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The female sales assistant smiled. "I didn't say anything, ma'am."

"I heard you. You said that I didn't have self-awareness." Wang Tingxue was evidently upset. She could not accept others saying such things about her!

The sales assistant continued to smile. "You must have heard wrong, ma'am. I really didn't say anything."

"I'm not deaf, alright? I heard you." Wang Tingxue's face gradually became red. She nudged Sang Yu and asked, "Didn't you hear her too?"

The latter pursed her lips and remained silent for a while. She pulled Wang Tingxue with her and urged, "Come on, let's go."

She had indeed heard what the sales assistant had said. However, if Sang Yu spoke the truth, Wang Tingxue would definitely start an argument, and she did not want that to happen.

It was evident that the sales assistant was a rather judgmental person. Sang Yu would not stoop to her level and argue with her. She was very much different from Wang Tingxue in this manner. While Sang Yu did not come from a wealthy family, she still lived comfortably and financially supported herself from a young age. Furthermore, she had been treated with disdain on many occasions.

She knew that the best way to deal with such people was to merely ignore them. It was probably the best treatment that they could be afforded.

On the other hand, Wang Tingxue would not allow herself to be criticized in such a manner.

"I heard you say it! Don't think that I didn't! You'd better apologize or I'll pursue the matter!" Wang Tingxue raised her voice. "Where is your boss? Or your manager? I want to lodge a complaint!"

Another sales assistant quickly came over to help resolve the impending brawl. "She really didn't say anything, ma'am. Since you don't intend to buy anything, shall I show you out?"

"So what if I don't buy anything? That's because I didn't like the necklace! How can she say that of me?" Wang Tingxue's face was red with anger by now.

The sales assistant who had earlier handled Wang Tingxue stared at her. "Did I say anything wrong? Can you even afford the necklace? Well, if you buy it now, I will apologize to you immediately!" She was confident that Wang Tingxue would not have the money and spoke arrogantly.

Naturally, the latter panicked as her face became increasingly flushed.

"Why? Giving me the silent treatment now?" The sales assistant immediately knew that her hunch was correct as she soon became ruder. "Just say that you can't afford it. Why pretend? What a materialistic woman."

Wang Tingxue's blood was boiling and she was on the verge of tears.

"Sang Yu, is that you?" Lin Xinyan stood at the entrance. She passed by the store earlier and thought that she saw Sang Yu inside. It was indeed her upon closer look.

Didn't Shen Peichuan say that she was busy with lessons? Why would she be here?

Sang Yu turned around and spotted Lin Xinyan walking in. "Xinyan, it's you."

The latter nodded slightly and looked around. "Are you here to buy something?"

Sang Yu shook her head and replied, "No, I'm here with a friend."

"Oh. Don't you have lessons?" she probed.

"No," Sang Yu uttered.

Lin Xinyan sighed internally. Did Shen Peichuan and her argue again? That's why she lied to him and said that she was busy?

"I'm here to shop too. Why don't you come to my place later for dinner?" Lin Xinyan intentionally wanted Shen Peichuan to know that Sang Yu was angry with him. He was gone for about a month and it was rare that they could spend time together. If they argue now, it will be such a waste of precious time!

Sang Yu pursed her lips. "But my friend..."

Lin Xinyan took a step further into the shop and asked, "What's wrong?"

Her chauffeur followed her in. He was not merely a driver, rather, he was also her bodyguard.

Sang Yu tugged at Wang Tingxue's hands and persuaded, "Come on, Tingxue. Let's go. We don't have to stoop to her level."

Wang Tingxue wiped her cheeks, bowed her head, and kept silent.

For a brief moment, Lin Xinyan's gaze landed on the fiery-eyed female sales assistant before moving to Sang Yu's friend. Judging from the situation, she could roughly guess what had just transpired.

With a smile, she spoke to Sang Yu, "Ah, I almost forgot! Peichuan and you have just gotten married and I have yet to even give you guys a wedding gift! Since we are all here today, why don't you pick something for yourself, Sang Yu? I will pay for it. Take it as a present from me."

Sang Yu quickly shook her head and rejected her offer. "No, no, it's alright."

Everything here is expensive. I can't get Xinyan to buy me something so expensive.

"Don't worry about it. I suppose that you're aware of how close Peichuan and Jinghao are. That means that you are family too. Come on, pick something you like."

Just as she spoke, she walked over to the display case. As a wealthy woman, she behaved confidently and assertively. A casual act of standing over the display case was sufficient to showcase her aura.

She pointed to one of the necklaces and demanded, "Let me take a look at that."

The sales assistant who argued with Wang Tingxue earlier immediately put on a smile and did as she was told.

