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Hence, she became even angrier when she saw Little Yichen losing his temper at Gong Fan. She was determined to figure out the whole story.

Except, in Gong Fan's opinion, this was nothing more than charity! Little Yichen turned away awkwardly, refusing to say anything. He didn't want his mother to be disappointed in Gong Fan. Mommy would be greatly saddened if she heard those words! Little Yichen was thoughtful and, therefore, reluctant to say anything.

Yun Shishi turned back to Gong Fan, but his face was expressionless as he looked away from her and stared coldly at the floor. It appeared that he would rather stare at the cold ground than look at her.

"What is it ... Xiao Fan?" The woman was baffled.

The sight of the two children turning their heads away sulkily, not looking at each other, momentarily put her at a complete loss.

Why was he behaving so coldly towards her for no reason? Could it be that the child was more sensitive and realized that she had silently made a choice?

"Mommy, don't talk to him anymore!" Little Yichen snorted. "I don't like him! I prefer Youyou much more. He's good and obedient and gentle. He'll never upset Mommy."

"What did he do?"

"Nothing!" The boy refused to say more.

Yun Shishi started to get anxious. The more he refused to talk about it, the more important it seemed to her that it was serious.

Gong Fan didn't say anything either. He turned around and was about to leave when Yun Shishi called out to him. She walked around to face him, put her hands on his shoulders and said uneasily, "What's wrong with you? Why do I feel that you've been unhappy since early this morning, as if you have something on your mind? Did something happen? Why don't you tell Mommy?!"

Gong Fan finally looked straight at her, but at that moment, the disappointment in his eyes was unmistakable. For some reason, his heart was filled with emotions. He forced himself to clench his fists and hold back his sobs. He pretended to be calm and asked, "If there comes a day when Mommy has to choose between Youyou and me, I think Mommy would have already made a decision!"

Yun Shishi was stunned to hear this!

She didn't know why Gong Fan suddenly said that, but could it be that he had some sort of telepathy with her? She had not been able to sleep well the night before because of her restlessness and guilt. Even after Mu Yazhe had left for work the next day, she found herself unable to get any real rest.

She was uneasy, guilt-stricken, and shocked. She could even imagine how desperate this child, who trusted her wholeheartedly, would be the moment she decided to give up on Gong Fan!

She felt terrible at the thought of this! However, no matter how reluctant she was to let him go, she had no choice but to make such a decision. Just that, for some reason, Gong Fan seemed to have sensed this?

Yun Shishi could feel her face burning.

On the other hand, Little Yichen was stunned as well, being unaware of the connection.

However, he did not expect that Yun Shishi would make such a cruel decision. He insisted stubbornly, "Are you kidding me?! Don't you know what kind of person Mommy is? Even if there's only a sliver of hope, she'll try her best to protect you. Whether it's Youyou or you, Mommy won't give up easily!"

HIs words made the woman's face burn even hotter. All she could think about was how much the older boy trusted her not to let any of them go, and how easily she'd made her decision! For a moment, she couldn't hide the guilt she felt towards Gong Fan. Her eyes reddened.

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For a moment, she could not hide her guilt towards Gong Fan and her eyes turned red.

Noticing her reddened eyes, Gong Fan's hardened heart began to soften. He couldn't bear to make things difficult for her, nor could he bear to threaten her to change her decision. He had been let go of, and he accepted that.

In the past, he had sworn that no matter what her decision was, he would always trust her and protect her. Therefore, Gong Fan couldn't bear to put the blame on her, especially after seeing her tears. But since it was her decision, he accepted it silently.

Gong Fan knew and could tell that it must have been painful for her to make this choice. She was hesitant, even now. He didn't want to ask her to reconsider her decision. After all, if this were to go on, he'd be tired, too, and so would the others. Since it was such torture, it was better to let go and give up. This way, everyone would feel better and more relaxed.

Gong Fan knew that if such a time should come, Yun Shishi would be overwhelmed by guilt for sure.

He smirked icily. It was as though a layer of frost had suddenly settled over his eyes!

"Little Yichen is right." Gong Fan looked at Yun Shishi, emotionless. "I'm indeed cold and heartless, but how can you say that I betrayed Youyou? In this world, the strong prey on the weak. Similarly, although we have different personalities, we both have the right to occupy this body."

