

## Sweet Love 4261

### Chapter 4261: The Other Side 230

The actor nodded. For some reason, he felt greatly reassured since Gong Jie had promised to make arrangements to return to see Natalia as soon as possible. Gong Jie's name alone seemed to give him an absolute sense of security and reassurance.

The actor put his phone away and walked over to Natalia. As she looked at him expectantly, he narrowed his eyes and smiled. "Daddy will get his work sorted out and be home as soon as possible, okay? Does that make you glad?"

"Uh huh!" Natalia was so happy she couldn't keep still.

"Uncle Hua Jin..."

"Yes?"

"I really feel so lucky to have met Daddy and you." Natalia was overcome with emotion for some reason. She suddenly jumped off the swing, ran to Hua Jin and gave him a big hug. "I love you!"

Perhaps because she'd grown up in the West, Natalia knew how to express love. The actor, however, was stunned. He hadn't expected such a show of warmth from Natalia. It seemed like this was the first time she had taken the initiative.

He was overjoyed.

He crouched down, too, and held her close very gently. "I love you too."

"Em..." Natalia blinked as another thought struck her. Lowering her voice, she asked coyly, "So, if I did something wrong, will you and Daddy abandon me?"

"Why would we?" The actor was unimpressed. "Who doesn't make mistakes? No one is a saint who never makes mistakes. Why would we abandon you just because you made a mistake?"

Natalia couldn't help but tear up at that.

The actor suddenly realized why she had asked. She grew up in an environment with too many uncertainties, one could even say that she lived the life of a vagabond. Strictly speaking, Natalia might not yet have a real family.

Initially, she had dismissed Gong Jie's suggestion of adopting her. She didn't believe that this "family" would last. She did not have much faith in the concepts of home and happiness. As a result, she would feel uneasy, cautious, she'd even deliberately distant herself, for fear that once she had developed feelings, she would only be disappointed once more if they had to separate.

"We have an agreement then..." Natalia carefully held out her pinkie, her eyes sparkling. She leaned towards him and pouted. "Pinky swear. From now on, we're family. No matter what, let's never be separated, okay?"

After all the time they'd spent together, the fact that they got along harmoniously made Natalia realize how warm it was to have a home. It was this constant warmth that made Natalia feel even more reliant on Hua Jin. The more warmth she experienced, the more precious this feeling became to her, and the more she cherished it.

Especially today. After the call with Gong Jie, who after learning of her needs, had immediately gotten round to organizing his work and flying home to be with her. It made her feel even more cherished! And that was why she wanted to cherish it. She wanted to open her heart and let Hua Jin and Gong Jie live in it.

The actor also held out with his little finger and hooked it gently around hers. He tugged at it and smiled, revealing his white teeth. "I promise you."

Natalia smiled back at him. She was grateful to Hua Jin and Gong Jie for giving her a family, even though it seemed different from the other children's families.

### **Chapter 4262: The Other Side 231**

She was grateful to Hua Jin and Gong Jie for giving her a family, even though it seemed different from the other children's families. Everyone had a mother and a father. Unfortunately, her family didn't seem to offer such a combination.

Natalia leaned into his embrace, suddenly curious. "Say, if I address him as Daddy, how do I address you?"

"Uncle." Hua Jin raised an eyebrow. "Hasn't that been the case all along?"

"But, I also want a mommy." Natalia gave him a sudden wicked grin as she studied him. "Why don't I address you as Mommy?" she suggested coyly.

"Rejected." The actor made an awkward expression. "I'm a man. How could you address a man as Mommy? That's how you address a woman."

"But... you're prettier than most women!" Natalia blinked, looking very sincere as she made that remark.

The actor was speechless. On that point... He could not deny it. He was indeed more beautiful than many women.

"But that's still no reason for you to be addressing me as Mommy!"

"Haha!" Natalia didn't care, and started addressing the man as "Mommy."

The actor tried to correct her, but met with no success. Finally, under Natalia's cajoling, he gave in.

"But don't do this outside of home!"

"Then how should I address you?"

The actor was at a loss, too. Indeed. Then he suddenly had an idea. "Why don't you address me as 'Daddy' too?"