"Sang Yu, come here and try it on." Lin Xinyan waved her over.

Sang Yu pulled Wang Tingxue over.

Then, Lin Xinyan put on the necklace for Sang Yu.

Lin Xinyan had good taste in jewelry. The necklace that she chose was a thin chain with a clover-leave-shaped pendant made out of red agate. It was dainty, intricate, and it looked very good for someone of Sang Yu's age. In addition to that, Sang Yu's skin tone accentuated the color of the pendant.

Sang Yu looked at her gratefully. She really liked this necklace and had eyed it for a long time. Nonetheless, she never expected Lin Xinyan to immediately pick it out for her, getting her to try it on.

"Do you like it?" Lin Xinyan held up a mirror in front of her.

Sang Yu wore a V-neck white T-shirt today which revealed her collarbone. She also put on a jacket with a more relaxed fit, and her outfit matched the necklace perfectly.

Wang Tingxue rubbed the corners of her eyes and chimed in. "You look nice in it."

After a moment's thought, Sang Yu pointed to the necklace that Wang Tingxue had tried on earlier. "Can I try this too?"

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The sales assistant was momentarily stunned, as her eyes darted to Wang Tingxue.

Lin Xinyan asked her, "Is there a problem?"

The sales assistant acceded to her request enthusiastically and took out the necklace once more.

Sang Yu put on the necklace. It was rather similar to the one that she had tried on earlier—both had a thin chain with a simple pendant. However, the pendants were slightly different in shape and material. Overall, the beauty of both necklaces was apparent.

After all, Sang Yu was well-groomed and fair. Any dainty necklace would suit her.

Lin Xinyan saw that both necklaces looked good on her. Hence, she left the decision to Sang Yu. "Which one do you like better?"

"This one."

She still wanted to get justice for Wang Tingxue. No matter what, the female sales assistant should not have said that of any customer.

Perhaps Wang Tingxue's behavior was a little inappropriate as she merely tried the necklace without ever intending to buy it. However, there was no reason to launch a personal attack on her.

Anyone in the sales or service industry should never lash out like that at a customer.

Neither of them came from wealth. Why make each other's lives difficult?

If she were truly rich, she would not have been working as a salesperson here.

Lin Xinyan nodded. "Alright, this one it is then." She fished out a card from her purse and placed it on the display case.

The salesperson quickly took it. "Please give me a moment."

Soon after, she brought the card with her to the cashier.

Before she left, she still shot an indignant glare at Wang Tingxue. How can such a person have such wealthy friends?

Lin Xinyan's attire looked simple and she was not branded in luxury goods from head to toe. However, one could tell that she came from wealth. Furthermore, she had a chauffeur-cum-driver following her around, which instantly gave her rich vibes.

Very swiftly, the sales assistant returned with the receipt and a smile. "Shall I box that up for you?"

Lin Xinyan looked at the necklace that was still on Sang Yu's neck and said, "She can just wear it. Keep the receipt and warranty card in a box."

"Sure." The sales assistant packed everything up in a nice shopping bag and passed it to her. "I hope to see you again soon."

Lin Xinyan took the bag, gave her a faint smile, and urged, "Let's go."

Sang Yu brought Wang Tingxue out with her.

After they stepped away from the store, Sang Yu finally remarked, "I think that this is too expensive."

This costs close to ten thousand. I have never worn something so expensive before.

Lin Xinyan just grinned. "As long as you like it."

After a moment's hesitation, Sang Yu asked if it was Zong Jinghao's money.

Lin Xinyan replied, "It's my own money."

She held a majority of the shares in Wanyue Group. One could say that I am a secretly rich woman!

Zong Jinghao was merely one of her employees who managed her company. No matter how much he earned, it would all go back to her as a shareholder anyway.

Sang Yu admitted, "I'll like to be like you in the future. An independent woman."

Lin Xinyan replied, "Well, what's mine is his, and what's his is mine. There's no need to be so calculative since we are husband and wife. Did you and Peichuan argue?"

She tried to sound her out.

Sang Yu shook her head. "We're doing good."

Evidently, Lin Xinyan did not believe her. However, she decided not to probe into the matter further as she simply told her, "Well, I still have some shopping to do. Do you want to come with me?"

"Yes." Wang Tingxue thought that it would be nice to hang out with someone like Lin Xinyan.

Sang Yu agreed. "At least you'll have the two of us to accompany you. We can chit-chat and help you pick out some nice things later."

"Let's go then," Lin Xinyan agreed.

Hence, what was supposed to be a solo shopping trip turned into an outing for the trio.

Wang Tingxue and Sang Yu followed Lin Xinyan around.