Yun Shishi did not expect him to say such a cold and cruel thing!

"Strong preying on the weak?"

"Ha, between him and me, whoever has the ability, has the right to occupy this shell. the one who doesn't have the ability deserves to disappear. Am I wrong?!" As Gong Fan spoke, his expression became even colder. "It's best if I disappear immediately. Otherwise, sooner or later, I'll make Youyou disappear! Only then will this body truly belong to me!" Then he turned and started back to his room.

Yun Shishi was incredulous and stood and stared at him in disbelief. "Who instructed you to say those things?"

"Instruct?" Gong Fan answered indifferently without even turning around, "No one instructed me. These are my heartfelt words. That's all."

With that, he stalked off, leaving the Little Yichen and Yun Shishi staring at each other.

It was not until Gong Fan returned to the room, shutting the door with a loud bang and isolating the two of them outside, that Yun Shishi snapped to her senses. She found it hard to believe that these words were Gong Fan's heartfelt words!

He didn't mean that!

"What's going on ... why has he become like this!?" Yun Shishi shook her head. "He's not Gong Fan! Gong Fan would never do this to me..."

"Mommy, calm down..." Little Yichen thought there was something suspicious about it, too. How could Gong Fan suddenly turn so cold overnight and even say such outrageous things?

"What's going on?" Yun Shishi couldn't help but wonder, "Could this be yet another personality?! How else could Gong Fan say something so heartless?"

"Gong Fan has always been like this. Have you forgotten what he was like when he first returned? Apart from Yueyao, he seemed to look at the rest of us with hatred in his eyes, didn't he?"

Clearly distracted, Yun Shishi frowned but said nothing.

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That night, Gong Fan did not come out to have dinner with everyone. Instead, he stayed in his room alone.

He had a serious gastric condition. Yun Shishi had warned him about this, too. If he didn't eat on time, he could end up in serious pain. However, Gong Fan didn't want to come out. He shut himself in the gloomy room and curled up on the bed, delaying his meal. Sure enough, his stomach started to cramp.

He clutched his stomach tightly, feeling cold all over.

If he had decided to leave, and since Yun Shishi had decided to give him up, then he had no reason to linger. He'd just be indifferent to the end. Let indifference end this. Perhaps it would hurt his heart less if he stayed indifferent to the end.

Gong Fan turned over with difficulty and reached out to switch on the bedside lamp. He fumbled around in the bedside table drawer and indeed found his gastric pills.

Without water, he chewed the pills and swallowed the dregs. He went back to bed, wrapped himself tightly in the blanket, and shivered with cold. This infliction of self torture was like him giving up on himself.

Meanwhile, at the door, Yun Shishi lingered with the dishes that had been reheated three times. She looked at the door longingly but could not summon the courage to knock.

When Mu Yazhe saw that she had been loitering in front of Gong Fan's door without bothering to have her own meal, he was helpless and amused. He walked over and patted her shoulder gently.

"You haven't eaten. You should eat first!"

Yun Shishi, however, could not be bothered to eat. The thought of Gong Fan's gastric condition was too much for her. "He's going to have a stomachache if he doesn't eat dinner. But I've been standing at the door for a long time and I haven't heard a thing. Does he rather suffer in silence than talk to me?"

Frustrated, Yun Shishi rubbed at her hair. Her eyes reddened again. "What could have happened? He was fine yesterday, but now he's changed. He's caught me off guard!"

As she spoke, she knocked on the door again and said gently, "Are you there? Gong Fan, can you come out for dinner? Mommy made your favorite pork and century egg congee. If you don't have any appetite, just eat a little to fill your stomach."

After a while, there was still no response. Yun Shishi bit her lip, her heart aching.

Unable to stand it any longer, Little Yichen shoved her aside and pounded on the door with his fist. "Gong Fan, come out and eat! Do you hear me?!"

He could not bear to see his mother so aggrieved, especially when she had offered her heart, but he had tossed it aside! He had no right!

But no matter how hard he banged on the door, there was no response coming out of the room. Was he completely ignoring all of them?!

Anger surged through the boy. Ignoring Yun Shishi's attempts to stop him, he kicked the door open!

His violence surprised her, and she rushed in after him. The moment he turned on the lights, he saw the human form curled up under the blanket on the bed.