After a pause, he felt a tinge of guilt and asked the girl, "Would you like to address me that way?"

"I would! But..."

"But?"

"What if both of you are around?"

Natalia didn't make herself clear, but the actor knew what she meant. What she meant was that if both Hua Jin and Gong Jie were present, it would be easy for them to get confused.

"How about this..." Natalia said, "I call Gong Jie Daddy Jie and you Daddy Jin?"

"Pfft..." The actor burst out laughing.

It sounded as if he and Gong Jie were an item! It felt weird!

Overseas, it is common for adopted children of gay couples to use such a method of addressing.

If outsiders were to hear this, they would misunderstand that he and Gong Jie were an item!

"Daddy Jin, Daddy Jin! It sounds good when you call me that!"

After spending so much time together, Natalia was no longer as cold and distant as she had been when they first met. She was gradually becoming closer to him.

So, in the spirit of teasing, he pretended to be serious and asked her, "So, do you like me more or do you like Daddy Jie more?"

"Eh?" The question stumped Natalia.

She muttered, "I like both of you!"

"Don't you have a favorite?"

"You're both my family. I like both of you."

"Well then..." Hua Jin persisted. "If he and I both fall into the sea, who would you rescue first?"

Natalia scratched her brow, looking torn. "Well... I can't swim. If I were to rescue you both, I'd die too."

"Hahaha!" Her earnest reply amused him.

"I mean, assuming that you can swim ..."

"Then I will surely save... you first!"

"Why?"

"Because, Daddy Jie can swim." Natalia looked obviously troubled.

The actor stopped teasing her. "Alright, I will stop making things difficult for you!"

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"I'll ... tell you a secret, okay?" Natalia spoke earnestly.

"Yes, what secret?"

"Actually, I have a big sister." Natalia hesitated for a long time before finally telling the man.

Hua Jin's expression changed.

"Hush. It's a secret. Don't tell anyone about it, or my big sister will be furious."

"What's your big sister's name?"

"Natalisa." Natalia continued, "Actually, it feels strange to call her my big sister, because, presumably, no one has ever seen her but me. She feels more like my other self."

"You can see her?"

"Yes, probably!"

"Probably?" Hua Jin was confused by her answer. Why did she sound so uncertain?

"So can you actually see her or not?"

"I see her in my dreams, does it count?"

"In your dreams?"

"Well, I feel she can dominate my body. You know that crystal ball?"

"Uh huh..." Vaguely, the actor realized that he might be able to get something out of Natalia that would give him a lead on Natalisa. He listened to her intently.

"That crystal ball was a gift from my sister, Natalisa."

"A gift?"

Natalia snuggled into his arms, recalling, "Actually, the first time I saw her was probably a long time ago. Back then, I never slept well. I had lots and lots of dreams. Strange dreams. In fact, most of the time, I couldn't tell reality from my dreams. So she gave me that crystal ball and said if I slept with it in my arms at night, I'd be able to sleep peacefully. At least, I wouldn't have to have those weird dreams anymore."

The crystal ball?

Could it be... Natalisa convinced Natalia that she would be able to sleep peacefully with the crystal ball when in fact, it was through the crystal ball that she could truly achieve her goal of controlling Natalia? Perhaps Natalia was being controlled by Natalisa through this crystal ball?

It seemed an important clue.

"I see... Do you have to hug that crystal ball to sleep every night?" the actor probed further.

"Uh huh. Sometimes I forget, but when I do, I get strange dreams at night. However if I hold the crystal ball to sleep, sometimes it will feel as though I've slept for days. And I'm tired when I wake up."

"I see..."

"Actually, I find it very strange." Natalia frowned and turned to the actor, pursing her lips. She obviously contemplated for a long time before she finally asked the question that haunted her.

"None of you can see Natalisa, can you?"

The actor said nothing, but shook his head in response.

"I feel that Natalisa is evil."

"Evil?"

"Yeah. She told me not to trust anyone, including you, and Daddy. So, initially, I was always wary of you, but gradually I realized that you were kind to me, gentle, like family, and I wanted to approach you, but whenever I did, she stopped me. It's strange. She always seemed to know what I'm thinking!"

"Then why do you think she's evil?"

