

For Dinner 371

Chapter 371: He Must Show Filial Piety to His Old Father

At this moment, she was also holding bags in Adrian Zhekova's hand.

"I usually carry more and even heavier things than these." Cindy Clarke said with a laugh, holding the bag up a bit higher to show that she had no problem carrying it.

"You had to do that because I wasn't around before, but now I am. Why should you have to carry heavy things?" Adrian wanted to ruffle Cindy's hair.

Unfortunately, both his hands were occupied carrying bags and there was no way to put them down.

So, he had to move a step forward, almost enclosing Cindy in his arms.

And then he said to Cindy, "You, little girl, should learn to be a bit more spoiled with me."

Cindy looked up, puzzled by Adrian's remark.

Perhaps it was because she had become a mother at an early age.

Or maybe it was because she had grown up in such a family environment.

Reality forced her to mature early and forget what it felt like to be a young girl, so she never knew how to act spoiled.

"If it were anyone else, they wouldn't talk to you like this," Adrian said with a slight discomfort in his voice.

"What do you mean?" Cindy didn't understand.

“If it were someone else, they’d probably talk about how capable they are, and how they had to do everything by themselves in the past. Not like you, telling me you can do everything and it’s effortless.”

The emphasis was different.

Complaining about hardships focused on how hard it was to do everything by oneself and how tiring it was.

But Cindy simply said she could do it easily.

Who else has a girl like this?

Adrian saw Morgan Zhekova beside him, staring at him with wide eyes, like two big light bulbs.

Adrian then told Morgan, “Close your eyes.”

Today, Adrian was really doing great.

He supported them and even bought Lego for Morgan.

So, Morgan decided to cooperate with him.

Adrian finished speaking, and Morgan obediently closed his eyes.

Don’t think he didn’t know that Adrian wanted to kiss Cindy with his eyes closed!

He knew everything!

He reluctantly complied with Adrian's request!

Who else could it be but his father?

Morgan had to... He had to show his filial piety!

Seeing the grin on Morgan's face, Cindy knew he was actually aware of everything going on.

Cindy's face flushed with embarrassment.

She gave Adrian a reproachful glance.

He never knew to avoid Morgan during these moments.

Adrian just smiled silently and leaned down to give her a quick kiss on the lips.

Both of Cindy's hands were full too, so she couldn't push him away.

"Cindy," Adrian whispered softly.

With her face still red, she looked at him upon hearing his words.

Her moist eyes looked so good and delicate.

It made him want to protect her, to hide her away from the world.

And never let anyone hurt her again.

“From now on, you’re not standing alone anymore. No, that’s not right, you don’t have to stand firm at all, I’m here for you. I’m tall, so even if the sky falls down, I’ll hold it up for you,” Adrian said softly. “I know, you’ve been used to supporting yourself for a long time.”

“But now that I’m here, you should learn to hand things over to me,” Adrian smiled. “I know you’re very independent, but sometimes, learn to rely on me too. Learn to share your pain with me, so I can feel more for you.”

Cindy had never liked to complain about her hardships or use tears to win the sympathy of others.

She felt she could handle everything and even if there were difficulties, ultimately they could be resolved.

But now, listening to Adrian’s words, her heart felt both sour and warm, incredibly grounded.

Chapter 372: The Less You Say, The More My Heart Aches

Immediately, she felt the urge to share everything in her heart with Adrian Zhekova.

“If I don’t say anything, will you not care about me?” Cindy couldn’t help but ask with a smile.

He just said she wasn’t good at being playful.

Now, the little girl is asking him so tenderly.

Adrian Zhekova’s heart bubbled with delight.

“The more you keep silent, the more I’ll care.” Adrian Zhekova softly replied.

Morgan Zhekova was at the side, closing his eyes and covering them with his little hand, but his ears were still listening.

He flicked his ears, trembling, and his little hand covered his face.

Unable to resist, his mouth broke into a wide, satisfied grin upon hearing them speak.

In the future, Dad would protect Cindy!

The little guy's heart was sweet!

Being so small, he couldn't carry anything, so he just swung his arms and bounced along in front of them.

When the three of them arrived home, Aunt Jenkins, the housekeeper, had already heard them coming.

Just as Cindy was about to put down her things and open the door, Aunt Jenkins opened it for them.

Seeing the three of them standing outside, Aunt Jenkins' gaze fell on Cindy's face first.

Then she smiled and said, "Sir, Mrs."

Then her gaze fell on little Morgan: "This must be young master. Please come in, come in."

Aunt Jenkins took the things from Cindy with a smile.

Cindy, meeting Aunt Jenkins for the first time, looked at Adrian Zhekova for confirmation.

Adrian Zhekova said, "This is Aunt Jenkins, I mentioned her to you yesterday. I told her about you and Morgan, so she knows."

No wonder Aunt Jenkins recognized her and Morgan at first sight, even though it was their first meeting.

She didn't know how Adrian Zhekova explained it to her.

