

Ditsy Wife 21

Chapter 21

Blatant Lies

Sheng Nanxuan paused. He looked at Gong Mo and said, "We'll sign a prenuptial agreement if you want to. I don't have anything to my name anyway, so I'm not worth one."

Fang Yang felt like jumping off a building. Stop telling blatant lies, Boss!

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Gong Mo said, "I... I have nothing either. I have no assets to my name and my house belongs to my mom."

With that said, she began to worry. They were two penniless peasants so were they going to have a no-frills civil wedding without a car, house, reception, rings, or honeymoon? She touched her abdomen and suddenly felt sorry for her child. Don't worry, baby, Mama will work hard to earn money to not let you suffer!

"Ding-dong." The bell rang.

Fang Yang turned to open the door and waitstaff wheeled a meal cart in. "Good afternoon, customers. Here is the lunch you ordered."

"We don't want the wine anymore," said Sheng Nanxuan. "My wife is pregnant."

Wife? Gong Mo turned her head to look at him. How could he say that so naturally?

When she turned her head back, the waitstaff had already placed all kinds of food on the dining table.

Gong Mo tugged at Sheng Nanxuan's sleeve inconspicuously. He cast a glance at the tiny movement she made and a serenity overcame his heart.

“How much does all of this cost?” she whispered.

“Relax, they’ve already been paid for. It’ll be a waste if we don’t eat.”

“They’ve already been paid for?”

“My card was declined. If the meal hasn’t been paid for, Fang Yang would not have placed the order.”

“Well... Well, let’s eat this meal properly, then. We might not have such good meals in the future.”

“...” Why did she sound like she was talking about a “last meal?”

After lunch, Sheng Nanxuan checked out of his presidential suite. Fang Yang followed him out of the hotel.

He explained to Gong Mo, “I was only able to enjoy myself here previously because of Nanxuan and I couldn’t have afforded the presidential suite myself. I’ll find a hotel near your house to stay in and help you prepare your wedding in the meantime.”

Gong Mo was surprised. She asked, puzzled, “Did you not own that car from before?”

“It’s a perk of staying in the presidential suite.”

“Oh...” Gong Mo looked at Sheng Nanxuan. “Don’t be so wasteful next time.”

“Relax, my card has already been frozen.”

“Alright, let’s get in.” Fang Yang waved down a taxi.

“No!” cried Gong Mo.

“Why?”

“How can we take a taxi when we have no money?” She said softly, “Let’s take the train.”

Fang Yang stared at Sheng Nanxuan blankly. The latter said, “Let’s take the train, then.”

Resigned to his fate, Fang Yang carried their luggage and followed them to the train station.

Gong Mo felt a little embarrassed and wanted to help. “Let me help you with that...”

“No way!” Fang Yang was shocked and shrank away from her as though she were a ghost. “I’ll carry these myself!”

Sheng Nanxuan reached out helplessly to carry one of the suitcases.

“Bo—” Fang Yang held on to the luggage. “Nanxuan, let me carry it.”

“This luggage is mine.” Sheng Nanxuan looked at him like he was an idiot.

He released his hand hesitatingly, wiped away his sweat, and muttered, “All this is temporary, right? You won’t settle the score when the time comes, right?”

“You’re so long-winded! Keep up!” Sheng Nanxuan glared at him. “You’re such a huge letdown. You’d better be careful or your boss will dock your pay when you go to work.”

“Ah, ah, ah, I’m coming! Don’t dock my pay!”

“Humph!” Seeing that they were approaching the escalator, Sheng Nanxuan reached out to hold Gong Mo’s arm. “Be careful.”

Gong Mo was surprised and retracted her arm while blushing. He seemed quite gentle.

There were only a few people in their carriage when they boarded the train, so the three of them found some random seats and sat down.

Two stations later, after all the other passengers had already departed, Gong Mo turned to Sheng Nanxuan. “I’ll tell you about my family background, alright?”

“Sure.” Sheng Nanxuan cast Fang Yang a look.

Fang Yang headed to another carriage with luggage in tow.

Chapter 22

Gong Mo’s Family Background

Gong Mo noticed this and asked Sheng Nanxuan teasingly, “Aren’t you close with him?”

“Yeah, you can tell him to do whatever you want. It’s no big deal.” Fang Yang’s salary amounted to a few million per year, so he had no right to complain about being used!

...

“That’s not really nice, is it?” Gong Mo thought that it was better for friends to have mutual respect.

“Enough about that. Let’s talk about your family background. We’ll be arriving soon.”

