

## Sweet Love 4411

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Gong Jie blew his top. "Is it that funny?"

"Xiao Jie, are these wines a matter of your life and death?" she asked with a pout.

The man said matter-of-factly, "Of course, these wines are my lifeblood."

"In that case, are these wines more important than I am?" She cunningly led him into her trap bit by bit.

Gong Jie objected. "Of course not. Of course, you're more important."

"Then I'd like you to share this wine with everyone. We've already drunk it, but you're pulling a long face. If we don't enjoy the wine to our heart's content, won't it lose its value?"

The man was speechless. What she said made sense. He could not refute her.

"Let it go." Yun Shishi came over and patted him gently on the shoulder, handing him a glass. "Drink up! It's a rare happy occasion worth celebrating. Don't look so glum, eh?"

For her sake, the man's anger quickly dissipated. He quietly took the glass and took a sip. Observing this, Hua Jin immediately retreated in fear. No matter what, he had to stay away from this Demon King.

"Mommy, I want some too." Little Yichen suddenly ran over with a goblet in his hand and looked eagerly at the sherry.

Yun Shishi said, "No, children are not supposed to drink."

"It's just red wine. It's not a big deal. Besides, there's such limited production of this Sherry. When I grow up, I may no longer have the chance to taste it."

Heartbreak.

These words were undoubtedly another blow to Gong Jie.

Exactly.

This wine would only decrease the more he drank because there was limited production of it. If he wanted to drink it again in the future, he may indeed not have the chance.

Unable to dissuade Little Yichen, Yun Shishi had to pour him half a glass.

Seeing that his older brother was drinking, Youyou hankered after the same. He brought the goblet to his mother and asked for half a glass.

"Cheers!"

"Cheers!"

Clink!

The sound of glasses knocking against each other.

The few of them raised their goblets and drank.

Yun Shishi walked up to Gong Jie and winked playfully. "Come, let's toast."

For some reason, the gloominess in his heart was swept away when he saw her gentle smile.

He cheerfully picked up his goblet and clinked it against hers.

"Bottoms up."

"My pleasure. Drink up."

Yun Shishi seemed to be in high spirits, so she finished the wine in her glass in a gulp. With a smile, Gong Jie downed his drink as well.

One had to enjoy life to the fullest. Cherish every day and every moment. This was the ultimate meaning of happiness!

Gong Jie raised his wine glass and looked at the moon through the transparent crystal glass. His eyes narrowed, and his soul seemed to be drawn away.

The sea breeze blew gently, making people feel at ease.

Yun Shishi was soon half-drunk.

Alice, Hua Jin, and Natalia surrounded the barbecue pit and spared no effort in roasting as many scallops as they could. Hua Jin was inexperienced, but Alice had always lived by the sea, so she had many tricks for roasting scallops and oysters.

In no time, an alluring aroma filled the air with the help of the sea breeze.

"Smells heavenly."

The few little gluttons smelled the aroma and walked over. Alice plated the roasted scallops and oysters and sprinkled some seasonings on them. It was comparable to a barbecue feast in a five-star restaurant.

"If I'd known better, I'd think you were a five-star chef," the actor complained silently.

When Alice heard this, she did not think much of it. "Why? The chefs on the island are far better at roasting these than I. I only learnt it secretly."

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When Alice heard this, she did not think much of it. "Why? The chefs on the island are far better at roasting these than I. I only learnt it secretly."

"The beach is so nice." The actor let out a heartfelt sigh.

When Alice heard this, she was a little surprised. "Why do you suddenly say something like that?"

"Because the beach is beautiful. Don't you think? During the day, you can swim in the sea, dive, and at night, you can just sit quietly on the beach to enjoy the sea breeze and seafood. This is the most pleasing thing in life."

“Superficial.” Alice gave a pertinent evaluation.

“Why do you say that?”

“Living by the sea actually has many advantages. For example, the sea view is beautiful, and there’s very little noise by the sea. You can swim every day. The seawater has a lot of minerals that can improve your skin and improve your physical fitness. The air is also very fresh, but the sea breeze always has a fishy smell. In addition, there are many humidity problems by the sea. For example, clothes and furniture are always easily damp, and the doors, windows, and railings corrode easily. Moreover, it’s very easy to get rheumatism. If you encounter a typhoon or a tsunami and live by the sea, it’s simply a disaster.”