"Because..." Natalia closed her eyes and took a deep breath. "I'm sorry, I can't say. All I can say is that I feel like she's a demon living inside me."

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*Natalisa is like a demon living inside me.*

For some reason, those words sent a deep chill down Hua Jin's spine.

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"Did she really say that?" Alice was playing with her fountain pen in the study with Hua Jin sitting opposite her, looking pensive. It was late at night, dark and quiet outside.

Natalia was already asleep.

After Alice got home, the actor had related everything to her in detail. It came as a surprise to her. "Wait a minute. I'm a little confused." Alice scratched the space between her eyebrows and tried to join the dots, get her thoughts organized.

The actor sat quietly by the side, not speaking for fear of interrupting her thoughts.

"Have I understood this correctly..." Alice started solemnly, "that Natalisa controls Natalia through the crystal ball. She can even decide when she dominates this body and when she can allow Natalia to do so."

“I thought so. But, then, what would be Natalisa’s motive?”

Now that he mentioned it, Alice couldn’t make sense of it either. She’d been trying to figure out what Natalisa’s motives were, and why, but she had not been able to come to any conclusion.

The actor opened his mouth to say something, then stopped himself.

Alice sensed that he wanted to say something, and said encouragingly, ‘What’s your opinion?’

“I think my idea might be a little ridiculous. I’m afraid you’ll laugh if I tell you.”

“Even with authoritative science, there are many absurd possibilities. In real life, there are too many absurdities. You might as well tell me. It could be an important line of thought.”

“Don’t you think it’s suspicious that Professor Romanka would so easily allow us to adopt Natalia?”

Alice was startled at this suggestion, as though a white light flashed in her head. “What are you suggesting?”

“Since Professor Romanka created Natalisa, is he also capable of dominating this personality? Perhaps, from a relationship point of view, Natalisa has identified him as her father or... master?”

Alice frowned, her eyes suddenly flashed. “This is an important point!”

“So, if that’s a possibility, could Natalisa’s motive be considered Romanka’s motive? He was the one who put Natalisa up to all this.”

“It’s not impossible!” Alice rubbed her temples. The actor’s words had undoubtedly given her new possibilities to consider.

So then...

Encouraged and finally brave enough to voice his suspicions, the actor said, “What was Professor Romanka’s motive for creating Natalisa? I’m sure you know better than that. I looked up academic research on him before this, and it took some effort, but I also learned that Professor Romanka had always hoped to achieve such a goal as controlling multiple personality patients by creating a personality society?”

Alice was contemplative for a moment before saying abruptly, “Through a personality society, Professor Romanka hopes to create a personality to take on the role of a ‘Sanctioner’.”

“A sanctioner?”

Alice lowered her voice and continued, “Yes. That is, this sanctioner has the position of leader, recognized by all personalities, and enough authority to dictate the survival of all personalities.”

The actor felt the hairs on the back of his neck stand up at that. It was terrifying to contemplate.

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“Well, let me ask you then...” Hua Jin asked solemnly, “Are we able to retain the two personalities of Youyou and Gong Fan?”

Alice winced at the question. “Why do you ask?”

“You said previously, that having Youyou carry two personalities is a huge burden. His mental strength can’t support it at all. However, whether it’s Shishi, Little Yichen, or even Yueyao, they’ve all developed feelings for Gong Fan. Under such circumstance, getting rid of Gong Fan wouldn’t be a good ending for anyone!”

Alice frowned in exasperation. “This matter is indeed troublesome. However, I’ve already contacted other experts in this field some time ago. When the time comes, we’ll discuss it together. After all, I’m working alone and there may be many limitations. However, if everyone got together to come up with a solution, it may be possible to resolve the problem.”

“Okay.” The actor stood up and said to Alice, “I’m going to see if Natalia is asleep.”

“Okay.”

...

The actor made his way to Natalia’s room, where the wall lamp had not yet been switched off.

The girl was terrified of the dark. Sometimes, when she couldn’t sleep, she would switch on the lights to help her. Usually, Hua Jin would stop by her room to check on her before he went to bed. If the light had been left on, he would turn it off.