“Oh!” Gong Mo launched into her speech immediately. “I’m from a single-parent family. My Papa got cancer when I was really little. In order to not burden me and Mama, he left us after leaving us his bankbook and the house.”

“He left you?”

Gong Mo nodded sadly. “The cancer was terminal, so... he had to give up on treatment. We don’t know where he went and we’ve been unable to locate him. Mama and I have given up hope after so many years.”

“Did your mom not remarry?”

Gong Mo shook her head. “Papa left the house to her. My Big Uncle, Third Uncle, and Little Aunt are still around and have forbidden my mom from remarrying, because the house is in my mom’s name. Once my mom remarries, the house will leave the Gong family. They want to keep the house in the family.”

“Heh...” Sheng Nanxuan gave a cold chuckle.

Gong Mo breathed deeply. “Every family has its problems. Anyway, that’s my family for you. They don’t really get along. You’ll definitely bump into them if we get married, so please excuse them in the future.”

“Relax, we won’t be seeing them everyday. I know how to behave and I won’t make you lose face.”

Gong Mo smiled gratefully. “Thanks.”

“Is there anything else?”

“I’m wondering if I should let my mom know if I’m pregnant.”

“Why?”

“No mother would want to see her own daughter at a shotgun wedding. Also... Also, she still thinks I’m dating Donglin.”

“Who told you to date Sheng Donglin?!” Sheng Nanxuan was a little angry.

“How is that any of your business?” Gong Mo was riled up too. “We were fine together until you came along.”

“Ha!” Sheng Nanxuan sneered coldly. “Are you sure about that?”

Gong Mo paled and turned her head away upon hearing this. Sheng Donglin had only been using her. If not for Sheng Nanxuan, Sheng Donglin might have used her to achieve something else.

Sheng Nanxuan noticed that she was now unhappy, but not knowing how to pacify her, he changed the subject to their previous topic. “You’re not going to tell your mom? What if you get morning sickness and become nauseous?”

Gong Mo replied, “Morning sickness usually sets in around the second or third month, right? I’ve just gotten pregnant, so I’ll definitely not experience that. Oh and pregnancy sticks are sometimes inaccurate. We should head to the hospital to confirm it first. We won’t have to go through all this trouble if I’m not pregnant!”

“Why wouldn’t we?” Sheng Nanxuan slid an arm around her shoulder and whispered into her ear. “Do you know how delicious you are? If you’re not pregnant, I’ll make you pregnant very soon.”

“You!” Gong Mo stared at him in disbelief and pushed him away. “You’re immoral!”

“Lower your voice. There are train marshals around and you’ll attract their attention if you shout like that.”

“Even if I attract attention you’ll be the one losing face!”

“You can’t say that. We’re a unit now.”

“Who... who are you saying is a unit with you?” asked a blushing Gong Mo.

“Look at yourself. What are you even thinking?” Sheng Nanxuan pretended to lecture her. “I’m talking about the child. With the child, we’re now a family, so we’re a family unit. If I have a criminal record the child might feel ashamed in the future, don’t you think?”

Chapter 23

I Want to Hang On to You

Gong Mo inhaled deeply and said huffily, “You’re really something!”

“I’m not as bad as your ex-boyfriend...” Sheng Nanxuan grabbed her hand and inspected her ring finger. How large should her wedding ring be?

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Gong Mo knew that he was talking about Sheng Donglin and remembered the video she had recorded. She asked, “Did you know that your big brother wants to do harm to you? That’s why he sent me... he sent me to your room.”

“I know that.” He played with his finger and responded calmly, “I just graduated from university. My plan was to stay in the capital, but my former father asked me to come back. The Sheng Corporation decided to open a branch medicinal company in the capital that will be managed by Sheng Donglin and he was afraid that I would be a threat to his power in the family, so he had to get rid of me. This way, he won’t need to worry about anything else in the future.”

“So you knew all about it!” A surprised Gong Mo then asked, “Why did you come back if you knew this was going to happen? Why did you fall into his trap willingly? Do you know how much you harmed me because of that!”

“I only understood what he was trying to do when I entered the room and saw you. I’m his blood brother, so I didn’t expect him to do this to me. But it was lucky that I came back or something worse might have happened to you. You were drugged that night, after all.”

Fear seized Gong Mo. If she hadn’t been drugged that night, she would definitely have realized that the person next to her wasn’t Donglin. So that meant that... if the person had not been Sheng Nanxuan she would never have been drugged.

“Trust me, he was only with you because he wanted to use you. He doesn’t like you one bit. If it weren’t for me that night, you might have been r*ped by another man or even multiple men.”