The actor was slightly taken aback. He really did not think about these things.

“Therefore, there are many aspects to everything. Life is never perfect. It’s always accompanied by all kinds of regrets.”

“Yeah.”

“However, life is about happiness and regrets. Won’t you find it boring to be perfect?”

Alice raised her glass and gently swirled the wine in it, smiling deeply. “Life is about experiencing all kinds of emotions. This is the greatest meaning of life. However, this is what I think of myself. Everyone’s values are different. Perhaps others won’t agree.”

“I think I agree with you.” The actor pursed his lips and smiled. “There’s absolutely no such thing as perfection in life. There’s no doubt about that. If one’s life is too smooth-sailing, that would be unbelievable!”

“Seize every regret and cherish every happiness.”

“Well said.” The actor raised his glass. “Here’s to your chicken soup for the soul!”

“Bottoms up.” Alice drained her glass.

Youyou suddenly muttered, “What are you guys talking about? The scallops are almost overdone!”

Alice looked at her grill. As expected, the scalloped meat trembled and made a slightly charred sound.

“Haha, this is also one of life’s regrets.”

The actor picked up the scallop and put it aside. “A burnt scallop. The imperfections of life.”

Alice smiled knowingly.

Not far away, Gong Jie lay on a recliner and watched the harmonious scene. For some reason, he felt a little annoyed when he saw Hua Jin and Alice chatting and laughing.

The two of them seemed to be getting along well! Could it be that Hua Jin was interested in Alice? At the thought of this possibility, he felt an unfamiliar sense of being under threat. Even he did not understand why he had such a strange emotion.

At night.

After the party was over, Hua Jin walked towards his room.

He ran into Gong Jie along the corridor.

The man was leaning against the door of the room, arms crossed, as if waiting for someone.

Hua Jin could not help feeling puzzled. "Aren't you going back to your room to rest at this hour?" As he got closer, he could smell the faint scent of red wine on Gong Jie.

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"No way? Are you drunk?" The actor leaned towards Gong Jie and took a sniff. Then looking up, he met Gong Jie's deep gaze.

He jumped and deliberately distanced himself.

Gong Jie was compelled to take a dig at him. "Am I that scary that you have to keep a distance from me?"

"Uh..."

Drunk people liked to cause trouble. Of course, he had to keep a distance. Moreover, Gong Jie was such a violent man. What if he got drunk and out of control, and beat him up?

Looking nervous, the actor said, "Calm down."

"How am I not calm?"

"Then... since you've had so much to drink, you should go back to your room and rest early!"

"What makes you think I've had too much to drink?"

...

I can tell from just how much you're talking!

Of course, the actor did not dare to say it aloud. Wouldn't he be courting death by saying that to Gong Jie's face?

"You like Alice?"

The actor was stunned by the man's sudden question.

"What?"

"Alice is a scary woman."

...

In the room, Alice came out of the shower, sneezing loudly as she walked out in a bathrobe.

"Who's bad-mouthing me?" Muttering to herself, she headed for the bed.

...

“What’s scary about her?”

“You know what her greatest interest is?”

The actor’s curiosity was piqued. “What?”

“Dissection!”

“...”

“She is particularly interested in studying human anatomy. She has dissected countless corpses.”

“...”

“She used to cut her steaks with a scalpel.”

“Ugh...” The actor almost threw up when he heard that.

“I’m not interested in Alice.”

“Eh?” Gong Jie raised an eyebrow and gave him a sidelong glance. “Then why were you chatting with her for so long?”

“Ooooh...” He finally understood. This man must be secretly in love with Alice, which was why he was a little jealous over the time he spent chatting with Alice!

Was this an interrogation!?

“Don’t worry, I won’t fight you for her.” Hua Jin assured him solemnly.

This time, it was Gong Jie’s turn to be confused.

What did he mean by that? Not fighting him? Fighting him for what exactly?

“Don’t worry, I’ll definitely keep a distance from Alice in the future.” Hua Jin assured the man again.

Gong Jie was satisfied to hear this.

“Have an early night!” With that, the man left.

Hua Jin looked at Gong Jie’s departing figure with a confused expression. “What a weirdo.”