However, being immediately recognized and accepted without any awkwardness or surprise made it seem like they had been by Adrian Zhekova's side for a long time already.

Adrian Zhekova had already inoculated those around him with information about them, getting them to accept her and Morgan.

Cindy's heart felt warm.

She was originally apprehensive.

But now, it seemed her previous worries were unnecessary, and that she had been fretting over nothing.

She and Morgan would not face any initial difficulties when integrating into their new life.

This man had already arranged everything for them when they least expected it, even the smallest details.

Cindy couldn't help but look at Adrian Zhekova, thinking he did not seem like such a meticulous person.

"Mrs." After putting everything in the kitchen, Aunt Jenkins came out to greet Cindy again.

"Sir told me about your job. I'll come by every day to clean, and if there's anything you need, just let me know and I'll bring it with me when I come," Aunt Jenkins said.

Cindy's first reaction was to look at Adrian Zhekova.

What did he actually tell her?

How did she become a “Mrs.”?

But, Cindy couldn’t bring herself to correct Aunt Jenkins.

Otherwise, what would Morgan be?

So she went with it.

She would just go along with what Aunt Jenkins called her.

When Aunt Jenkins went back to the kitchen, Cindy quietly asked Adrian Zhekova, “What exactly did you tell Aunt Jenkins?”

“I told her the truth: that I have a fiancée and a son, and you are both moving in.” Adrian Zhekova replied.

Cindy blinked, wondering, just yesterday they had become a couple, and now they were already engaged?

Alright, now wasn’t the time to dispute that.

“So, Aunt Jenkins... knows... that we’re not married?” Cindy whispered.

Chapter 373: Let’s Just Call Her Mrs.

“Of course. Aunt Jenkins has worked for me for many years, so she’d definitely know whether I’m married or not,” Adrian Zhekova spoke softly with a smile, “I simply told her that there would be a lady of the house soon since I’m getting married. Moreover, you and I have a child together. I didn’t bother explaining the details of our story. Our private matters aren’t worth explaining in detail.”

"I just wanted to make it clear that we're getting married. Aunt Jenkins should treat you and Morgan just like she treats me. We're all family." Adrian Zhekova said.

Aunt Jenkins is a very prudent person; otherwise, she wouldn't have maintained her stable work with Adrian Zhekova for so many years.

So, Aunt Jenkins asked Adrian Zhekova how she should address Cindy Clarke.

Adrian Zhekova told her, "You call me 'Sir,' so when you address Cindy, your title for her should match mine. Just call her 'Mrs.'"

Addressing Cindy as Miss Clarke would not only be distant but also make her seem like a guest at his house.

As if her relationship with Adrian Zhekova wasn't close enough.

Because of Adrian's remark, Aunt Jenkins clearly understood Cindy's place in Adrian's heart.

Adrian didn't just say it for talking's sake.

Cindy was unaware of these details, and Adrian never told her either.

Thus, with Aunt Jenkins addressing her accordingly, Cindy accepted the title graciously.

It was better for Morgan this way too.

Aunt Jenkins neatly stored all the groceries they bought.

Suddenly, the slightly empty refrigerator was filled to the brim.

Even before they returned, Aunt Jenkins had already tidied up the house.

Adrian Zhekova preferred no outsiders around when he was home.

Therefore, Aunt Jenkins tidied up the house swiftly when he wasn't around, maintaining their tacit understanding.

Now that all the things they bought had been put away.

Aunt Jenkins came out to greet them, "Sir, Mrs., I've sorted out the things you bought, and I've just cleaned the house. Will your ordered furniture be delivered today? Do you want me to stay and wait for it? After the furniture is delivered, the floor would probably be dirty, so I could clean up again."

"No need, we just ordered a table, which will be delivered tomorrow," Adrian Zhekova said, "You can go home if you have nothing else to do."

"Alright." Aunt Jenkins left after tidying up a bit.

The three of them went to their rooms to change into comfortable home clothes.

It didn't take long for them to move their belongings here in the morning.

Cindy didn't have many things to begin with, and her in-season clothes were hung back in the wardrobe.

She had organized her off-season clothes in vacuum bags long ago.

So, when they moved here, there was no need for further organization, and everything was put back in their original places.

The only things left were some knick-knacks and daily necessities.

While they were not at home, Aunt Jenkins had already tidied up these items, saving Cindy a lot of trouble.

As for Morgan's toys, Aunt Jenkins didn't touch them.

It would be disastrous if she accidentally broke a child's toy.

Plus, she didn't know how to arrange them.

As Cindy changed her clothes, she observed the bedroom.

Except for the larger bedroom size, the furniture remained unchanged.

Thus, Cindy didn't feel a hint of unfamiliarity during her stay here.

Perhaps the familiarity made her quickly adapt and develop a sense of belonging.

Cindy went to the window again.

Although they had moved in the morning, this was her first time enjoying the view of their surroundings from the window.

Chapter 374: Annoying him every single day in a race against time

Of course, the environment here was much better and quieter than where she used to live.