Gradually, he realized that she didn’t like to turn out the lights. Hence he would check on her every day before he went to bed.

This, too, had become his habit.

As he stepped into the room, he was shrouded by the warm air. He walked over to the bed and sat on the edge for a moment. For some reason, looking down at Natalia’s sleeping face, his mind gradually drifted.

Natalia slept quietly. Her eyes were closed, her lashes long and thick and slightly curled. Her pale skin was translucent, as if it were fragile.

Before this, he hadn’t thought that he’d grow fond of children. He had even found it hard to imagine what it would be like to get married and have a family. Before, he hadn’t even liked children very much. He had always felt that children were noisy. If they turned out ill-bred and spoiled, it would be even more troublesome.

There were too many brats nowadays. Some were the result of bad upbringing by their parents, while others were a result of parents not having the time to discipline them and they turned out untamed.

Hua Jin had always found this a headache. This was because he had never had a good family environment to grow up in and stumbled along the way, ending up with lots of bumps and bruises in life. He finally turned out to be a sensible person but he worried about not being able to give his own children a happy family in the future.

This was because he never had a happy childhood, so he did not know what a healthy and sound family was like.

After an unforeseen incident, he'd now become an "acting father". Suddenly, he had a child.

At first, he'd been caught off guard, but gradually he'd gotten used to it, and then Natalia and he got used to each other. He completely treated Natalia as his own child, as his own.

It was for this reason that he gradually began to understand how Yun Shishi felt.

Perhaps, we will only ever understand our parents' good intentions when we grew up and became parents ourselves.

In that way, he hated his father and mother even more.

Except that all that is the grudges and misgiving brought us from the previous generations.

He had no time for it, and had no desire to understand or participate.

He wanted to give Natalia as warm a home as possible, that was all.

He also hoped that Natalia would grow up like any other kids.

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He had the hope that Natalia, like the other children, would grow up safely and peacefully with a perfectly ordinary family.

Gently, the actor reached out and carefully touched her skin. Only then did the tips of his fingers come into contact with her face and carelessly brush against her eyelashes. Even in her sleep, the ticklishness immediately made the girl wince.

He pulled back quickly, afraid of waking her.

Making sure she was sound asleep again, he smiled, bent his head, and pecked her lightly on the forehead. Then he got up and walked away, switching off the light before he quietly left the room.

In bed, Natalia felt as if she were in a dream. She could sense the warmth of the good night kiss and subconsciously broke into a half-smile.

!!

...

At night.

Gong Fan lay on the bed and could not fall asleep for a long time.

He was restless for some reason. He looked at the clock. It was late and he was tired, but he was afraid to sleep. He was afraid that if he were to fall asleep, he wouldn't be able to wake up again. Once he was anxious, he felt even less sleepy.



Therefore, after tossing and turning for a while, he felt more awake.

He sat up a little and leaned against the bedcovers. He then turned to look at Little Yichen and saw that the boy was breathing evenly. He was clearly in a dream.

Gong Fan let out a soft sigh and got out of bed. Shuffling in his slippers, he went to put on a jacket. As he passed the desk, he saw the earphones and iPod that Little Yichen had placed on there. He picked them up.

He put on his earphones, stepped out onto the balcony, and turned on the music.

The music had been put on pause. He released the pause and the music started.

“Look back and never got far...

That longing gaze will never change...”

Gong Fan was stunned. He didn't expect Little Yichen to listen to such sad music. The music wasn't so bad. It was just the sad singing and the sad lyrics that stirred the emotions.

Gong Fan came to the swing and got onto it. With a casual kick, the swing started to move.

The evening breeze was gentle and cool.

#### **Chapter 4268: The Other Side 237**

She knew, she was the one who couldn't bear to part with Gong Fan. Youyou could see that. He understood her reluctance. That was why he had held on for so long. But now she could see that the boy's mental state was deteriorating. He was continually having nightmares and these nightmares were destroying his will. The boy held on and insisted he was fine. She didn't even offer a word of comfort.

This was not something she relished. She had imagined this situation countless times. Between Youyou and Gong Fan... they had come to a point where a choice had to be made. However, every time she thought of having to make a choice, she didn't dare to think further. It was this hesitation, this indecision, that had been causing the boy to suffer, but he did so in silence.