As the actor entered his room, he recalled Gong Jie’s inscrutable expression. The more he thought about it, the more puzzling it seemed.

...

After resting at sea for a few days, Yun Shishi’s wound healed very quickly. She told Mu Yazhe that she would like to stay on the island for a few more days. Coincidentally, that was what the twins were hoping for as well, but there were matters he had to settle at the Shengyu Group.

Hence, the man booked a flight home.

The period of time on the island was very much like a vacation. Yun Shishi knew that Gong Shaoying was also on this island, however, the man had not made an appearance. Perhaps it was because he was

worried about her or conscious that she might not wish to see him. Yun Shishi knew that he was avoiding her, but she also understood that he was doing it for her sake.

This one particular day, she suddenly told Gong Jie, "I wish to meet with him."

"Him?" After a moment of being stunned, the man quickly realized that she was referring to Gong Shaoying.

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"Why the sudden wish to see Father?" Gong Jie was pleasantly surprised. He gripped her shoulders in disbelief. "Have you decided to forgive Father?"

Instead of answering, Yun Shishi gave him a long look. "The relationship between him and me is very complicated. However, I've vowed to myself that if Youyou should come out of it all safe and sound, I'll choose to let things go and not bear any grudges. Now that it has come to pass, perhaps it's heaven's will that I forgive him."

"You..." Gong Jie felt gratified. "Don't you hate him anymore?"

"I do. It's impossible not to." Yun Shishi sighed and turned to look out at the boundless sea. "In the past, I was overly hostile, I have to admit. At that time, I blamed him for all my misfortunes."

But she knew very well. All the good and bad events in her life were that man's doing. She was orphaned because of him. However, it was also thanks to him that she crossed paths with the Mu family.

Everything that happened after that, even becoming involved with Mu Yazhe, were all because of him.

However, while she hated him for all that misfortunes, she hadn't been grateful to him for the good things that had happened. She wanted to punish him with such unfairness, but in fact, they were the ones who suffered in the end.

There was no winner between the two of them. She decided to let go of all grudges. If nothing else, for her family's sake. Hostility was not good for her body and heart.

Mu Yazhe was aware of her decision. She had already spoken to him in advance and asked for his opinion. What objections could he have? After all, Gong Shaoying was her biological father.

Blood is thicker than water. There are some ties in life that can never be severed.

He had certain opinions about his father-in-law, nevertheless. His own son had been disadvantaged by his grandfather, and badly too. As a son-in-law, there was a limit to his tolerance, no matter what.

However, when Yun Shishi indicated that she had decided to forgive the man and asked for his opinion, he said, "This is a feud between you and your father, it's not for me to get involved. However, I'll be supportive of whatever decision you make."

Hence, he left Hurricane Island ahead of time and returned home so that the father and daughter had the space to settle this matter.

Gong Jie said, "If you really wish to meet him, I can arrange for it immediately."

“There’s no need to make arrangements. Where is he? I’ll go see him.”

Surprised by her initiative, Gong Jie nodded. He made a call. “Jed, where’s Father?”

Hurricane Island was huge. There were cameras installed all over. Jed was the designer in-charge of security. He was able to locate the movement of anyone immediately.

“His lordship is in the castle.” He reported Gong Shaoying’s location, and asked no further questions.

Gong Jie took Yun Shishi to the castle. Upon arriving, he took her to the living room then went to the study on the third floor to look for Gong Shaoying.

In the study, Gong Shaoying was in a daze, staring at a photograph on the desk. It was a family photo of Yun Shishi, Mu Yazhe and their family. Gong Jie and Hua Jin were in the picture, but he was not. This family photo was one brought back by Gong Jie. He had made an extra copy for Gong Shaoying.

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He had made an extra copy for Gong Shaoying.

From then on, this photograph became a replacement for Mu Qingcheng. It was framed and placed on his desk. This was a spot that he would look at often. Every time he felt tired, he would reach for the photograph and look at it for a while. His fingers would caress those faces one by one. Youyou’s face, Little Yichen’s face, Yueyao’s face...

He could never abandon thoughts of them. Other than that, he had no other thoughts.