"This is really beautiful," Wang Tingxue remarked as she reached out to touch the necklace. "That sales assistant was so judgmental. I swear that I shall make so much money next time!"

Sang Yu nodded. "We can do it."

She wanted to achieve the same too. Not only that, but she also aimed to help children in need by building schools for them.

Lin Xinyan strolled into a kids' clothes shop. Wang Tingxue nudged Sang Yu and asked, "Does she have children?"

Sang Yu smiled and asked her friend, "Doesn't she look to be our age?"

"She does look quite young." Wang Tingxue nodded vehemently.

"She actually has three children— a pair of twins and a son. The twins are already in elementary school. Such beautiful children too! Her youngest child is a son and he looks really cute."

Sang Yu spoke as though they were her own children as she sounded very proud of them.

Wang Tingxue continued to glance at Lin Xinyan discreetly as she probed further, "Is she very rich? She even has a bodyguard."

Sang Yu nodded. "Her husband is the boss of Wanyue Group."

Instantly, Wang Tingxue's eyes went wide as her jaw became agape. After a moment, she recalled something and asked, "So, she was the one who married him in that lavish wedding?"

Sang Yu nodded once more.

Wang Tingxue covered her mouth in shock and jealousy. "How does she have such a blessed and privileged life?"

Her husband is both rich and handsome.

Sang Yu slapped her head lightly. "Don't be jealous. We aren't like her. Just study hard and work hard."

Wang Tingxue burst into a chuckle upon hearing this. It was as though she had already forgotten about the brawl from the jewelry store. With a smile, she told Sang Yu, "Look at her. She still looks so good after giving birth to three children. Many women aren't able to

keep themselves in good shape after labor. How is she still so slender? She looks just like us!"

Sang Yu shrugged. "No idea. Maybe she just has good genes."

Wang Tingxue twisted her lips. "Ugh! How can any woman not be jealous and envious of her genes?"

"You forgot something else," Sang Yu reminded her with a smile.

"What is it?" Wang Tingxue turned to look at her.

"Not only does she have a good figure, but she is also very fair," Sang Yu noted.

Wang Tingxue blinked a few times before a depressed look crept onto her face. With a discouraged tone, she murmured, "Man, we are all women. Nonetheless, look at me..."

She bowed her head to examine herself. Unlike Lin Xinyan, she was not considered fair. Fortunately, however, she still possessed a decent figure.

Meanwhile, Lin Xinyan's skin still looked as smooth as silk even after she had given birth. *Indeed, comparisons are odious!*

"What are you two talking about? Come over and help me take a look at this." Lin Xinyan held up a red hoodie in kid's size. She initially wanted to ask for their thoughts but turned around to see the two ladies still standing at the entrance, whispering to each other.

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"Yes, yes. Coming!" Wang Tingxue brisk-walked into the store with Sang Yu.

Lin Xinyan grinned as she observed them. "Talking about me behind my back?"

Sang Yu just gave her a faint smile. "Tingxue merely wondered if you had kids since you were buying kids' clothes. I told her that you are a mother of three and she commented that you looked so young!"

"Also, that you are very beautiful," Wang Tingxue quickly added.

Lin Xinyan simply smiled slightly as she heard this. After all, she was human, and any human would be secretly glad that others appreciated them for their beauty— it was just that she did not make it obvious through her facial expressions.

"Is this for the boy?" Wang Tingxue noted that the red hoodie that she held up looked to be for boys.

Lin Xinyan nodded.

The sales assistant chimed in, "This hoodie would look good with black casual pants or jeans."

Lin Xinyan herself was very good with colors. There was, in fact, no need for the sales assistant to tell her what would look good with the hoodie. She was a fashion designer and had a unique eye for clothes. This was also why her children often appeared as though they were very fashionable.

She asked Sang Yu and Wang Tingxue to help because they were young and could offer her a fresh perspective. She wanted to enrich herself by listening to their insights.

Wang Tingxue looked at the mannequin and saw that it was dressed in the same red hoodie with black casual pants.

"I think that it will look good."

Sang Yu nodded. "White sneakers would look nice too."

Wang Tingxue gestured to a pair of chunky sneakers and pointed out, "I think that chunkier sneakers look better."

"No, white canvas sneakers."

The two continued their debate on the matter, while Lin Xinyan just watched them as they enjoyed their time.

How nice it is to be young again!

While she looked young, she was much more emotionally mature than them.

At long last, Lin Xinyan bought two sets of clothes at the store and continued shopping at other stores. She managed to get about two to three sets of new clothes for each kid.

Lin Xinyan got her driver to send Wang Tingxue back to school before heading to the villa with Sang Yu.