There weren't many residential buildings, and the distance between them was quite far, ensuring good privacy for the residents here.

Downstairs, the greenery was beautiful, and there was also an outdoor swimming pool, which, despite the cooling weather, was still well-maintained and pleasing to the eye.

On their way back, according to Adrian Zhekova's introduction, there was a gym in the clubhouse right next to the outdoor swimming pool, belonging to this residential area.

As long as they were homeowners here, they would automatically become members and could use the facilities for free.

If the exercise equipment at home was not suitable, Cindy Clarke could use Adrian Zhekova's card to access the clubhouse.

Cindy immediately refused.

She was too lazy to exercise.

Cindy thought that she still needed to take the time to familiarize herself with the surroundings later.

While thinking, she left the bedroom first.

Adrian Zhekova and Morgan Zhekova had already changed into their home clothes and were in the living room.

Morgan was sitting on the living room carpet, just like when he was at home before.

However, this time, Adrian Zhekova was by his side.

Adrian Zhekova was opening a box of Lego for him.

The box for the roller coaster set was simply too big for Morgan.

The length of the box was almost as tall as Morgan's height.

Adrian Zhekova opened the box and poured out all the little bags inside.

Each bag had a number printed on it, so they could assemble the set according to the numbered order marked on the assembly instructions, one part at a time.

"Are you guys going to start building it now?" Cindy asked with a smile.

Morgan nodded: "Together with Dad!"

"Alright, you two start building, and I'll go prepare dinner." Cindy said, and went to the kitchen first.

"You start researching it yourself; I'm going to the kitchen to check." Adrian Zhekova said, following her closely.

Morgan helplessly said, "Dad, you can't be so fickle. How can you change your mind like that?"

Adrian Zhekova:

"Do you still want your Lego set!" Adrian Zhekova threatened.

Sons are just so ungrateful!

He would have to work hard to have another well-behaved daughter with Cindy.

That way, he wouldn't have to put up with his son's constant competitions every day.

Morgan:

“Then you better come back quickly.” Morgan succumbed to the power of Lego and reminded Adrian Zhekova.

Although he occasionally complained about his son in his heart, Adrian Zhekova still felt very content when faced with his son’s dependence.

He nodded and said, “I’m just going to the kitchen to see if there’s anything I can help Cindy with. I’ll come back as soon as I finish helping her.”

Morgan thought to himself, do you really want to help, or do you just want to stick with Cindy? You know the answer in your heart.

When Adrian Zhekova entered the kitchen, he saw Cindy taking the ingredients she needed out of the refrigerator.

He walked over, noticing that the refrigerator was full of various ingredients.

Compared to his previous refrigerator that only contained beverages and fruit, this was a huge difference.

At this moment, the kitchen suddenly felt more lively and warm.

The contrast from before was just too great.

At this time, Adrian Zhekova’s heart was as full as the refrigerator itself.

No wonder after his brothers got married, they had been in such a good mood every day, always smiling.

They seemed so happy as if they had encountered some great fortune every day.

Having a wife and children made home so lively and warm.

The sense of satisfaction in one's heart was just different.

Living such a blissful life, how could one not be happy?

After closing the refrigerator, Adrian Zhekova leaned against it and watched Cindy with a smile, "Now I finally understand why Dylan and the others were in such a hurry to get married and seemed so happy after getting married."

Chapter 375: Who is Your Wife

Cindy was tidying up and turned her head to look at him when she heard him: "Why?"

"With a wife at home, I feel like every part of the house is great." Adrian Zhekova said, "When I used to live alone, it was just a place to sleep, not really a home. It was empty and lifeless."

"Now, there's the sound of Morgan playing, and the sound of you cooking." Adrian Zhekova slowly walked towards Cindy and embraced her from behind, "With you two here, I feel incredibly fulfilled."

Only then did he feel that his life was complete.

Cindy's ears turned red, and his warm breath was sprinkling on her neck as he spoke.

Her hairs were standing on end.

"Who's your wife?" Cindy mumbled with her ears still red.

Adrian Zhekova let out a gentle, husky laugh, one after another, knocking into Cindy's ears.

Cindy's ears twitched, remembering Adrian saying it last night.

He deliberately lowered his voice, carrying a slight hoarseness, as if he was deliberately teasing her.

Although, Cindy now knew.

But she still couldn't help but be teased by him.

"Sooner or later, you will be." Adrian Zhekova chuckled lightly and kissed her cheek.

Cindy's lips couldn't help but curve up, feeling particularly secure in her heart as he said that.

Adrian Zhekova watched as Cindy took out shrimp, oysters, sole fillet, konjac knot, baby bok choy, wood ear mushrooms, chrysanthemum, rapeseed, and button mushrooms.

There were also five coconuts on the side.

"Is there anything I can help with?" Adrian Zhekova asked.

"Oh, perfect." Cindy pointed to the coconuts, "I was just about to ask you, could you help me open the coconuts?"