Little Yichen, who was initially enraged, saw that the bulging figure under the untidy sheets seemed to be tightly curled up. He walked over in confusion and lifted the blanket. He saw that Gong Fan's body was hunched and his arms crossed.

Beads of perspiration covered his forehead, and some ran down his temples. His pajamas were also obviously drenched in cold sweat.

"What's going on?"

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"What's going on?"

Little Yichen was stunned as his mother and father nervously stepped forward. In the confusion of the moment, it was his sharp eyes that caught sight of the painkiller on the bedside table. "Don't tell me his stomach is acting up."

"He looks pale. Could he be low on blood sugar?" Yun Shishi added, "After all, he hasn't eaten all day. Maybe he's hypoglycemic."

Little Yichen couldn't care less. He leaned over slightly, wrapped his hands around the back of Gong Fan's neck and the bend of his knees, and lifted him up.

"Let's take him to the hospital!" The boy hurried out the door as he spoke. Even though he was also shocked, he immediately made a decision amidst the confusion.

The couple exchanged a glance and immediately headed for the garage...

...

In the hospital.

Gong Fan was hurriedly sent to the emergency room. The three of them waited nervously outside for a long time before the door of the emergency room finally opened. The doctor removed his mask and looked solemn as he strode towards them.

Yun Shishi immediately went up to him and stopped right before him. "How is he, Doctor?"

The doctor glanced at her and asked, "Are you family members of this child?" Before she could answer, he caught a glimpse of the older boy behind her. He looked exactly like Gong Fan, so he understood at once. "Fortunately, you admitted him in time. The child was suffering from acute morphine poisoning. I reckon that it was probably caused by accidentally taking too many painkillers. We've managed to flush out his stomach and induce vomiting in time. If it had been any later, the child would have suffered respiratory failure from morphine poisoning. The consequences would have been unimaginable."

"Morphine poisoning ..." Yun Shishi felt her blood run cold at that.

If Little Yichen had not forced his way in, perhaps Gong Fan would have had respiratory failure from morphine poisoning. And they did not have the slightest idea! She had lamented the boy's rough way with the door, but if it hadn't been for him, perhaps Gong Fan would have been doomed.

"Why did the child take so many painkillers?" The doctor wondered if Gong Fan had suicidal tendencies.

Knowing what he was thinking, she replied, "He's taking painkillers, probably because he has a serious gastric condition. In the past, I've been around to urge him to take his medicine. The dosage is strictly controlled. This time, when we weren't around, he threw tantrums and refused to eat. When his stomach hurt, he took his medicine at random. That's probably why he didn't watch the dosage."

"I see!" The doctor's tone was inevitably reproachful. "That's because you're too careless as parents! Parents should personally keep such dangerous medicine away. How can it be placed in a location within the children's reach?"

Yun Shishi pursed her lips and bowed her head, accepting the doctor's criticism guiltily. The doctor thought that Gong Fan was as childish as an ordinary child. In fact, only Yun Shishi knew that Gong Fan was aware he should not be overdosing on medicine. It was too painful this time. With the thought of giving up on himself, he took much more than he should have, but he did not know the consequences and almost caused a disaster.

"As parents, you're too irresponsible. You placed the medicine in a location where it's within the reach of the children. If he didn't understand and had taken all of it, there'd be no way to save him!" The doctor couldn't help criticizing her again. After all, she was responsible for the child's condition.

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Mu Yazhe did not look pleased, and when he saw Yun Shishi bowing her head in earnest apology, his heart went out to her. He drew her into his arms.

'We'll be sure to pay attention next time. How's the child?' He quickly changed the subject.

The doctor stopped there and heaved a sigh of relief. "He's been resuscitated, but he has to be hospitalized for a few days for observation. This child doesn't look well and has to be carefully taken care of. He'll be transferred to the ward soon. You guys can wait for him in the ward!"

"Okay... alright."

Soon, Gong Fan was also pushed out of the resuscitation room and transferred to the special care unit.

Yun Shishi arrived at the ward to find Gong Fan lying on the hospital bed, his face deathly pale. His eyes were tightly closed, his hands slightly curled. He was motionless and lifeless.

Just looking at him made her heart ache. How was it that... it had come to this. Yun Shishi pulled a random stool up beside the bed and sat down. Her heart ached as she held Gong Fan's cold hand.