Initially, he was very obsessed with reconciling with Yun Shishi. He wanted to reunite with her, no matter what it took, and he would stop at nothing until he got what he wanted. However, he had seen all the pain that his decision had caused her. It was impossible not to feel vexed.

He realized how selfish he was being. It was because of his selfishness that Mu Qingcheng never had the chance to see him for the last time. It was because of his selfishness that his daughter, whom he cared about the most, had wandered lost for so many years. However, he had hurt her again and again because of his ignorance.

He finally understood.

What was reconciliation? Compared to his daughter’s happiness, it was nothing.

Hence, he no longer pursued this act of acknowledgment. As long as she could live a peaceful and happy life, he would not ask for more. He did not expect to be forgiven. Even for the fact that, if Yun Shishi didn’t forgive him for the rest of her life, it would have been an even greater regret than what had happened with Mu Qingcheng.

However, he had brought this upon himself, so he could not blame others. Even if she really did not forgive him, it was only right. He wasn’t going to insist.

He was engrossed in the family portrait when a voice suddenly came from beside him.

“Father...”

He was startled by Gong Jie's voice.

Gong Shaoying raised his head in surprise. When he realized that Gong Jie had entered at some point, he looked solemn at once.

"Why did you come in without knocking?"

Gong Jie was indignant. "I did, but you didn't hear me."

Gong Shaoying was speechless. This kid was really getting more and more impudent. In the past, he had always been respectful and well-mannered.

Embarrassed, Gong Shaoying placed the family portrait back in its original position. Clearing his throat, he asked, "Has your sister... left?"

"No."

"Oh? How long is she planning to stay on the island?"

Gong Jie was skeptical when he heard this. "Father, are you so keen for her to leave quickly?"

"Cough..." Gong Shaoying glared at him awkwardly. "Why should I be keen for her to leave? She may stay as long as she likes."

He could afford to look after her for the rest of his life. He could even support Mu Yazhe's Shengyu Group, let alone Yun Shishi.

He feigned nonchalance and said, "If she likes this place, let her stay here for a while longer! This is a beautiful place. It's a good place for a vacation."

Gong Shaoying sounded as if he were introducing a holiday destination. The way he feigned nonchalance tickled Gong Jie and the man was greatly amused, although his heart ached at the same time.

It was inconvenient for him to initiate it but as a father, he would have wanted Yun Shishi to stay for a few more days. This feeling was like being at ease knowing that his daughter was on the island, even if he could not see her.

Ever since he turned 50, he had felt this way.

For some people, opportunities to meet are finite.

Life was approaching a countdown gradually. And his vigor was slowly seeping away.

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There were too many regrets. As time advanced, he increasingly cherished the little episodes of happiness in life.

There was a sense of relief that she was by his side. Even if he couldn't see her, it didn't matter.

It was inconvenient for Gong Shaoying to show too much concern, so he could only indirectly ask, "Does she like this place?"



“Does she find it easy to adapt here?”

“Sometimes the sea breeze is strong and the waves are strong. As a man, you have to protect your sister.”

...

The man’s questions revealed how meticulous he was. Gong Jie felt the urge to cry.

He had never seen this side of Gong Shaoying. He was so carefully asking for information about her. He wanted to give her the best he could and wanted her to stay on the island a little longer. It was as though the tiniest detail that annoyed her would vex him. He was a devoted father who poured his heart out to give her the best.

“Why don’t you ask her yourself?”

“Ask her?” He smiled helplessly. “She hates me so much. How can I possibly make an appearance in front of her? I’ve failed as a father. As her younger brother, don’t let her suffer anymore, understand?”

“Father, there’s no need to pass down orders like an army officer. If she doesn’t forgive you, will you avoid her for the rest of your life?”

The older man was displeased at this. “In what ways am I avoiding her?”

“Otherwise, why haven’t you met up with her since she’s been here?”

Gong Shaoying replied somewhat angrily, “So what if I had met with her? At that time, she had been worried about Youyou, so I didn’t dare to interrupt her. Besides, I’m the last person she wants to see. What if she left in a huff upon seeing me?”

“Is that why you’re like a tortoise hiding in its shell, locking yourself in the study and looking at the family portrait by yourself?” His words were a little unpleasant to the ears.