Upon thinking about what could have happened, a wave of hatred rose in Sheng Nanxuan’s heart and he couldn’t help but clench his fist. He would definitely get Sheng Donglin back for what he did to his Gong Mo!

Gong Mo exhaled in pain.

Sheng Nanxuan released his hand immediately and caressed it gently. “You’re lucky to have met me. If it were someone else, they might not be willing to take responsibility for you.”

“Other people wouldn’t try to hang onto me like that!”

Sheng Nanxuan laughed. “Hang on to you? That’s a good way of expressing it. I want to hang onto you.”

Gong Mo stared at him incredulously. This guy was nuts!

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Mama Gong used to work in a clothing factory. After Papa Gong went missing, she kept getting harassed by the factory manager, so she quit and started her own business. She owned a clothing retail business now. She had started out with a street stall at first and it grew into a brick-and-mortar store. She used to sell women’s clothes, and Big Uncle’s wife, Third Uncle’s wife, and Little Aunt always went there to buy clothes. They always demanded discounts but were never happy with them until the clothes were given to them for free!

After that, Mama Gong started selling children’s clothing. When she first started, Third Uncle’s children were already grown up and could not wear children’s clothes. Because Third Uncle’s children had no children of their own yet, they could not take advantage of her either.

The children's clothing shop was located outside the neighborhood so Gong Mo had to pass it every time she went home. She led Sheng Nanxuan inside shyly. Other than Mama Gong, there was a shop assistant in the store.

The pair walked over. Mama Gong tugged at Gong Mo and asked, "You're off work? It's not even 5 o'clock yet. Why are you off so early?"

The shop assistant asked Sheng Nanxuan, "Would you like to buy children's clothes? Are you buying for your child or as a gift? Is it for a boy or a girl?"

Gong Mo noticed that her voice sounded sweeter than usual. Turning around, she found the assistant staring infatuatedly at Sheng Nanxuan and understood what was happening immediately. Sheng Nanxuan was a lady-killer and the assistant must have fallen under his spell.

Sheng Nanxuan looked towards Gong Mo's abdomen. "I'm not sure yet."

Upon hearing this, Gong Mo tried to kick him.

Mama Gong was shocked. "What are you doing? The customer is God!"

Chapter 24

Unknown Moral Character

"He's not a customer!" explained Gong Mo hurriedly, afraid that Mama Gong would hit her.

Sheng Nanxuan smiled and said to Mama Gong, "Hello Auntie, I'm Gong Mo's boyfriend."

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Upon hearing this, Mama Gong was stunned. After a few seconds, she snapped out of it and pushed Gong Mo towards the storeroom.

Once they were inside, Mama Gong asked, "What's going on? Isn't your boyfriend Sheng Donglin? Are you two-timing?"

"I broke up with Sheng Donglin a while back," said Gong Mo faintly. "You were right. He was only toying with me. I went to his office to look for him one day and found him with another woman."

She had gone out with Sheng Donglin for one and a half years and had told Mama Gong about this relationship since the start. However, Mama Gong thought that Sheng Donglin would not treat her genuinely because he was a wealthy heir and had hoped that they would break up. Gong Mo had gotten tired of Mama Gong's constant nagging and gradually stopped updating her with news about her relationship. She had even lied to her about going to Sheng Donglin's birthday party a few days ago, saying that she was attending a graduation reunion with her classmates.

Now that she thought about it, she had not spoken of Sheng Donglin to Mama Gong in half a year. Mama Gong sometimes asked her about it but she was afraid that Mama would advise her to break up with him and thus she only gave minimal answers. This proved to be quite fortuitous. She could now give Mama Gong the impression that they had broken up a while ago.

As expected, Mama Gong said, "No wonder you hemmed and hawed the last few times I asked you about him. It's alright if you've broken up. I always thought that you two didn't suit each other anyway. I'm relieved that you've broken up with him so why didn't you tell me?"

"I was scared that you'd nag at me."

"Who's that then? He's so handsome that Little Min is infatuated. He's probably a good-for-nothing!"

"Ma!" Gong Mo was speechless.

"Fine, fine. You're still biased towards him, aren't you?" Mama Gong harrumphed as she walked out. "I'll go look him over."

Gong Mo followed her closely at her heels.

"Auntie," Sheng Nanxuan greeted Mama Gong when he saw her. Seeing that Gong Mo was out too, he called out gently, "Momo."

Goosebumps erupted all over Gong Mo's body. She was not used to that. Afraid that Mama Gong would make things difficult for him on purpose, she grabbed her hand. Mama Gong sized Sheng Nanxuan up attentively. She thought to herself, he seems to put on airs and has an unknown moral character.