In his coma, Gong Fan seemed to have sensed this warm touch. He unconsciously held her hand and relished in its warmth, refusing to let go.

Yun Shishi felt her chest tighten even more. How had it come to this? What exactly happened to Gong Fan... Mu Yazhe and Little Yichen stood at the doorway, not daring to interrupt her. Now, Gong Fan was on a drip. Yun Shishi watched over him and refused to move.

When the boy saw this, he said to his father, "I'll stay here tonight and watch over Little Brother. Daddy, why don't you go home? You have to get up early in the morning."

"How can I go to work in peace now that this has happened?" Mu Yazhe laughed helplessly.

Even though he usually looked grouchy and didn't seem to care much about Gong Fan, the boy was his son after all. It was just that compared to maternal love, paternal love was steadfast as a mountain. He said, "I'm taking tomorrow off. I'll stay in the ward and watch over things today. Why don't I take you home so that you can get an early night?"

Little Yichen frowned and answered truthfully, "I can't sleep in peace with Little Brother in this state."

"Then let's all stay and watch over him!" Mu Yazhe tapped him lightly on the head. "Go get some hot water."

"Oh, okay." The boy picked up two kettles immediately and headed for the pantry.

Mu Yazhe came to Yun Shishi's side and gently gripped her shoulders, giving them a squeeze. Yun Shishi looked up at him. "Don't worry, now that the doctor says it'll be alright, there's nothing to worry about!"

"I just had a nagging feeling that something was bothering him, but he wouldn't talk to me about it."

After a moment's contemplation, he lowered his voice and asked, "Could he have overheard our conversation yesterday?"

Yun Shishi paled at that. "How could he have?"

"I can't think of any other possibility. Perhaps he couldn't sleep in the middle of the night and overheard our conversation when he was in the backyard. It's not impossible."

"Do you think so?" Yun Shishi shuddered at the mere thought of it.

If Gong Fan had overheard this... then he would be disappointed for sure! Putting herself in Gong Fan's shoes, of course he'd feel particularly upset to know that he'd be let go of. If that were indeed the case, Gong Fan's abnormal behavior today would not come as a surprise at all.

The woman looked dismayed at that.

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It was 1am by the time Gong Jie arrived back in the country. A full ten hours of time difference, but he was used to it.

The villa had a large private helipad specially reserved for the landing and taking off of helicopters, and this helipad was situated very close to the villa. Gong Jie had assumed that if the helicopter landed directly on this tarmac, the noise would wake Natalia. At this hour, she might already be asleep. Hence he parked the helicopter on the helipad of another hotel and drove to the villa.

The actor had been asleep when his cell phone went off in the middle of the night. He sat up in bed with a start and picked up the phone by his pillow. He saw Gong Jie's number on the screen.

Gong Jie spoke immediately once the line was connected.

"Were you asleep?"

"What else would I be doing otherwise?"

For goodness' sake. What time was it? Almost 1am! Why wouldn't he be asleep?

"It's late. What can I do for you?"

Gong Jie said, "I've arrived."

"Arrived where?"

"Home."

"Why don't you just come up, then?" The actor rolled his eyes inwardly.

Gong Jie, however, was embarrassed as he said, "I'm lost."

"What?" Hua Jin widened his eyes as if he'd just heard some cock and bull story. "Lost?"

"Uh huh, I came in through the backyard, but got lost in it."

The actor looked grave and stern at once. Indeed, the interior area of this villa was shockingly large. The additional garden area alone covered more than 20 acres. The garden had an intricate structure and it was lush with trees. The actor himself had lost his way in it before.

"How did you get in through the backyard?"

"The garage is in the backyard." Gong Jie's patience was wearing thin. "Come get me," he said in a low voice. Then he hung up.

Hua Jin let out a long sigh. Now that Gong Jie had returned to visit Natalia, it seemed that the peaceful days were over. The actor stood up and headed to the back door, turning on the lights in the backyard ahead of time.

For a long time, he himself could not figure out the complicated path, but if the lights in the back garden were on, it would be quite helpful for wayfinding.

"Can you hear which direction my voice is coming from?"

"Yes I can."

"Then do you see a large stone sculpture here?"

"Yes I see it."

"Okay, just walk towards this direction and you'll find your way out."