Gong Shaoying was displeased. “There’s something wrong with your tone today. What are you trying to do? Infuriate me?”

“I just came to tell you...” He bent over slightly and stared into his father’s eyes. “If she wishes to see you, would you be willing to see her?”

Gong Shaoying was stunned when he heard that. “She... she wishes to see me?”

“Yeah.”

Gong Shaoying was instantly nonchalant. “How is that possible?! Who are you fooling?! How could it be possible that she wishes to see me?”

“What’s in it for me to lie to you?”

Gong Jie shrugged innocently. “Besides, she’s downstairs. You’ll know if I’m lying by going over to take a look. Or are you afraid to go?”

“I...” The man froze. He asked indirectly, “Why does she want to see me?!”

“You have to ask yourself. It’s not appropriate for me to interfere in the matters between father and daughter!” With that, he raised his wrist to look at his watch. “She said she’s willing to wait for you for 30 minutes. If you don’t wish to see her, she’ll leave. Father, do as you see fit.”

With that, Gong Jie left.

Gong Shaoying glared at the young man’s disappearing back view in anger. “This rascal has no sense of propriety!”

Following that, he found himself lacking confidence regarding Yun Shishi’s wish to meet with him. He had no idea why she wanted to see him.

Could it be...

She had discovered that he sometimes secretly watched her through the surveillance cameras?

During this period of time, he had been making trips to the surveillance room “unintentionally”, switching cameras back and forth to search for her.

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What else could it be? Gong Shaoying could not think of anything else.

He did not dare to meet her rashly. For some reason, he was actually very afraid of his daughter. His heart was really too fragile to be hurt. If they met again, and in that meeting she should mock and ridicule him, and make it clear that she would never interact with him again, where would place the shards of his broken heart?

But even so, he could not bring himself to refuse a meeting. If he did, that rascal Gong Jie would definitely laugh at him for being a coward.

He figured it out. He decided to meet her. He changed his clothes and tidied up his appearance as if he were going to an important negotiation. This time round, he had to leave a good impression on his daughter.

This was a father who carefully wanted to protect his own dignity. At the same time, he also wanted to present a perfect image of himself to his beloved daughter. Although he had imagined the worst, he hoped for a place in her heart despite this.

Gong Shaoying tidied himself up and went out, only to realize that thirty minutes had passed. Gong Jie had mentioned that she was in the reception room. Almost losing his composure, he hurried towards the living room with the help of his cane.

He walked into the living room to find that there was no one there. He looked around but did not see anyone. He could not help feeling disappointed. More than 30 minutes had passed. She had probably left!

She had given him a 30-minute grace period. She wasn’t willing to wait another minute.

The man suddenly felt rather irritated at himself for having wasted so much time on his appearance. Now that she was gone, he felt a little depressed. He sighed and turned to leave.

From behind him, Yun Shishi's gentle voice rang out. "Since you're here, aren't you going to sit down for a while?"

The man's back stiffened. He turned around in surprise, to see Yun Shishi walking out of the washroom. She looked at him calmly as she wiped her hands with a handkerchief.

The reason why he did not see her earlier was because she went to the washroom to wash her hands. When she returned, she was a little surprised to see that he was about to leave.

"I didn't see you... just then. I thought... you had already left."

He seemed a little embarrassed and nervous coming face to face with her, so much so that the usual confidence in his speech was missing. In the past, no matter whom he faced, he always felt superior. It was the same even when facing her. Knowing that she was alive, he wanted to project the dignity and aura of a father when he went to see her.

But that is human nature. One wouldn't treasure what one has never lost.

Now, there was no need for him to project that air of finesse. He was nervous enough just speaking carefully in her presence.

"Aren't you going to take a seat? I made tea. It's getting cold now." Yun Shishi took the lead and sat down on the sofa. She had already made a pot of tea on the coffee table. "There's a lot of good tea on the island. I've never even seen some of these teas before."

He took advantage of this topic to break the ice. "Do you prefer black tea or green tea?"

"Whether it's black tea or green tea, I won't reject any of them. However, compared to green tea, I prefer black tea. Especially in winter, making a cup of Jin Junmei and Qimen warms me up."

"I like black tea too."

"I heard from Xiao Jie that you actually prefer coffee?"

He nodded lightly.

