, but I didn’t. I wanted a daddy too, and a brother. I fantasized about having a family like that, but I knew Mommy was lonely too. I shouldn’t have expected so much.”

“That’s why...”

“So, I fantasized about having a brother until one day, I sensed, he appeared.”

‘Do you remember which day it was?’

“That day... that bad woman named Yun Na hit me. She kicked me to the ground and kicked me hard. At that moment, I suddenly lost consciousness. When I woke up and saw Mommy sitting beside me, I realized that it had been two days. Mommy saw the bruises on my body and asked me what had happened, but I really didn’t know anything. All I knew was that Yunna had hit me, but I didn’t know what had happened after that.

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The boy paused, then spoke in a muted tone. “I saw him in my dreams when I fell asleep at night. He was standing alone, covered in wounds.”

“Gong Fan?”

“Well, back then, he didn’t have a name. He didn’t seem to notice me, but I could see him, standing in the dark world, there was loneliness in his eyes.” The boy continued, “He has no friends.”

Alice continued to fix her gaze on him. “Have you ever thought of being friends with him?” she asked suddenly, gently.

“No.” The boy frowned uneasily. “I’m afraid he’ll fight me for it.”

“Fight you for what?”

“Mommy...” The boy gradually looked tired. “I have nothing but Mommy. I don’t have any friends or any family. I only have Mommy. What if he tries to take her from me?”

“So, at that time ...”

“I wanted him to die.” His tone was suddenly icy. “I was hoping that he would never come into my world again.”

Frowning, Alice turned to Yun Shishi, who was holding back her tears.

I’m sorry...? she said in her heart. She had not expected the boy’s childhood experience to leave him with such a dark spiritual world.

“But ... afterwards, I didn’t want him to die.” The boy was clearly getting into the swing of things. He rubbed his eyes and rolled over slightly. Alice immediately adjusted the bedding for him.

“Why did you no longer wish him dead?”

“Because Mommy seemed to like him a lot.” The boy said solemnly, “I feel guilty about him, too. If it weren’t for him, I wouldn’t have been able to bear all that darkness pressing down on me. I think Gong Fan is a real powerhouse, maintaining calmness in the dark. He’s taken on so much for me. It would be too cruel for me to chase him away again. Mommy feels sorry for him, too, and she likes him... so I want him to stay. He had taken on so much for me when we were young. What I take on for him now is not even worth mentioning.”

“Actually, if you had told your mommy what happened to you at that time, you wouldn’t have had to go through all these things.”

The boy suddenly sighed in exasperation. “I wouldn’t. I don’t want Mommy to know any of this.”

He sounded so determined that it surprised Alice. “Why?”

“Because I happened to hear Mommy telling Grandpa that she regretted keeping me by her side. Perhaps she thought that I had a bad childhood, so she wanted to send me back to Daddy to have a better life. If I let her know that I was doing so badly, she’d send me away for sure.”

“You can’t bear to be apart from your mommy.”

“Even in death...” The boy’s pink lips parted and closed. “I’ll die in Mommy’s arms. I will not go anywhere else.”

At that, Yun Shishi rose gently to her feet and made her way to the balcony, her head hanging limply.

After a quarter of an hour or so, Alice came out too. She leaned back against the rail and lit a cigarette casually. Wisps of smoke drifted past Yun Shishi’s nose. Even though she didn’t find it pungent, she gasped and choked several times.

“Why did you come out here?” Alice raised her eyebrows. “Do you feel sorry for him?”

“What state was he in when he said those things just then?”

“He was already in a trance at the time, so everything he said came from his heart.”

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Good heavens.

Frustration gripped Yun Shishi. What on earth had she done? How old was Youyou? Why did he have to go through such cruelty?

"It's all my fault!" She buried her face in her hands, looking grief-stricken. "At the time, I should never have kept him with me for my own selfish reasons. I obviously was in no condition to give him a wonderful childhood. I should never have taken him back. It was all my selfishness and my fault!"

Alice's heart actually ached when she saw how distraught the other woman was. She had no children, but she could understand such feelings. She imagined that the Yun Shishi would have wanted to give him the best that the world had to offer. And yet the reality was... She did not have such ability!

Alice smiled helplessly. "Who says you haven't given him wonderful things?" she said faintly.

With tears in her eyes, Yun Shishi looked up at her in surprise.

Alice smiled. "Aren't you the best thing that ever happened to him?"

Yun Shishi was stunned. She opened her mouth in surprise, recovered, and brushed away her tears. Listening to the boy's sub-conscious conversation with Alice earlier on had been like a stab to the heart. However, after hearing what Alice said, she had mixed emotions.

"Don't give him what you think is good. And don't blindly blame yourself for everything. Life is irreversible. Nothing can ever be undone. Take it all in your stride."

"Alright, thank you." Yun Shishi added, "And to think I was wary of you earlier. I didn't expect you to be so much more mature than I thought."

"You are only worried and confused because you care too much." As she spoke, Alice flicked through the printout of the monitoring report and drew hard on her cigarette.

Yun Shishi looked at the intricate lines that criss crossed it and was confused. "What is this?" she looked up and asked suspiciously.

"It's the frequency of his sleep quality. This part shows data before he goes to sleep. And here, after he goes to sleep." Alice pointed at the paper and remarked, "You notice here that after he falls asleep, his brain waves become even more intense?"

"What does that say?"

"That says..." Alice frowned and said, "It means his quality of sleep is terrible."

"Quality of sleep is bad?"

"Uh huh." Alice said, "What we fear most in patients with multiple personalities is poor quality of sleep. If the quality of sleep is poor and the mental pressure is too strong, then the patient can easily fall apart. A person's willpower is often weak. Sometimes it can seem so strong you think it's indestructible, but often the more indestructible a person appears, the easier it is to crush them with a straw. Therefore, good quality sleep is critical to maintaining good mental strength. If a person doesn't sleep well, it becomes easy to slip into a state of anxiety."

Yun Shishi nodded. "It's no wonder I've been feeling recently that the boy's mental strength has been deteriorating. During the day, he seems depressed and preoccupied."

"The boy relies heavily on you."

“Uh huh.”

“But such dependence might not be a good thing. Sooner or later, he’ll have a family of his own. It wouldn’t be a happy thing for him to rely on you all the time.”

Yun Shishi nodded grimly. “I know that, too. I agree that he shouldn’t be relying on me so much.”