Mama Gong saw that Little Min had poked her head over to watch them and the owner of the next store was hovering outside her shop as well. Not wanting to be watched like a show, she said to Gong Mo, "Go home with him first. I'll go buy some groceries."

"We'll accompany you, Auntie." Sheng Nanxuan gave a cultured and refined smile. "Or Auntie could go back to rest first and Momo and I will get them for you."

Mama Gong was satisfied with his attitude, but still wanted to test him. She put on a stoic face and said, "Let's go together."

Gong Mo turned around and took up her mother's handbag and handed it to her with both hands before holding and leading her out like she was a servant girl waiting upon Empress Dowager Cixi.

After walking for a bit, Mama Gong waved her hand away and asked Sheng Nanxuan, "What's your name?"

"Nanxuan."

"Oh... Nanxuan, how long have you dated Gong Mo for?"

Gong Mo was shocked. Oh no! They had not discussed this beforehand. What if he exposed her accidentally?

She looked at him nervously.

He replied calmly, "We've been dating for a few months. But Gong Mo and I were high school classmates, and I've actually had a secret crush on her for a few years now."

Mama Gong turned back and asked Gong Mo, "Is that so?"

Gong Mo said hurriedly, "Yeah! H-He used to bully me in the past, so I didn't know that he secretly liked me."

Chapter 25

Satisfied

Mama Gong burst out laughing. Wasn't bullying a girl because you liked her something only kindergarten boys did? The three of them stopped talking and focused on buying groceries once they arrived at the wet market.

Mama Gong said, "It's hot today. Let's make two more servings of coleslaw and make a pot of mung bean pumpkin soup."

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"You have the final say!" Gong Mo smiled.

Mama Gong picked out a few vegetables attentively. When she was about to pay, Sheng Nanxuan handed his money over before she could even open her wallet.

She said dazedly, "How could I make you pay for these?"

Sheng Nanxuan received the vegetables from the stall owner. "It's only right for me to."

Mama Gong paused and looked satisfied. After buying the groceries, they bought a large watermelon as well. Sheng Nanxuan carried it on his own initiative. Mama Gong had never felt so relaxed when buying groceries. There was a light spring in her step.

Gong Mo felt a little embarrassed and wanted to help out. "It's alright," Sheng Nanxuan said.

“Isn’t it too heavy?” The goods added up to about five kilograms in total.

Sheng Nanxuan lowered his head. “I didn’t have any problem carrying you. Or are you saying these are heavier than you?”

Gong Mo was startled. She quickly looked over at Mama Gong, afraid that the latter had heard this. Upon seeing that Mama Gong had no reaction, she breathed a sigh of relief and hit Sheng Nanxuan gloomily. She then realized something and said, “Who are you calling heavy?”

Sheng Nanxuan was speechless. Turns out that women were indeed really weight-conscious.

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After returning home, Mama Gong started to prepare the dinner. Gong Mo took the potatoes outside. “I’ll peel these outside.”

“Go, go!” Mama Gong rolled her eyes. “It’s so obvious that you want to talk to your boyfriend.”

Gong Mo sighed wordlessly. Mama’s imagination was really vivid. She saw Sheng Nanxuan on the sofa reading a newspaper when she walked into the living room. When she walked over, he put down the newspaper and looked at her.

She looked towards the kitchen. She then picked up a potato, peeled it a little before whispering, “I told my mom that I broke up with your brother a long time ago.”

Sheng Nanxuan nodded upon being informed. He reached out to take the potato. “Let me do it.”

“You know how to peel potatoes?” Gong Mo asked in surprise.

“I pick up things really quickly. I’d be stupid if I still don’t know how to do it after watching you for so long.”

Was it alright for him to ridicule himself like that? However, Sheng Nanxuan did a good job of peeling the potato.

Gong Mo thought it impossible for him to learn something so fast. How could he have done it so naturally his first time? “Do you know how to cook?” she asked.

“No.” Sheng Nanxuan lifted his eyes and looked at her. “Do you wish that your future husband would know how to?”

Gong Mo shook her head.

“Do you know how to cook?” he asked as he continued peeling the potatoes.

“I do. But I want to work in the future and not be a housewife. I thought I could be a housewife, but then you’re not allowed to complain that you don’t earn money. I won’t stand for being both a breadwinner and a housewife!”

Sheng Nanxuan laughed lightly. “Relax. You don’t have to do either. Just enjoy life.”

“You’re so full of hot air!” Gong Mo laughed. “Are you a multimillionaire?”

“Of course not.” He was a multibillionaire.