She always struggled when opening coconuts, as they were really hard to crack.

Although she managed to open them every time, each attempt left her sweaty and exhausted.

"Sure," Adrian Zhekova said without hesitation, rolling up his sleeves and taking a coconut to the side.

He grabbed a knife and began to open the coconut.

Adrian Zhekova's strength made quick work of opening the coconut.

Although the opening wasn't as pretty and clean-cut as the ones in fruit stands,

But considering that he wasn't a professional and it was probably his first time opening a coconut, he did pretty well.

Cindy used four coconuts to make the Spicy Coconut Chicken Hotpot, leaving one to make Coconut Milk Pudding for Morgan as a beverage.

Seeing Adrian Zhekova still there, Cindy said, "That's enough; I can handle the rest myself. You go and keep Morgan company."

Compared to being with Morgan, Adrian Zhekova naturally wanted to stay here with Cindy even more.

Even if he couldn't help much, watching Cindy cook was a treat in itself.

"Today, Morgan seemed to get closer and closer to you." Cindy smiled and said, "Throughout today, the two of you have gotten more and more comfortable with each other."

"You should spend more time with him; I think whatever awkwardness there is between you two will soon be gone." Cindy was quite satisfied with the progress of the father and son duo.

Adrian Zhekova finally nodded, "Okay, just call me if you need anything."

"Alright," Cindy nodded.

Adrian Zhekova's gaze happened to land on the chicken: "Do you need me to cut the chicken?"

“No need. As long as the method is right, the chicken is easy to break down, and I can finish it quickly,” Cindy said.

Under Cindy’s urging, Adrian Zhekova reluctantly returned to the living room to keep Morgan company.

Cindy poured coconut milk into the pot, added ginger powder, and boiled it, then put in the chopped chicken pieces.

After skimming off the foam, she let it simmer for a while until a yellow layer of chicken fat appeared on the surface.

Chapter 376: Disclosing Test Questions

Cindy Clarke meticulously removed all the chicken fat, leaving only a clear, delicious soup. After reducing the heat, she added pieces of coconut into the soup.

She also added Cordyceps Flower and goji berries.

Taking advantage of the simmering time, Cindy cut off the sharp parts of the shrimp heads and removed the shrimp line, then arranged them elegantly on a plate.

Cindy adeptly opened the oyster shells, pried out the meat, and put it back into the shells.

Lastly, she chopped bird’s eye chillis and ginger powder and put them into three small dipping bowls.

She squeezed in lemon juice, added a touch of fish sauce and soy sauce, and scooped a small spoon of chicken soup into the dipping bowl, stirring the mixture until well blended.

With that, dinner was simply and swiftly ready.

Cindy cooked this because it was simple and scrumptious.

On a cool night, enjoying a hot pot, even just thinking of it, is wonderfully warming.

After a long day, she did not have the energy to prepare complex dishes at night.

But she had eaten out at lunch and didn't want to dine out again for dinner.

She liked to cook for Adrian Zhekova and Morgan Zhekova personally.

So, this coconut chicken pot was just right.

Although the dish is simple, it's rich and nutritious, warming the body and stomach when consumed.

Cindy poked her head out of the kitchen and saw Adrian and Morgan sitting side by side on the carpet.

Adrian had cleared the coffee table, freeing up quite a bit of space, and was leisurely playing with Lego on the table.

"Adrian Zhekova," Cindy called out.

At the sound of Cindy's summon, Adrian immediately abandoned Morgan and charged towards Cindy, "Yes? Anything I can do to help?"

Cindy inwardly thought, "this man is so adorable!"

He just wanted to lend her a hand, right?

"Everything is ready, we can eat now," Cindy laughed, "but there's really something you can help with."

"Tell me," Adrian immediately responded.

“Just help me to carry the pot of coconut chicken out,” Cindy said.

Upon hearing that, Adrian was surprised to find he had to do something so simple.

He immediately went to do it.

Cindy then placed the induction cooker on the dining table.

Adrian placed the coconut chicken pot on the induction cooker, turned it on, and let the soup simmer beautifully.

Without waiting for Cindy to say anything, Adrian brought out the remaining ingredients that needed to be blanched and arranged them around the pot.

Meanwhile, Cindy was urging Morgan, “Morgan, go wash your hands. It’s time to eat.”

The little guy immediately put down his Lego, obediently went to wash his hands and came over to the table.

The tempting fragrance of the coconut chicken pot was already permeating the air.

It was filled with the savory soup scent and the sweet aroma of coconut.

Cindy gave Morgan a small bowl of chicken soup first.

She remembered that Adrian had been envious before because she only served Morgan and didn’t serve him, hence expressing dissatisfaction.

Therefore, this time, she didn't neglect Adrian. She also served him a bowl of soup, "Have some soup first. Taste the natural savoriness. Otherwise, when the seafood and vegetables are blanched later, the soup will change its taste."

The little one blew his spoonful of soup for quite a while before he finally drank it.