The huge backyard was like a huge garden maze at night. If one was not careful, one would easily lose their way. The actor rarely came to the back garden. Natalia, on the other hand, liked to roam it. It had almost become her territory, with its swings, gardens, and stone carvings. It had become her little domain.

However, Gong Jie was nothing less than a true buffoon. He had actually gotten lost in the backyard. After a while, Hua Jin finally heard Gong Jie's footsteps approaching. He looked in the direction of the footsteps. Through the shifting shadows of the trees, he finally caught a glimpse of the man weaving through the gardens.

The actor immediately stepped forward. "Here. This is the exit."

He went forward to meet him and was surprised to find himself face-to-face with an angry-looking Gong Jie. After fumbling around in the backyard for so long, his patience was almost exhausted.

"What sort of godforsaken place!"

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The actor suppressed a smile and tried to look unfazed. "You bought this villa," he said, feigning calm.

Gong Jie snorted at that. "The real estate consultant didn't mention this backyard where people could lose their way."

He'd thought he'd hit a wall. He was walking in circles. If the actor hadn't turned on the lights, he would have spent the entire night fumbling around.

Hua Jin sighed. "Why are you home so late?"

"It takes more than 10 hours to fly from the Hurricane Group, and it involves a transfer to a helicopter."

"Why?"

"My plane can't land here. I didn't manage to get landing rights." Then Gong Jie asked, "Where's Natalia? Is she asleep?"

"Yeah, she's asleep. It's late. She went to sleep long ago."

"Oh." Gong Jie said, "I'll go upstairs and take a look."

"Okay. Are you able to find your way to her room?"

The question caught Gong Jie off guard. He indeed didn't seem to remember. He had to admit that the villa he had bought for Hua Jin and Natalia was huge. Not only did it cover a large area and a backyard, the villa itself was huge, like a century-old manor.

It was said that this villa was the biggest in the villa district. It was even much more impressive than the Yun Shan Shi Yi belonging to Mu Yazhe.

The first time Yun Shishi had come to visit, she'd been envious. She'd never seen such a huge villa. Only someone as wealthy as her brother would buy it without even batting an eyelid.

Gong Jie was used to living in a big space. The area of the Gong family's residence could no longer be calculated by per square area. Instead, it was a magnificent castle and a unique super mansion in the world.

They climbed the stairs together, and Hua Jin led the way to Natalia's room. Upon entering, he switched on the wall lamp. As Gong Jie stepped inside, he caught a whiff of a light fragrance.

It was Natalia's natural scent. There was a faint scent of her body which was hard to describe, but the fragrance was particularly refreshing.

Gong Jie walked slowly into the room, keeping his footsteps light for fear of waking her. When he reached the bed and saw her sleeping soundly, his sharp brows relaxed a little.

He sat down gently on the side of the bed, but as he did so, Natalia's eyelids flickered for some reason, and she woke up. She opened her eyes, her gaze focusing until she saw Gong Jie sitting on the edge of the bed. Recognizing him, she was overjoyed.

"Daddy!"

Gong Jie was distracted by the fact that she was awake. "Did I wake you?"

"No." Natalia pressed her lips together as she sat up in bed and opened her arms. She threw herself against him and snuggled into his embrace .

As Gong Jie wrapped his arms around her, he heard the girl's muffled voice. "What took you so long?"

Hua Jin had told her that Gong Jie would be back soon, and Natalia had been looking forward to it. She had waited day after day, but he had not returned. She could not help but feel disheartened. This night, she also gone to bed feeling distracted, worried that if she were to fall asleep, she would not be able to greet Gong Jie immediately if he should return.

For children, there was something ritualistic about welcoming their family members back. And this sense of ritual was above all else.

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As she waited, she was so tired that she drifted off to sleep. It wasn't a deep sleep, though, and she slept lightly, so when Gong Jie came in and sat on the bed, she was startled awake.

By then, she was nestled in his arms like a newborn kitten, and he couldn't help feeling sorry for her. The tedious business of the past few days was swept away in an instant, replaced by this sense of wellbeing.

Holding her in his arms, he asked her gently, "Be a good girl and go to bed early! It's late..."

"No... I want to be carried a little longer."

It felt like a hundred years had passed since she last saw him. Natalia, being a very reserved girl, rarely mentioned how much she missed Gong Jie. Just because she didn't say it didn't mean she wasn't missing the man.