“Where are the potatoes? Why are they taking so long to peel?” Mama Gong walked out and saw Sheng Nanxuan holding a potato. “How could you get Nanxuan to peel them?” she admonished Gong Mo.

“It’s only right for me to.” Sheng Nanxuan stood up and walked over with the peeled potatoes. “May I help Auntie with dinner?”

“It’s alright. You should rest. Momo, come cut the watermelon.”

“Oh...” Gong Mo rose.

Mama Gong smiled at Sheng Nanxuan before returning to the kitchen first.

Gong Mo walked to him and whispered, “It seems like Mama has accepted you.”

Chapter 26

She Didn't Want the Child Anymore; She Won't Marry Him!

“Have you accepted me then?” Sheng Nanxuan pinched her face with a smile.

The starch on his fingers from the potatoes earlier were now on her face. She pushed him away angrily and headed to the toilet to wash her face.

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Sheng Nanxuan entered the kitchen. “Auntie, I'll cut the watermelon,” he said to Mama Gong.

“Eh? Where is Gong Mo? She's shirking again!”

“No, I asked her to rest.”

“You love her dearly, don't you?” Mama Gong cast a glance at him but was unmoved.

Everyone knew how to butter someone up. She had more life experience than him and she could tell what he was trying to do with a single glance! She would only believe he was genuine if he treated Gong Mo this well in private and after their marriage!

During the meal, Mama Gong asked Sheng Nanxuan, “How old are you?”

“23,” he replied.

“You’re a year older than Gong Mo...” This wasn’t something she could nitpick on. Mama Gong asked again, “Are you from Nanjiang? What do your parents do? Do you have siblings?”

Gong Mo was startled. She looked towards Sheng Nanxuan.

Sheng Nanxuan paused for a while before saying, “I have an older brother.”

Under the table, Gong Mo reached out with her foot and delivered a light kick to him.

He continued, “My father is Sheng Zhongtian.”

Bang! Gong Mo slammed her bowl on the table heavily and glared at him in fury. Did he not understand her hint? How could he say that?

“Sheng Donglin?!” Mama Gong cried out. She looked at Gong Mo. “Isn’t that... Sheng Donglin’s father?”

“That’s right,” Sheng Nanxuan said. “Sheng Donglin is my older brother.”

Mama Gong was in disbelief. “That’s Momo’s boyfriend!”

“Ex-boyfriend,” corrected Sheng Nanxuan.

“Stop talking!” shouted Gong Mo.

Sheng Nanxuan held Gong Mo’s hand and advised, “How could we keep this a secret forever? You’re thinking too much. I’m sure Auntie will understand.”

“You don’t understand!” Mama Gong walked over and separated the pair. “Tell me, how did you get together? Momo was dating your brother!”

Sheng Nanxuan explained, "I've already said that Gong Mo and I were high school classmates. I've been studying in the capital these few years, so I lost contact with her. When I returned home during the New Year, I met her after she broke up with my brother. My heart broke for her and I kept comforting her and she fell in love with me. After a few months of long-distance dating, I rushed back immediately after graduating. That day was also my birthday... and in the heat of the moment, we couldn't control ourselves and..."

"Hey!" cried Gong Mo. "What nonsense are you talking!"

Mama Gong exhaled. "Let him speak!" she shouted.

Sheng Nanxuan said, "We did it. But we forgot to use protection and I suspect that Momo might already be pregnant. So I specially came to visit Auntie today to ask for Momo's hand in marriage and I hope that Auntie will let us be married soon."

"You're pregnant?" Mama Gong looked towards Gong Mo.

Gong Mo covered her face and tried to weep, but no tears formed. That b*stard Sheng Nanxuan, she had already told him that he couldn't tell this to her mom, but in the end he spilled everything! That jerk! She wasn't going to keep the child anymore. She didn't want to marry him now! How could she marry such a man? They had an agreement but he betrayed her!

"Are you pregnant?" hollered Mama Gong.

Gong Mo jumped in fright. She knew that her mother was angry now, and she was too scared to respond.

Upon seeing this, Sheng Nanxuan said sharply, "Auntie! Blame me if you must! Don't blame her!"

Mama Gong got a sudden shock as a cold wave hit her. Sheng Nanxuan seemed to be incensed. Could he be... displeased that she was shouting at Gong Mo?

Chapter 27

Graduation Photo and Yearbook

She was Gong Mo's mother. Did he really like Gong Mo that much? Did he like her so much that he wouldn't allow even her own mother to bully her? Mama Gong felt a complex mix of emotions. If Sheng Nanxuan really liked Gong Mo that much, she would feel relieved, but his intense feelings for Gong Mo made it seem like her own daughter was being snatched away from her...