"This is so savory!" Morgan was so delighted that he closed his eyes, visibly savouring the flavour.

Adrian also took a sip and savoured it carefully.

"The freshness and sweetness of the chicken soup and the sweetness of the coconut are distinct. When these two subtly sweet flavors collide, they mingle to create a refreshing and lingering taste," Adrian concluded and took another sip.

I love hearing your tasting feedback," Cindy said with satisfaction, "You always hit the nail on the head."

"After all, I run a restaurant – I need to know these things." When Cindy praised him, Adrian wished he had a tail to wag in joy.

Cindy made the soup clear and free of any impurities.

Just looking at it was a delight to the eyes.

Adrian then lifted a piece of chicken.

The free-range chicken was firm but not dry and carried the aroma of coconuts.

Unlike the chicken soup, the coconut flavor seeped into the chicken flesh. There was a bit of richness from the coconut flavor.

But with the dipping sauce that Cindy made, that little bit of richness immediately disappeared.

The spicy taste was also particularly appetizing.

In Morgan's dipping sauce, Cindy didn't add as much chili.

Although the little guy liked spicy food, one could not compare him to adults. Cindy put just a bit in his sauce to give it some zing. She was worried about upsetting his stomach.

Only then did Cindy put the shrimps into the bubbling pot, followed by the oysters.

"Oysters should not be cooked for too long. Once the meat is overcooked, it loses its delicacy," Cindy advised while using a slotted spoon to ladle out the oysters at the right moment, and served them to Morgan and Adrian.

The savory and plump oysters, cooked in the chicken soup, brought out the savory sweetness of the soup.

And at this point, the chicken soup took on the aromatic freshness of shrimps and oysters.

This kind of delicacy, stemming from the ingredients themselves, enhanced the savory taste more than any condiment could do.

"By the way, have you thought about what to prepare for the next competition?" Adrian inquired as he was eating, and brought up this matter.

"Earlier, the judges mentioned that the next round theme is 'Ocean'." Cindy paused her movements; unconsciously, the tip of her chopsticks was on her lips as she thought, "The scope indeed allows for a selection from seafood. And that should be a safer choice. At least, it sticks to the theme."

"If I choose other dishes apart from seafood, but it appears or tastes like seafood, or symbolizes something related to ocean, it might work but it might not be as safe."

“After all, the judges have given such a broad topic. The two words ‘ocean’ let contestants speculate and be creative. There could be many ways to interpret it, releasing our imaginations, but there is also the risk of misinterpretation,” Cindy considered.

“So I think, there might be a better way by using safe seafood dishes as a basis and then highlighting my uniqueness.” Cindy looked at Adrian, “What do you think?”

After all, Adrian, as a top decision-maker, should have similar thoughts with the judges.

Or maybe that’s not entirely accurate.

Adrian’s position is much higher than the judges’ and his way of looking at things naturally might be quite different.

That’s why she wanted to hear Adrian’s analysis.

“I don’t mean to ask you to leak the exam content in advance,” Cindy quickly explained, “I just think that you might have a different perspective. The judges are chefs but they also run restaurants. Their thinking might be different from mine who just focuses on cooking.”

Adrian laughed, “I understand. But, I really don’t know the test questions.”

“The Pingla Competition is hosted by the Pingla group, but it’s just one of the events organized by the Pingla Group. They won’t bother mentioning every detail to me. This time, you are participating, which is why I am following up. As for the previous competitions, there were subordinates who would report to me from time to time about the progress and overall situation. I just need to know the gist and not the specifics,” Adrian explained.

Chapter 377: Seeing Through

“However, I agree with your idea.” Adrian Zhekova said, “Striking a balance between safety and individuality is better at this stage.”

“It’s still the early stage of the competition, it’s not yet the time to diverge from the mainstream. Moreover, the judges might simply mean what they say, without expecting any fancy ideas from the contestants.”

“Just like the previous competition where the theme was snacks, what they truly wanted was straightforward snacks. Contestants who tried to prepare gourmet dishes under the guise of ‘snacks’ were all eliminated. So, interpreting the judges’ words for their literal meaning is the right course. Trying to stand out with fancy details only outsmarts oneself.”

Cindy Clarke nodded along, reassured by Adrian’s words and agreeing with his viewpoint.

“Then I will use this line of thinking.” Cindy said, “Before now, I was just wondering whether or not I should start with seafood. Because I was unsure about this, that’s why I was hesitating.”

Besides this, so many things hit her all at once after the competition.

There hasn’t been a chance to take a breather.

First, she was confessed to by this man.

And then started to move in today, busy with all the moving house matters.

Thinking about it, she hadn’t had a chance to rest for all of today.

Only now has she genuinely had some spare time.

Having dinner while chatting with Adrian.

Thus, she hasn’t had time to think about the next competition.

Thankfully there are still two weeks left, she still has time to think it over.

“Oh, right, I need to let the nursery know, to stop sending the school bus over.” Cindy suddenly remembered this.