The baby was awake when they reached home. *He is so cute, with his big, round eyes!* Sang Yu quickly washed her hands and played with the baby, while Lin Xinyan brought the newly-purchased clothes into the room. Then, she fished out her phone and texted Shen Peichuan: *Come over for dinner.*

At the same moment, Shen Peichuan was alone at home watching TV. It was just a random show about crime and society. Needless to say, he felt quite bored when Sang Yu was not around.

He rushed to pick up the phone as the notification rang. He thought that it was Sang Yu who texted. When he saw that it was Lin Xinyan, he looked a little disappointed. He did not feel like going out and replied: *I don't think I'll be heading over*.

Very quickly, Lin Xinyan sent another message: Sang Yu is here. Your choice.

After sending that message, Lin Xinyan placed her phone down and walked out to the living room. Sang Yu was playing with the baby on the sofa. As she saw Lin Xinyan, she remarked, "He's growing to look more and more like you."

"Really?"

"Yes. They all say that a boy is blessed to look like his mother, and a daughter is blessed to look like her father. It seems like this little one is a very lucky baby!" There was actually no scientific proof to this, and she merely repeated what she had heard from her elders. Nonetheless, it still sounded very auspicious and any parent would appreciate it if their child resembled them.

Lin Xinyan sat down next to her and rubbed her baby's cheeks. She asked Sang Yu, "Are you tired?"

The latter shook her head.

She actually did not feel tired at all. There were seats in almost every store that she had walked into earlier. Not much walking was done.

Lin Xinyan instructed Aunt Yu to prepare a few more dishes, which she immediately acknowledged.

After half an hour, Zong Jinghao returned. Then, Shen Peichuan arrived.

Right after Shen Peichuan received Lin Xinyan's second message, he asked: Why would Sang Yu be at the villa? Isn't she in school? She told me that she was staying at the hostel and that she had no time to come home due to her lessons. Even if she's back, she rarely has time for me. Why would she be with you now?

Lin Xinyan did not check her phone, and hence, she failed to reply to him. The man was too anxious, and he rushed over after not receiving a reply from her.

When he arrived, Lin Xinyan was the one who opened the door for him. He was about to ask what was going on when Lin Xinyan interrupted him and invited him in, "Come in. Sang Yu is here too."

She pretended that it was Shen Peichuan who had visited on his own accord.

Sang Yu almost spat out her water when she saw him at the door. Shen Peichuan is here?

Why is he here?

Instantly, she panicked.

"Sang Yu," Shen Peichuan greeted as he stepped in.

The moment Sang Yu raised her head to look at him, she felt like she was going to cry.

Her gaze darted away from him.

She understood the man well. In fact, based on his personality, she already expected him to behave the way he did. However, it was as though he had vanished into thin air after their moment of intimacy—no calls, no messages.

Even when he contacted her on rare occasions, he behaved very coldly too.

Needless to say, she paid mind to such behavior. She was a maturing young woman and had hoped that the man would shower her with more care and concern.

Lin Xinyan decided not to stay in the living room any longer. She headed upstairs so that the couple could have their space.

Shen Peichuan sat beside Sang Yu. With a low voice, he asked, "Didn't you say that you were busy with school? Why..."

"I have lessons in the day, not at night. In addition to that, I have to eat anyway. I can't just ignore my meals when I have lessons," Sang Yu told him nonchalantly.

Shen Peichuan observed her for a moment and felt as though something was amiss. Locking his gaze onto hers, he asked her once more, "Are you upset at me?"

Sang Yu denied it. "No."

Shen Peichuan did not know what he did wrong either. He just felt a certain tension in the air.

"Sang Yu, you need to tell me if you're unhappy. I'm here to listen, alright?" He finally broke the silence after a while.

Cupping her hands around her mug, Sang Yu replied, "I'm not unhappy. Look at me, I'm still going about my day. Apart from school, I have to intern as well, and my schedule is always full. I wouldn't even have the time to feel unhappy!"

By now, Shen Peichuan could feel that something was really wrong. She never acted like this before. Why do her words sound so sarcastic?

After a moment's thought, he probed again, "Did I do something wrong?"

Sang Yu shook her head.

Right when he wanted to speak again, Zong Jinghao and Lin Xinyan came downstairs. He immediately kept silent as he did not want to embarrass himself. There was no way that he would start a row with Sang Yu as guests of Zong Jinghao's, no matter what happened between them.

Zong Jinghao had already taken a shower and changed into casual clothes. Despite dressing down, his attire still accentuated his broad shoulders and his good figure.

He asked about Shen Peichuan's work.

While the two men chatted, Sang Yu took the opportunity to help out in the kitchen.

Shen Peichuan glanced in her direction as she walked away, and gradually, a slight sadness crept into his eyes.