Mama Gong calmed down, walked back to her seat, sat down. She asked. "Does your family agree to your marriage to Momo? Aren't you bothered that she dated your brother before? Are your parents not angry with you?"

...

"I've already been kicked out of the Sheng Family, so they can't be bothered with me or control what I do. As for Momo dating my brother..." Sheng Nanxuan cast a look at Gong Mo. "I'm a little bothered by it, but I'm not angry at her. I'm only angry at myself. Why didn't I confess to Momo earlier even though I've known her for so many years? If I had, she wouldn't have dated my brother."

Gong Mo looked down, feeling uncomfortable. Why did his words sound so real? She remembered Sheng Donglin's words and recalled the handkerchief. Could they really have been... high school classmates? At night, Gong Mo took out a sealed box containing things from her past from the top of her closet. She opened the box and rummaged through her high school graduation yearbook and photo.

If Sheng Nanxuan was really her high school classmate, he should have left a few words in her yearbook, right? Even if they weren't close and he didn't write anything, there should at least be a picture of him in the yearbook! Gong Mo took out the photo and found a splotch of ink on one of its corners, covering the faces of two or three people. One of their faces was completely covered but the other two faces were only partially covered.

She rubbed the stain but it wouldn't come off. She could only give up and inspect every single face. Memories of studying rose in her mind as she looked at the faces of each student. She recalled the laughter and fun and the times when they had studied hard for the university entrance exams and could not help but feel nostalgic. She even spotted her high school best friend.

She still remembered that they promised to keep in contact after graduation, but she became uncontactable after they entered university. Gong Mo touched the face of the girl and sighed. Was this the way of life? No matter how close people once were, people change even if things remain the same. Everyone has their own lives to lead and they end up losing contact with everyone else in the end. Sheng Nanxuan did not appear to be in the photo.

Gong Mo's finger slid to the splotch of ink. Could his face be here? She could not remember who else was there. She still could not see the face behind the stain even after raising the photo to the light. Flipping the photo around, she discovered that the ink had soaked through to the back as well.

She sighed. It seemed like she wouldn't find any clues from the graduation photo. She could only continue her investigation in her yearbook. She started her search from the very first page but did not find Sheng Nanxuan's name. It was only when she reached the last few pages that she realized that some pages had been torn out.

Gong Mo was surprised. Upon closer inspection, she saw that a good number of pages had been torn out! Fragmented images suddenly flashed into her mind. A bottle of blue ink fell onto an open yearbook. "She" was shocked and held up the yearbook. Luckily, the pages were blank ones. "She" then tore the few pages that had been soaked by the ink...

The next day, she saw that the torn pages were in the wastebasket. She reached out to tidy the yearbook on her table, but found that the graduation photo was underneath and had also been soaked by the ink. Gong Mo shook her head and pressed her fingers against her temples. Why did those scenes seem more like a dream than reality?

Chapter 28

Dreams Are a Reflection of One's Waking Thoughts

She looked at the photo and yearbook in her hands. If those weren't real memories, how did the ink stain and tears come about? Was Sheng Nanxuan really her high school classmate? Her memories were blurry from the passage of time.

She pressed her hands against her head and thought for a long time. She remembered a lot of incidents from high school, but the faces of some of her classmates were fuzzy, especially the boys because she did not interact much with them. If Sheng Nanxuan was really her high school classmate, they probably didn't interact much, right?

...

Gong Mo put down the photo. She would go to sleep first. She still had to go to the hospital tomorrow to confirm her pregnancy.

In the dark, Gong Mo opened her eyes groggily and saw sparkling stars in the distance. The wind blew by her ear, bringing the scent of green grass to her nose. Her body felt like it was floating on clouds as it moved forward. More and more stars appeared around her. She reached out and a star flew between her fingers.

“They’re fireflies!” she exclaimed in astonishment.

“Mm,” said a man from below her.

She looked down and saw that she was on a man’s back. She did not feel afraid at all and even felt blessed. She hugged his neck tightly and smiled, leaning in closer.

He carried her across green grass, fireflies all around them. It was both peaceful and beautiful and there was no one but them around. She wanted to see his face and know who he was. “Stop,” she said to him.

He was silent.

Gong Mo grew uneasy. “Who are you? Are you Sheng Nanxuan?”

He did not reply.

Gong Mo jumped towards the ground anxiously and woke up. Opening her eyes, she found that it was daylight. Gong Mo sat up and rubbed her forehead.