After finishing the meal, Cindy took out the school bus route map.

It turned out that the school bus would pass this area anyway, all because of Adrian’s prime location.

It is a must-pass location for many routes.

Even if the school bus has to change its route, it shouldn’t be troublesome.

Although there are not many students in the class and the school bus will pick up and drop off,

The bus route and timing are all planned according to each family’s address.

When one family makes a change, the route must be redrawn, and the timing for other children will also change.

Some parents might be unhappy with the change in school bus timings.

For example, if the timing is earlier than before, the child will have less sleep, and the parents will be unhappy.

And so on, many issues may arise.

Therefore, changing the school bus route can be quite troublesome.

Adrian listened as Cindy talked about these things, as though they were a couple discussing daily life.

He really liked this feeling and also enjoyed hearing Cindy talk about daily matters.

There always seemed to be an endless list of things to talk about.

“In that case, no need to wait for the school bus anymore, just tell the nursery that you’ve moved and don’t need the school bus. I’ll have Cleave Roland fetch and deliver Morgan.” Adrian said.

“Won’t that be too much of a bother to him?” responded Cindy.

“No, it won’t be a bother. In fact, he is my personal driver. He drives me when I have social engagements or business trips and it’s inconvenient for me to drive. But those occasions aren’t that frequent and most of the time he isn’t busy. Actually, this gives him something to do.” stated Adrian, “Otherwise, it would be a waste to pay him such a hefty salary.”

Once the decision was made, Cindy quickly called Teacher Linda.

Tomorrow is Sunday, and Morgan wouldn’t need to go to the nursery, but it’s always better to give the nursery an early heads up.

Upon hearing that the school bus wouldn’t be necessary anymore, Teacher Linda was quite surprised.

“We’ll have our driver in charge of fetching and delivering Morgan.” Cindy said, “On Monday, could you please familiarize yourself with the driver, Teacher Linda? From now on, besides myself and Adrian, only he will be fetching and delivering Morgan.”

Upon hearing this, Teacher Linda understood.

It seemed the driver worked for Adrian.

She had known about Cindy’s relationship with Adrian for a while now.

She was still surprised to hear about this.

Cindy and Adrian seemed to be getting along even better now.

And look, even Cindy's son was being taken care of by Adrian, who had even arranged for a personal driver.

Because tomorrow was Sunday, Morgan was allowed to play till 9 pm before going to bed.

Lying on his familiar car-shaped bed, Cindy sat by its side and gently asked, "Will you not be used to sleeping in a new place tonight?"

Morgan wanted to say that he wouldn't feel unfamiliar because, although the location had changed, the arrangement inside the room hadn't.

It felt like they hadn't moved house at all.

However, seeing Adrian next to Cindy, Morgan had a change of mind, he immediately rolled over to the side of the bed, holding on to Cindy's hand, "I'm slightly unused to it."

Adrian Zhekova:

"Cindy, how about you stay with me a while?" Morgan asked again, "Tell me a story. It's been a while since you last told me one."

It was only then that Cindy noticed, indeed, it had been a while.

Probably because Morgan kept insisting that he was a big boy now and that he could protect her.

And Morgan, to show that he indeed was a big boy, tried to do many things on his own wherever he could.

To look after daily personal needs goes without saying.

He doesn't need her to coax him to sleep or to urge him to do so.

When the time comes, without her prompting him, he goes back to the bedroom to sleep on his own.

He certainly doesn't need her to coax him into sleeping or listen to bedtime stories.

Morgan felt that Cindy was always busy.

So, he would prefer to do things on his own and not trouble Cindy.

Morgan is really considerate. He has made do without Cindy cooing over him for quite some time.

Over time, Cindy gradually got used to this.

She got so used to it that she neglected the fact that Morgan, only four years old, still needed to be cooed at times.

When children his age were still being cooed to sleep and still listening to bedtime stories.

She has been neglecting Morgan.

He wasn't incapable of handling it himself, but he just didn't want to trouble her.

This familiarity can easily be taken for granted over time.

This time, it served as a wake-up call for Cindy, she felt apologetic towards Morgan.

She is really a poor mother.

“Alright.” Cindy immediately agreed, “I’ll tell you a story and wait till you’re asleep before leaving.”

Morgan was about to happily roll into Cindy’s arms.

Suddenly, Adrian chimed in “I’ll tell the story.”

Morgan and Cindy both looked towards Adrian.

When he saw two pairs of eyes, the same as each other, looking back at him together.

Adrian couldn’t help but hesitate for a moment.

Immediately, Morgan said, “No need, no need.”

“Cindy, you tell the story!” Adrian tell a story?

Don’t joke around!

He couldn’t imagine it!

Morgan felt that Adrian simply just didn’t want him sticking to Cindy.

Adrian pretended not to hear Morgan’s words, and gently yet earnestly said to Cindy, “I just started acknowledging our relationship with Morgan, I want to spend more time with him.”