“It's useless thinking so much about it now. I just think that whether it's Gong Fan or Youyou, they're both our sons. We can't be without either of them. Now, perhaps, we lack that ability, but maybe in the future, not long from now, we might have the ability and things won't be so difficult for you.”

Her heart went out to the boy. “Even if the body can withstand it, the mind can never withstand it, right? If it were you, would you be willing to share your body with another personality?”

Mu Yazhe said nothing. Naturally, he'd be unwilling. Not that he was being selfish. But because both personalities would end up suffering as a result. Who would want to go to sleep knowing that it might be a fortnight later before you'd wake up? Even knowing it was the same self, the two personalities would never coexist in perfect harmony!

“Even the most advanced medical methods can't save Youyou and Gong Fan. Unless Gong Fan exists in another body.”

After a pause, Yun Shishi calmed a little and gripped the railing tightly. "I don't want Youyou's decisions to be influenced by me," she said sadly.

"What are you saying exactly...?"

Yun Shishi was silent for a long moment. With tears in her eyes, she looked up at the hazy moon on the horizon, but when she thought of the decision she had to make, she closed her eyes sadly and let the tears fall.

"Youyou is independent. He should have his own way of thinking. He shouldn't have to be cornered by my personal concerns."

"That's why... That's why..." She choked for a long time, finding it difficult to form a coherent sentence with her words.

It was obvious how much pain she was in. Her posture was stiff as a rock...

"If, indeed, a decision must be made..." She took a deep breath and struggled to get the words out. "For Youyou, I have to... I have to give up Gong Fan..."

Even though those words were suppressed, Gong Fan heard them very clearly. He leaned back against the wall, his eyes staring ahead blankly. After a long while, he finally came to his senses, and his eyes instantly turned red.

...

*...For Youyou... I have to... give up Gong Fan...*

It was just a few words, but they were sharper than the tip of a dagger and pierced right through his heart. Gong Fan pursed his lips tightly and remained silent.

He stood silently in the shadows, keeping himself hidden, until his father comforted her and helped her back to her room. Finding his breath, he finally started to walk, only to stumble, nearly falling over.

Gong Fan made his way back into his room in a blur. Once back in the dark and quiet surroundings of his room, he shut the door behind him and tears finally welled up in his eyes.

### **Chapter 4269: The Other Side 238**

He sat down on the bed in a daze. Little Yichen was still sound asleep. He looked at the boy with sincere envy.

He envied Little Yichen for living in a world where he never had to fight anyone for anything. He never had to worry about not being able to make his way back, he never had to feel guilty, or sad, or disappointed at being abandoned.

That's right.

Yun Shishi's words were clear enough. For Youyou's sake, she was willing to give him up. In other words, if medical science found a way to save Youyou, she was willing to give him up. Between Youyou and him, she had chosen Youyou.

But in what ways was that wrong? Her relationship with the boy, after all, went beyond him.

But it wasn't fair...

It wasn't fair.

In fact, he'd appeared early, too, in this shell. Only... Gong Fan felt indignant but helpless. Even so, even if he knew that it was unfair, what could he fight for? He didn't have a leg to stand on.

Gong Fan suddenly felt very sad. What he had feared most was finally here. He had always been uneasy and insecure. Even though Yun Shishi tried her best to give him a sense of security, he still felt insecure. Now that he had personally heard the choice Yun Shishi had made, Gong Fan felt as though his entire world had fallen apart!

He lay down on the bed and stared at the ceiling in confusion. The tears gradually stopped, but he was left with a sadness that was impossible to express by crying. Tears filled his heart, but they would never flow again.

...

The next day, Little Yichen realized that Gong Fan was not in a good mood. He sat alone in a corner and ignored anyone who called out to him.

It was just like the time Gong Fan first returned to the Mu family. He looked extremely cold and distant. No matter how patiently Yun Shishi spoke to him, he either turned and walked away or completely ignored her.

She had no idea what had happened to cause Gong Fan to treat her this coldly.

Little Yichen was also surprised that Gong Fan's attitude towards his family had suddenly cooled.