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Yun Shishi continued, "Just like my mother, she loved coffee, but it was so expensive back then that she often made flower teas instead."

"Flower teas?"

"Yeah." It was rare for her to talk to him about her childhood. "I remember when I was young, we lived in a very small and simple one-bedroom apartment. It was a typical run-down neighborhood. It wasn't big. The rent of 300 yuan a month was very expensive for us at that time. Although it was a one-bedroom apartment and the room and living room were huge, because there were three of us, Mom arranged a small bed in the living room to train Xiao Jie to be independent. Mom and I slept in the bedroom. The kitchen and the bathroom were tiny. As a kid, I would squeeze into a bathtub with Xiao Jie to shower. At the time I had ill health and often caught colds. While the house was small, the garden was huge."

“The garden?”

!!

She nodded. “Yes. I remember that when we first moved in, the garden had been abandoned for a long time. It was called a garden, but it was actually just a surrounding flower terrace. However, it was filled with weeds and withered leaves. Mom was very satisfied when she saw the flower bed. Although 300 yuan was expensive, she didn’t hesitate to go ahead with it.”

Gong Shaoying replied, “Your mother loves flowers and plants.”

“Yes, she’s especially particular about these things. After moving in, she spent a day tidying up the house and another day tidying up the flower terrace.”

“Oooh...”

Following Yun Shishi’s description, he felt a little more at ease. He could not help but imagine the layout of the rental house with three of them in it and the small but heartwarming garden.

“Everyday was exhausting for Mom, because she had to take care of us. She could not work at the factory. Moreover, at that time, the Mu family was trying to hunt her down. She was afraid, so she stayed home and took on jobs washing clothes for people. She sewed, baby-sat, sometimes, she’d take on odd jobs.”

”

At the mention of Mu Qingcheng, memories came flooding back. Even after so many years, her mother’s voice and appearance were fresh in her mind. Every memory of her frown and smile made Yun Shishi yearn for her.

Gong Shaoying asked, “What sort of odd jobs?”

“Small components assembly. You get paid according to the number of parts you make. 50 cents for each component you put together. Mom had to make 100 components everyday. Although you can earn 50 yuan a day, making 100 of those was really tiring.”

Upon hearing this, the man frowned slightly, as if in deep thought.

50 yuan... At that time, it might have just been a dessert for him.

“However, Mom was especially optimistic. No matter how tired or bitter she was, she never showed it in front of us. Sometimes, when she couldn’t get a job, she would happily go to the back garden to take care of her flowers and plants. However, most of the time, she liked to sit by the window and look out. Only, we really don’t know what she was looking at.”

“...”

“Later, I found out. She was by the window, waiting for someone.”

She was like a stubborn soldier, even though covered in wounds and exhausted, she hung on and defended the last city.

The man's heart ached when he heard that, and he sighed.

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"I still remember, the neighborhood was actually quite chaotic. It was actually a slum area. There were also many foreign workers that came in to work, but many drug addicts and ex-convicts lived there. When Mom made her way home from buying groceries, there were often people whistling at her. Every night, she was afraid and would secure the door with several locks. Sometimes, in the dead of night, strangers would knock on the door. Mom was so frightened that she would hide under the blanket and hold me while trembling. However, only Xiao Jie would sleep soundly every time."

Gong Shaoying listened attentively. He did not expect her to be willing to tell him these things. These were exactly the stories he wanted to hear! He especially wanted to know how she had spent that period of time. She must have had a rough time with the two children in tow. Every time he thought of this, his heart ached.

But what was the use of heartache? She was already dead.

Yun Shishi continued, "I remember that there was a period of time when all the neighbors were in a state of panic because a murder had taken place in the neighborhood. A prostitute died in a rented house. It was said that she got involved with a customer who was a drug addict. As soon as he entered her house, his drug addiction acted up and he asked her for drugs. She wasn't in this business at all, so how would she have drugs for him? That customer went crazy and brutally killed her. The corpse was left in the rented house, and no one knew. The prostitute also had a child. She was only three years old at that time. The police investigation revealed that seven days later, the neighbor smelled a stench and called the police. When they arrived, they found the woman lying in the living room, and the bedroom door was locked. Every time she had a transaction, the woman would lock the child in a room. For seven days, no one knew about him, and the child starved to death."