“I haven’t read him a bedtime story before, I haven’t coaxed him to sleep.” Adrian said, “I initially thought Morgan was beyond the age for this. ”

Saying this, Adrian glanced at Morgan.

He saw straight through the child.

Chapter 378: Your Acting Skills are So Good

Morgan:

This trick only works on Cindy.

But Adrian Zhekova sees right through it!

“I didn’t think I’d get this opportunity.” Adrian Zhekova looks grateful and touched, “Cindy, let me try, please?”

Cindy’s heart aches from his words, but she’s also happy that he cares so much for Morgan.

Now all her attention is on Adrian Zhekova, not noticing Morgan’s unwilling expression.

Cindy nods at Adrian: “Alright.”

Adrian immediately says with joy: “You’ve been busy all day, go get some rest. I’ll take care of Morgan.”

Cindy nods, kisses Morgan on the forehead, and says, “Daddy will stay with you and tell you a story.”

Morgan:

How naive can Cindy be!

Fooling her so easily.

What will happen in the future!

Morgan can't help but look at Adrian Zhekova.

You're so good at acting, why not become an actor!

Adrian walks Cindy to the door, and she suddenly remembers, "How are you going to tell Morgan a story? Do you have any books?"

"Just search on the mobile phone," Adrian replies, "This way, we don't need to turn on the light, so it won't disturb his sleep."

Cindy thinks she's foolish for not thinking of that.

So, she leaves the room to Adrian and Morgan.

Letting the father and son bond properly.

Morgan watches Adrian search on his phone.

He's actually quite curious what it would be like for Adrian to tell a story.

Adrian's everyday tone is full of disdain.

It's hard to imagine this tone being used for storytelling.

Morgan gets comfortable and asks, "Dad, what story are you going to tell me?"

Adrian finds what he's looking for, clicking on it and saying: "Journey to the West."

Morgan:

"What's that?" Morgan, who hasn't been exposed to "Journey to the West" yet, hasn't seen the books, TV series, or animations.

After some consideration, Adrian summarizes, "It's a mythical story, with lots of fights."

"I like it!" Morgan suddenly becomes spirited, "Start now!"

Adrian didn't know what story to tell at first.

He just wanted to find a long one, something that could last a while without having to think too much.

In the end, he finally thought of "Journey to the West."

Morgan can't understand classical Chinese, even the semi-classical type.

But it doesn't matter, Adrian translates it himself to tell Morgan.

Unexpectedly, Morgan gets more and more excited as he listens, with no hint of sleepiness.

After Cindy left, she took out the recipe and her notes brought from their Nork City home, and started looking for inspiration.

Whenever she can't figure out what to make, she will look at them.

Not to choose recipes, but these recipe notes might unexpectedly give her some inspiration.

After looking for a while, she still doesn't see Adrian coming out.

Cindy sets down the recipe and goes back to Morgan's bedroom.

Just as she's about to enter, she hears Morgan excitedly urging, "What happens next? What happens next?"

Cindy:

Is this what it looks like when you're going to sleep?

It's already 10 o'clock!

He's been telling the story for an hour, and the little guy isn't asleep yet?

Cindy opens the door to hear Adrian saying, "Elder Lord, he..."

Cindy's mouth twitches, "What kind of story are you telling him?"

"Journey to the West, Sun Wukong!" Morgan excitedly says, "Cindy, this story is so good! Why didn't you tell it to me before?"

Chapter 379: No One Can Escape the Pitfalls of Fatherhood

Cindy Clarke's mouth twitched slightly.

“Can you sleep after hearing this story?”

She took a deep breath, realizing that no one can escape the pitfalls of a father taking care of a child.

“Go to sleep! No more stories, it’s already 10 o’clock.” Cindy said helplessly.

Adrian Zhekova was supposed to put Morgan Zhekova to bed, but instead, he made the little one even more energetic.

Morgan was really enjoying the story and didn’t want it to end, so he pouted, “Dad, will you tell me another one tomorrow?”

Adrian Zhekova:

He wanted to spend more time with Cindy.

But seeing Morgan’s hopeful, watery eyes, Adrian couldn’t bear to say no.

He nodded and said, “We’ll make a deal – I’ll only tell you a story for half an hour each time. Or else, Cindy will be angry.”

Telling this little guy stories for half an hour a day was still within his acceptable range.

Adrian deliberately set the time limit to half an hour, giving his own cleverness a thumbs up!

The little guy didn’t realize Adrian’s cunning twists and turns and even thought it made sense.

He agreed, “Okay!”

Adrian Zhekova said, “Then you better go to sleep.”

Having said that, he got up.

Just as he was about to leave, he felt a small force tugging on his sleeve.

Adrian stopped and turned to look at the little one.

In the bedroom, only one table lamp was lit, giving a gentle, warm glow.

As Cindy opened the door, the light from outside also came in.

Adrian saw Morgan's soft face turn red clearly.

He pointed at his cheek shyly, "Good night... good night kiss! You forgot?"