Gong Jie stroked her cheek gently, unable to resist giving them a little squeeze.

"Have you been behaving at home?"

"I've always been on my best behavior. Mommy can testify!"

"Mommy!?" Gong Jie's eyes widened slightly in consternation at that. From where did the little guy acquire a mother for herself during this time that he had not been around?

Now, as soon as Hua Jin heard Natalia say that, he flushed guiltily and cleared his throat awkwardly. As if she hadn't heard, Natalia crooked a finger at Gong Jie.

Gong Jie leaned in closer to her. "He's Mommy," she said in a low voice.

She pointed a finger.

Hua Jin saw that she was pointing at him and thought that she had to be whispering something. In a moment of panic, he said, "Hey, Natalia, don't talk nonsense!"

Gong Jie looked back meaningfully, studying him intently. He was greatly amused. "Mommy?"

The actor was speechless.

"Huh. Did you sneak off for a sex change while I was gone?"

"Of course not!" The actor muttered aggrievedly, "That's how she wanted to address me! I can't argue with a child, can I?! I told her not to do it in the presence of others. It's fine if she addresses me that way in private!"

"Because I think everyone else has a mommy, but not me. I don't have anyone else by my side. Besides, no matter which other mommy there is, she's not going to be as beautiful as our Mommy Hua Jin!"

"Cough... cough..." Fortunately, he wasn't drinking water, or he would have choked. "Stop addressing me that way." Hua Jin glared at her and emphasized, "Otherwise, I'll be the butt of jokes!"

Natalia covered her mouth and snickered. When Hua Jin glared at her again, she immediately said weakly, "Got it!"

Even though she indicated that she understood, she had an extremely aggrieved expression, although not without a hint of a snicker.

What Hua Jin didn't notice was the subtle smile on Gong Jie's face. The man had deliberately turned his face away so the actor wouldn't see it.

"Stop fooling around now." He chided her, his authority as a father apparent in his words.

Natalia heard and knew Gong Jie wouldn't allow her to sleep late. She let out a disappointed "Oh" and obediently crawled back into bed.

When the man had tucked her in earlier, she had asked cautiously "What will tomorrow's weather be like?"

"Eh?"

"Is it going to be sunny?"

Gong Jie turned to look at Hua Jin.

"If I remember right, tomorrow should be sunny."

Upon hearing this, Natalia murmured softly, "I want to go kite-flying."

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"I want to go kite-flying."

"Kite-flying??" Gong Jie was surprised as well.

The actor immediately explained. "I bought a kite a while back, but the weather has been capricious. It's either raining or it's too cold, so she's been looking forward to flying a kite when the skies clear."

Gong Jie nodded at that. "Well, isn't it supposed to be sunny tomorrow? Get some sleep. We'll go kiteflying tomorrow after breakfast."

"Can Daddy fly a kite?"

"No..."

"What? But you said you'd take me kite-flying."

"Don't you know how to do it?" Gong Jie smiled. "Just teach me. Daddy learns fast."

"Alright! It's a deal. We'll go kite-flying together. No going back on your word."

"Uh huh, it's a deal."

With this assurance, Natalia went to sleep.

The two men backed out of the room. Once outside the room, Hua Jin immediately said, "I'll prepare you a bed?"

"Where's the bathroom? I need to shower."

"Upstairs, second room on your left. It's my room. Go ahead and shower."

As only Hua Jin and Natalia had been staying in the villa, the other guest rooms had not been made up. Hua Jin was about to go to the nanny's room to get her to prepare a bed.

Gong Jie headed upstairs to take a shower. "Bring me a set of pajamas." He instructed the actor as if he were instructing a servant.

Although the actor was reluctant, he agreed quickly and nodded. "Alright."

So while Gong Jie was in the bathroom, the actor went to the cloakroom, found a fresh bathrobe, and grabbed a fresh change of clothes. Then he headed back to his room and said to Gong Jie through the bathroom door, "Shall I leave your bathrobe outside the door? Will that do?"

Gong Jie, however, replied in a chilly voice from inside. "Are you expecting me to walk out naked?"

"Uh..." Hua Jin felt his face heating up just imagining that scene.

Forget it! Send it in to the guy!

Hence he went to the door and knocked. "May I bring it in for you then?"

With that, the door opened from the inside.