For several days, Gong Fan behaved this way. Little Yichen couldn't take it anymore and took him aside. His cheeky smile disappeared and his expression became serious.

"What's wrong with you lately?"

Gong Fan broke free from his restraints and glanced at him coldly. There was no trace of emotions in his eyes. Since they had already given up on him, he might as well be indifferent to the end.

If he was cold towards them, they would be disappointed in him too, and treat him the same way. This way, no one would feel sad the day they had to part!

Or so he thought.

However, his cold attitude undoubtedly angered Little Yichen.

"Why aren't you saying anything!?" Little Yichen was getting annoyed. "Didn't you say that no matter what happened, you would never make Mommy angry or sad? But look at what you've done these past

few days. Despite our repeated attempts to talk to you, you ignore us. Do you know that Mommy will start imagining all sorts of things and she'll be very sad?!"

The aggressive questioning made Gong Fan even angrier! He raised his eyes to take a long look at Little Yichen, and let out a sudden snort.

He was furious, however he found no vent for his anger. Nevertheless, at this point, he was still unwilling to make things clear. He was even unwilling to vent his anger on Little Yichen. He forcefully restrained himself!

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He was furious, however he found no vent for his anger. Nevertheless, at this point, he was still unwilling to make things clear. He was even unwilling to vent his anger on Little Yichen. He forcefully restrained himself!

Gong Fan took a deep breath and turned to leave the room. However, Little Yichen was not going to let him leave without a word, so he reached out and grabbed his brother.

"You haven't answered me!"

Gong Fan snapped back to his senses. He remained expressionless and asked disapprovingly, "Answer? What answer do you want?"

Looking at his icy expression, Little Yichen felt a sudden sense of helplessness. "What's wrong with you?"

"I'm just feeling regretful."

"Regretful?"

"I shouldn't have come back in the first place, and I certainly shouldn't have allowed Youyou to awaken. That way, I would have been able to occupy this shell with impunity and not have to worry about competing with anyone."

With that, Gong Fan flung his hand away angrily. He had assumed that the boy would naturally take sides with Yun Shishi. He would probably choose Youyou over him too! After all, he must have preferred Youyou to him. Just like Yun Shishi, he would surely choose Youyou over him! He was not needed. What more was there to say!

Gong Fan said resolutely, "What I regret the most is treating all of you as family!"

With that, he ignored the petrified Little Yichen and walked away indifferently. Little Yichen stood rooted to the spot for a long time, trembling in disbelief! He was angry, furious that Gong Fan had let down Mommy's love. Mommy doted on him so much, but he actually said such cruel words.

Little Yichen had no idea what Gong Fan had been through. He did not even know that Gong Fan had overheard the conversation between Yun Shishi and Mu Yazhe yesterday. Therefore, he only thought that Gong Fan had the intention of betraying them.

Did he have thoughts of betraying Youyou and monopolizing his body?

The boy snapped to his senses and hurried after him. Gong Fan hadn't gone far. Little Yichen lunged forward and grabbed his wrist. "Stop!" he shouted. "Make yourself clear!"

Gong Fan was stunned. He had never seen Little Yichen so furious, he was like an enraged Tyrannosaurus glaring at him.

"I will not allow you to betray Mommy and Youyou!"

Yun Shishi heard the boy's shouting and dashed over anxiously with Yueyao in her arms. She widened her eyes in shock when she witnessed the confrontation between the boys.

"What's going on?" she asked, having no idea what had happened between the two of them.

Little Yichen turned around and saw that it was his mother. He shook off his anger and regained some of his senses. "Mommy..."

"What's going on?" Yun Shishi asked, seemingly surprised. "Why are the two of you fighting?"

Little Yichen would never argue with Youyou, let alone with Gong Fan. In Little Yichen's mind, Youyou and Gong Fan were both his little brothers, and he was the big brother. Therefore, he would always give way to the younger ones and never argue with them. Seeing Little Yichen so angry was a rare sight, and she had never seen him so angry with anyone.

"What's going on!?" Yun Shishi was starting to get angry. Besides, the decision had been made the night before, and she already felt guilty about Gong Fan. Now that she had decided to give him up, she was determined to cherish the limited time she had with him in the coming days.