Adrian's face lit up with a smile, and a hint of mist appeared in his eyes.

"Sorry." He bent down, "I was afraid you wouldn't like it."

Morgan wriggled about in his blanket, "If it's from Dad, I'll like it."

Although sometimes he would tease his dad, deep down in his heart he loved him.

Especially after having daddy just told a bedtime story.

Morgan thought at that time, having a dad is so great after all!

Morgan turned his head slightly, purposely exposing one side of his cheek to Adrian, making it more convenient for him to kiss.

Although he didn't speak, Morgan's entire body seemed to urge him, "Hurry up!"

Adrian thought, how did this little guy become so adorable all of a sudden?

Morgan seemed so small and soft that Adrian just wanted to hold him tightly in his arms.

This was his son.

A warm and soft connection of bloodlines overflowed from Adrian's heart.

He leaned in and kissed Morgan's cheek.

Morgan's skin was incredibly delicate, and Adrian felt as if he had just touched cream. He even smelled a hint of milk.

"Goodnight." Adrian said gently with a smile.

Morgan's face turned red, unable to hide the delight on his face.

With both small hands gripping the blanket, he pulled it up to his chin, covering his delighted smile as well, "Goodnight, Dad."

Adrian thought that telling this little guy bedtime stories for half an hour every night was pretty nice.

At this moment, Morgan tilted his head and looked at Cindy Clarke, who was standing at the door.

Cindy was watching the interaction between Adrian and Morgan, lost in their heartwarming moment.

She couldn't help but feel her eyes welling up just watching them together.

"Cindy." Morgan revealed the other side of his cheek to her, clearly showing it off invitingly. It was indescribably adorable.

Chapter 380: How Do You Know What I'm Thinking?

Cindy quietly sniffed and walked over.

Morgan almost lifted his head, looking extremely impatient.

Cindy thought to herself, what a cute son she had.

She leaned over and kissed him on the cheek: "Goodnight."

The little fellow finally felt satisfied and quickly closed his eyes, preparing to sleep.

Cindy and Adrian Zhekova didn't bother him anymore.

They turned off Morgan's bedside lamp and left the room together, closing the door for him.

Finally, the little guy was left alone.

Morgan happily rolled back and forth on his small bed.

He had rolled up a sweat and couldn't help but giggle.

His laughter was stuck in his throat, sounding like a goose call.

Cindy worried that he wouldn't get used to the new environment and couldn't sleep.

But in reality, Morgan adapted quite well.

The only reason he couldn't sleep was that he was too excited.

After rolling around, the little guy lay down panting, staring at the ceiling.

Morgan could still hear the sound of traffic from the nearby road, and the dim moonlight cast a faint shadow on the ceiling.

Morgan felt unusually settled within himself, and with a delighted smile, he fell asleep.

Without Morgan around, Cindy found herself facing Adrian Zhekova alone.

"I..." Cindy became nervous, "I'm going back to my room."

As soon as she finished speaking, she didn't dare look at Adrian Zhekova and tried to run away.

But no matter how fast she moved, she couldn't be faster than Adrian Zhekova.

Just as Cindy took a step, Adrian Zhekova pulled her back and pressed her against the wall.

Cindy could hear her heart beating nervously.

Thump!

Thump!

Thump!

Each sound seemed to hammer against her chest, as if it were about to burst out.

“You gave Morgan a goodnight kiss, don’t I get one?” Adrian Zhekova lowered his head, his low and magnetic voice feather-light as it swept into her ears.

Cindy looked at him awkwardly, and saw Adrian Zhekova pointing at his lips.

Adrian Zhekova looked at her expectantly.

Previously, he had always been the one to initiate.

Now, he wanted to see her take the initiative for once.

Cindy’s face turned as red as a tomato, and her palms sweated nervously against the wall.

She quickly stood on her toes and gave Adrian Zhekova a swift peck on his lips.

Her ears turned red and she whispered, “Goodnight...”

Adrian Zhekova couldn’t suppress his smile, from his heart to his lips, all of them were smiling.

He felt elated inside.

“Goodnight,” Adrian Zhekova said, and his words, along with his lips, landed on hers, “Have a good rest.”

Cindy was stunned for a moment, was that it?

She had thought...

“Why are you looking at me like that?” Adrian Zhekova’s mouth turned up in a teasing smile, with a hint of badness in his eyes, “It looks... a bit disappointed?”

“No!” Cindy denied firmly, she wasn’t disappointed!

She just didn’t expect...

He would actually let her go back to her room so easily.

Without any intention of following her, nor wanting to be sweet with her a little longer here.

Cindy almost touched her own face.

Was his novelty of her already gone after just a day of moving in?

“What are you thinking!” Adrian Zhekova was almost giving her a stern look!

She had nearly made him laugh with her thoughts!

Adrian Zhekova chuckled and flicked her forehead.

Why wouldn’t this girl think in a positive direction?

Instead, she had unnecessary thoughts!

“You... how did you know what I was thinking?” Cindy was shocked.