The man in the dream had made her feel safe. It was a pity that she couldn’t see his face. However, dreams were a reflection of one’s waking thoughts. Other than Sheng Donglin, the only man she saw was Sheng Nanxuan. Sheng Donglin was a player and would definitely not treat her that well. Could it be Sheng Nanxuan then? But he was still a stranger!

Gong Mo had nothing to say to herself. How could she dream of being so intimate with a stranger!

“Gong Mo hasn’t woken up yet. You’re so caring towards her,” she heard Mama Gong say.

Gong Mo froze. She got off the bed, opened the door, and found Sheng Nanxuan standing in the living room.

Seeing that she was awake, Mama Gong said sweetly, "Come eat breakfast. Nanxuan has bought soy milk and steamed dumplings."

"Oh..." Gong Mo closed the door and changed her clothes.

After washing up, she walked to the dining room and said softly, "I don't think I'm supposed to eat before the examination."

Mama Gong was instantly unhappy the moment she heard this and put down her half-eaten steamed dumpling.

Sheng Nanxuan watched them and said, "I'll accompany Momo to the hospital and bring her back to eat after the examination."

Mama Gong looked at Gong Mo. "Don't you need to go to work?"

Gong Mo remembered that she hadn't explained what had happened at work and could only say, "The magazine publisher doesn't want me to work for them anymore."

"What do you mean?!" Mama Gong was shocked.

"The Editor-in-Chief's daughter is the woman Sheng Donglin was having an affair with. She didn't want me to work there, so I've been fired." Gong Mo smiled sadly, "Don't worry, Mom, I'll look for a job soon."

"How can you work when you're pregnant?" Sheng Nanxuan interrupted. "You don't have to worry about work. I'll provide for you."

Upon hearing this, Mama Gong scoffed coldly, "Provide for her? How are you going to do that? Weren't you chased out of the Sheng Family? Although they say that a tiger will never eat its cubs, your father will definitely make life hard for you after what you did. You won't be able to find a job either!"

Chapter 29

Marriage Preparations

"My dad only reigns supreme in Nanjiang!" said Sheng Nanxuan mockingly. "I've already found a job in the capital, which he has no influence over. I can bring Gong Mo there."

Mama Gong was stunned. If this were the case, there was nothing else to worry about. She said, "Go to the hospital then. Remember to buy food for Gong Mo after the examination."

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Sheng Nanxuan smiled. "Relax, Auntie. I can't bear to see her hungry."

Gong Mo blushed and gave him a rebuking look. He was so smooth. Did he really think that they had known each other for years and were very close? His actions seemed too genuine.

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Gong Mo tested positive at the hospital. She was indeed pregnant.

Upon returning home, Gong Mo handed the examination report to Mama Gong.

Mama Gong sighed. "What else can I say when you've already gotten pregnant? I can only watch over you as you make your own plans."

"I will definitely take care of Momo and my child," said Sheng Nanxuan.

Mama Gong smiled. "It's good of you to take responsibility and want to keep the child. After what both you and Gong Mo have been through, what with you being chased out of the Sheng Family and Gong Mo being thrown out of work, it's good that you are still a good person."

An irresponsible man would probably have asked Gong Mo to abort the child or even abandoned her.

Mama Gong said to Sheng Nanxuan, "But you have to think carefully! To want to keep a child under such circumstances will create a lot of pressure in the future. Moreover, you're going to live in the capital where the living expenses are exorbitant. You're not allowed to bully my Momo if things ever get tough."

"Relax, Auntie." He felt no pressure with regards to finances at all. Rather, his finances would put pressure on other people.

"Well... so you've decided to get married, then?" Mama Gong thought this too sudden. She had just finished raising her daughter, but she was now about to marry someone. She felt like beating her shameful girl!

"Of course," said Sheng Nanxuan. "I want to marry her as fast as possible. Gong Mo's belly isn't showing yet, so we can tell people that we're getting married first before going to the capital. There are a lot of graduates who get married right after graduation anyway, so no one will suspect a thing."

"That sounds like a good idea. It's best to not tell anyone about this." Mama Gong then said fiercely to Gong Mo, "If your Aunt and the rest find out that you're pregnant before you got married, they will definitely gossip behind our backs! I'm not afraid of shame, but I'm just annoyed how they don't see us as their relatives and talk bad about us as though it'd make them rich!"

"Mom..." Gong Mo held her hand worriedly. "What will you do after I leave?"

Wouldn't her relatives bully Mama more intensely after she left?

Big Uncle and Third Uncle both had sons who were of marriage age and both of them wanted to prepare a house for themselves. However, property prices were expensive right now and they were unable to afford it. Thus, they turned their sights to her mother's house!