!!

These stories were unheard of and unimaginable to people of Gong Shaoying's status.

"At that time, many people said that the murderer was some perverse person who was out to take revenge on society, especially on women who lived alone and had children. These were his targets. Before the case was solved, the entire neighborhood was rife with rumors. Mom was especially afraid, so she hired someone to change the doors and windows."

"It was hard being alone with two kids, having no man at home to take care of you."

Gong Shaoying paused in confusion. "Had your mother never thought of getting married?"

"Getting married?" Yun Shishi could not help giving a smirk when she heard this. "You should know my mother better than I do. Getting married? Sure, she would never have a problem finding a suitor. No matter what, she was a beautiful woman. Those who liked her, no matter their statuses, were dazzled by her beauty. But then, it would mean Xiao Jie and I would have a stepfather. She was unwilling to marry someone else, and unwilling to have us suffer. She thought that the wait for the man she loved would not be in vain, and that the man would not let her down."

"I didn't let her down!"

"I thought that she was unwilling to leave with me, so I was very disappointed. I had no idea that she was kept at home by force. That she secretly gave birth to you and Xiao Jie was something that I found only later."

"Yeah."

Yun Shishi's eyes reddened as she asked sadly, "But didn't she send you a letter? Why, why didn't you come to her immediately?"

"..."

The man was speechless. At that time, he was not able to leave.

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That was a crucial move.

She couldn't leave him.

He thought that there would be no problem even if there was a delay. It would not be too late to look her up after he was done with the work he had to do. And that business became the cornerstone of the future Hurricane Group.

But... because of this thought he had, he lost the love of his life...

!!

Who would have known, he had always been confident, but this was the one decision that became the greatest regret of his life!

He didn't go.

"You loved your empire and the beauty, but between the two, you chose your empire, and my mother died without a status."

Yun Shishi said with an aching heart, "Even in her final moments of despair, she kept calling your name. I heard it, but you never came."

His lips trembled violently. The thought of this made his heart ache and he'd feel suffocated every time.

"I'm sorry..." Gong Shaoying was overwhelmed with guilt. He could no longer remember how many times he had apologized.

Whenever he looked at the photograph, sometimes staring out of the window into the sky. sometimes, when he would dream of her... whenever he thought of her, he would feel guilty and apologize.

But he couldn't remember how many times he had apologized.

Yun Shishi was unmoved by his words and shook her head gently.

"I'm not here to blame you. Besides, there's no need for you to apologize to me. Fate is sometimes like dominoes. There's a missing link in the middle, and the outcome is different. It's also because of you

that I met my true love later and had three adorable children. However, Father, you shouldn't feel that you owe me anything. It's Mother whom you owe."

Father...

Gong Shaoying did not react at first, but he was really too sensitive to the word "father", and was stunned when he heard this!

He looked up at her in disbelief.

She looked back at him calmly, with a faint smile on her lips. A smile of relief, of peace, of gentleness, with a hint of mockery.

"I initially thought that I'd never say this word to your face." She paused before continuing, "Not only did you hurt my mother, but you also hurt Youyou and Gong Fan. You even hurt Little Yichen. Logically speaking, I shouldn't forgive you. I shouldn't forgive you in this lifetime."

Gong Shaoying gulped. He had always been an arrogant man, but now that he was sitting in front of his daughter, he did not dare to speak.

He was afraid that if he said the wrong thing, he'd make her angry again!

However, at this moment, he had too many doubts in his heart.

What was this.

She called him "Father" ...

Did that mean that she was willing to acknowledge him as her father?

Gong Shaoying was excited, uneasy, speculative, and suspicious. The subtle caution in his eyes made her heart ache.

"Mother would want me to acknowledge you. Sometimes, in my dreams, I dream of her. She'll be standing in front of me, smiling slightly. Looking at her is like seeing myself. The reason why I have such a deep impression of her appearance is because I really look like her. Perhaps this is also a kind of inheritance. Back then, even in such a difficult environment where she lived in hiding for so long. She insisted on giving birth to me and Xiao Jie for the sake of passing on her life. Even if she's not around anymore, she hopes that Xiao Jie and I can be by your side."

Gong Shaoying's eyes reddened.