The actor thought that Gong Jie would open the door just a crack, but instead, it swung wide open as a cloud of vapor rushed out from the bathroom and enveloped him. Unable to see clearly, Hua Jin waved his hand gently to clear the fog. Then, he saw Gong Jie standing at the doorway of the shower room, casually toweling his wet hair with a towel.

His gaze wandered downward uncontrollably, following the water droplets that were sliding down the well-defined contours of the man's sculpted muscles... then his eyes widened. He didn't dare look anymore. He turned around abruptly. His heart started thumping violently as if he were on a speeding roller coaster.

Gong Jie frowned in confusion at Hua Jin's sudden movement as the actor nervously turned his back to him.

What was the guy doing?

"The clothes."

"Oh ... oh ..." Distracted, still with his back to Gong Jie, Hua Jin passed the bathrobe backwards.

Gong Jie noticed how nervous the actor was. It was as if he were being deliberately evasive. Then he looked down at his own naked body and seemed to realize.

"Why are you acting as shy as a woman?"

As shy as a woman!? Despite himself, the actor frowned.

What did he mean, like a woman?

Gong Jie asked, "Have you never seen another man's body before?"

The fuss made him seem all the more suspicious.

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Gong Jie raised his eyebrows disapprovingly. As he dried his hair, he said to the actor as if he were trying to prove something, "Turn around."

"What?!" The actor felt as though he were being teased. "You wanted me to bring you the bathrobe, didn't you? I've done that. Take it. I'm leaving!"

Gong Jie, however, made no move to take the bathrobe from the actor. Instead, he calmly folded his arms and stared at him.

The actor stood with his back to Gong Jie, as still as a statue.

The latter started to look interested. "Turn around."

"Why?!" Hua Jin frowned, suddenly wary. "Are you a pervert?" This guy was clearly naked. Why was he asking him to turn around to look at his naked body? Was he a pervert?

"I'm asking you to turn around. Didn't you hear me?" His tone was dangerous now.

Reluctantly, the actor turned around, but he deliberately narrowed his eyes and carefully studied the other man through the slits. Gong Jie was standing in the mist and could not be seen clearly for a moment, but Hua Jin knew that he was naked, so he did not look downwards. Instead, he looked straight into the man's face. "Here! Take it!"

As the vapor cleared, the actor's face grew even hotter. He was about to turn and look away when his peripheral vision caught sight of the towel wrapped around Gong Jie's groin. He let out an embarrassed sigh of relief.

He thought the man was stark naked! It turned out that he had a towel around him! Damn the man for making him so nervous!

He held the bathrobe out to Gong Jie with both hands. "Take this. Your bathrobe!"

As if reading his discomfort, a teasing look came into Gong Jie's eyes. Instead of taking the bathrobe from the actor, he asked casually, "Where do I sleep tonight?"

"I'll get a room ready for you later."

"It's late. I'll sleep in this room!"

Hua Jin clenched his jaw, realizing that the man was out to give him a hard time. "Fine," he grunted. "If you want to sleep here, you may have this room! I'll prepare another one for myself."

Having lost his patience waiting for Gong Jie to take the bathrobe from him, he shoved it into the man's arms. He started to turn away, but Gong Jie suddenly grabbed his arm and yanked him back.

Not expecting this, the actor was caught off guard and stumbled backwards! He had expected to fall hard on the cold marble floor of the bathroom. But when he finally regained his balance, he realized that he had fallen against someone's chest.

Gong Jie glanced coolly at the increasingly uncomfortable person in his arms and snorted. "And is it necessary to prepare another room? The bed is huge. We can share it."

"..." Maybe it was because of the heat in the bathroom, or it could have been something else, but Hua Jin's face turned even redder, as if he was deflating!

"You don't have to make do. Don't you always sleep alone? You really don't have to suffer sharing a bed with me."

"I used to sleep with two bodyguards when I was in Africa." Gong Jie paused and continued, "Besides, the bed in this room is huge even for two."

Curiously, Hua Jin asked, "Why do you insist on sleeping with me?"

Gong Jie laughed at that, but didn't answer. Lowering his head, he inched closer to the actor and lowered his voice. With a teasing look, he replied, "I'm curious too... Why do you deliberately avoid me?"

The actor froze.

"You..."

Gong Jie raised his eyebrows and said quietly, "What exactly are you running away from?"