Gong Mo asked Sheng Nanxuan, "Do you really have to go to the capital to work?"

“What are you talking about?” Mama Gong interrupted her. “A man’s career is the most important thing.”

Sheng Nanxuan smiled and said, “I actually want to stay here, but my dad and brother hate me so much that I wouldn’t be able to find a job here at all.”

Mama Gong looked at him with sympathy. “When are you supposed to start work in the capital?”

Sheng Nanxuan thought for a couple of seconds. “I was supposed to report on the 1st of next month, but it’s also possible to delay it for another two months.”

“It’s not good to delay it!” said Mama Gong anxiously. “It’s so hard to find a job nowadays, so you’d better go there as soon as possible. There’s still half a month left before next month, so you should hurry up and settle whatever you need to settle and then head to the capital.”

Chapter 30

You’re Not Kidding Us, Are You?

“Mom!” Gong Mo shouted. “I can’t bear to leave you!”

“I’m the one who can’t bear to leave you! But you’re carrying a child. If you don’t start looking for work, how are you going to raise the child in the future?” Mama Gong picked up the phone. “I’ll give Big Uncle a call and invite him to a meal. For such a big event like a wedding, I should at least inform them about it. And we could receive a gift from him! Though your Big Aunt is stingy, she’ll definitely pack a big red packet this time. However much she packs for you, I’ll pack the same amount for your cousins when they get married. She has two children. The more she packs, the more she’ll earn in the future, so it’ll definitely be a big one!”

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Mama Gong’s call shocked Big Uncle Gong and Big Auntie Gong. Gong Mo had just graduated from university. How did she get married so quickly?

In any case, they were family too, unlike relatives and friends. Most relatives and friends would only need to be there on the wedding day, but family definitely had to meet Sheng Nanxuan before the wedding. Mama Gong booked a table at a restaurant in the afternoon the next day.

In the evening, Sheng Nanxuan returned to the guest house where he stayed. Mama Gong was worried as she helped to pack Gong Mo's stuff. "Take more clothes with you. When you get there, there are so many things you have to buy. Every cent saved matters."

Gong Mo paused and said softly, "But I won't be able to wear it anymore when my belly grows big..."

Mama Gong froze for a moment, put down the clothes she was packing, and sat silently.

Gong Mo leaned over. "Mom, are you mad at me?"

"Glad you know I am!" Mama Gong rolled her eyes at her. "You're getting married so early. You won't be able to work. How stressful will it be for him? Don't come crying to me when things get hard for you!"

Gong Mo smiled and hugged her. "Mom, I know you're worried for me."

"Who's gonna worry for you if I don't?"

"I'll be okay," said Gong Mo, though she had no clue what the future would bring.

It's like what they say: Poverty consumes marriage.

The cost of living in the capital was so high. If she was pregnant, unable to work, and had to rely on Sheng Nanxuan for everything, they would definitely live in poverty. In those circumstances, they would definitely fight with each other.

But no matter what happened, she'd give birth to the child first. If she really couldn't survive, she could still come back home. If all else failed, her mother would be her safe harbor.

Ding-Dong! The doorbell rang.

The two looked up in surprise. Who could be here so late at night? Could it be Sheng Nanxuan?

Mama Gong nudged Gong Mo. "Go open the door."

"Okay." Gong Mo walked to the door and looked through the peephole. Shocked, she quickly went back to find Mama Gong. "It's Big Aunt!"

"She's alone?"

Gong Mo thought for a moment and shook her head. "I think she came with someone else."

"They must be here to get more information." Slightly irritated, Mama Gong went to open the door.

When the door opened, Gong Mo's Big Uncle, Big Aunt, Third Uncle, Third Aunt, and Little Aunt all swarmed in. Last was Big Uncle's daughter, Gong Fei.

"Aiyah, I heard that Momo is getting married soon. We came to see if there's anything we can help with!" Little Aunt joked.

Third Aunt asked, "She's really getting married? Why are you so emotionless? You're not kidding us, are you?"

"Where's Momo?" Big Uncle asked. "Is she home?"

Gong Mo came out with tea from the kitchen. "Big Uncle, Big Aunt, Third Uncle, Third Aunt, and Little Aunt, I'm glad you're here."

“I heard you’re getting married. Congratulations!” Big Aunt regarded her with a bright expression.

She smiled. “Thanks, have a seat.”

The group went into the living room and instantly filled the sofa. Gong Mo had no place to sit, so she had no choice but to take a chair from the dining room and sit on the side.