

Chapter 516 – Water Extortion Method – Read novel online for free

Chapter 516: Water Extortion Method

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

The man looked at him quizzically as Li Hanlin walked over to the entrance. With two claps of his hands, two prison guards emerged with their police batons.

One of them aimed his baton at his crown and hit hard, sending his head spinning.

The agent ordered, “Prisoner is uncooperative; extortion is needed.”

“What do you mean by that?! What are you going to do?!”

The man screamed as he was flipped on his back with the seat he was occupying. The prison guard covered his face with a towel, and pretty soon, he felt water trickling on his face.

“Boo boo...”

Water extortion was deemed as one of the cruelest torture methods in this world.

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The towel, which was gradually soaked with water, plastered, heavy and wet, on his face. Due to its high absorbency rate for water, his facial orifices were completely blocked off. It was impossible for him to breathe.

He was in danger of suffocating.

He struggled violently, but with his feet and hands chained, he could not move an inch.

The clanking sound of the metal chains rang loud and clear.

Yun Tianyou leisurely sipped the tea from his cup before he signaled with pursed lips. The agent quickly waved his hand, and the prison guards removed the towel agilely. Luo Hanjin's face was contorted hideously as he fought for fresh air greedily.

“Are you awake now?” the boy asked, proceeding to put down his teacup.

The prison guard hit his shoulder with the baton. “Hey! Are you awake? He's talking to you!”

“A— Awake!” the man answered in terror. “Brother, who are these two?”

“We are no brothers of yours!” The prison guard slapped him angrily. “Just answer every question truthfully. If not, we'll make you suffer!”

“Ye— Yes. I know that now!” He nodded obediently as he cast the little boy a fearful look.

“You'd better behave yourself!” The guard threw a flattering look at Li Hanlin and retreated once more at the latter's signal.

“You wouldn’t have suffered if you had just cooperated earlier,” Yun Tianyou remarked casually, adding, “You should know what crimes have led you here, right?”

“I know.” After the guards’ water extortion method, Luo Hanjin knew to behave this time.

Nonetheless, he felt incredulous at the child’s overpowering presence. He had nothing but fear and respect for the boy in front of him right now.

“I’m here to find out about two people. You must tell me everything you know about them!”

With that, the boy had the agent dangle two photos in front of the prisoner’s eyes.

The man took a frenzied look at the images and immediately recognized the girl in one of them.

“Rou’er?”

He looked at Li Hanlin quizzically. “What about her?”

“Do you remember who adopted her?”

“Of course! The Mu family in the capital. Grandmaster Mu himself came over to fetch her.”

“Why was she adopted by Grandmaster Mu?”

“She had a piece of jade, sort of like an heirloom, on her at that time. Grandmaster Mu carried the identical half of it. When he put the two

together, they became a complete piece.” He thought for a while before continuing, “I remember Grandmaster Mu saying that she is his long-lost relation.”

“Did he come to that conclusion with the jade alone?” The agent was doubtful.

Luo Hanjin nodded. “Eh! That jade is unique and is the only one in the world.”

Chapter 517: Mu family adopted the wrong child.

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

“Jade?” Yun Tianyou’s pupils contracted.

“Eh! Piecing the two together will form a piece of complete memorabilia. Apparently, that’s a keepsake handed down in the Mu family for generations.” Luo Hanjin revealed everything he knew.

The little boy fell into a deep thought upon hearing this, his fingertip lightly tapping the tabletop.

“Speaking of the jade, I remember something else.”

“Go on.”

“At that time, the teachers in the welfare center confided to me that Rou’er’s jade was taken from another child.”

“It isn’t hers?” Li Hanlin looked surprised.

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“Eh! Every child entering the orphanage would have a case file which recorded their personal belongings. Rou’er did not originally have that piece of jade on her when she was brought to the welfare center. This was common knowledge to every assistant and teacher in that orphanage at that time... I only learned about it subsequently...”

“Does this mean that the Mu family adopted the wrong child?”

Luo Hanjin nodded moodily. “You can say so!”

The boy lifted his head and quietly added, “To sum it up, this girl snatched someone else’s jade and was adopted by the Mu family in place of the original owner?”

“Eh... I only know this much of the matter.” The man’s heart would inadvertently skip a beat each time the boy opened his mouth.

He was truly just a young boy, but his presence was domineering and fearsome.

Every word he spouted, be it an innocuous comment or an unimpressive statement, would send shivers down his spine.

“Since you became privy to this fact, why didn’t you speak up at that time?”

“I only learned the truth afterward,” the man hurriedly explained. “Rou’er... was popular and well-loved by every teacher and child in the welfare center! I guess no one really thought that she’s capable of stealing other people’s belongings. Besides, the teachers were protective of her and wouldn’t expose her lie.”

“Was she one of your pets then?” The agent was curious suddenly.
“I heard you have some special tastes for your pastime.”

“This...” The man gave a wry smile and avoided the question.

His silence was as good as an admission.

He did toy with Rou'er. She was different from the other kids in that, although overtly repulsed at first, she easily succumbed to it after he had showered her with special care and attention.

In exchange for the privileges, she let him do whatever he wanted with her.

“Have you played with her before?” Li Hanlin asked this in an adult lingo.

Luo Hanjin thought for a moment before he awkwardly nodded.

“Yes...”

“Tsk, tsk.” The agent was truly disgusted by now. “You don't even let a young girl off?”

The man's face was further scorched by his words.

“What are you two talking about?” the little boy asked with a frown.

“Nothing!”

The agent broke out in a cold sweat.

You mustn't know of this matter. Such obscenity would be too much for a young kid like him to stomach!

“There’s another girl; do you recognize her?”

The agent pointed to the other photo. Luo Hanjin scrutinized the girl in the picture pensively before he nodded hesitantly. “I think I know her. There is an impression, but I can’t recall well.”

“Can’t recall well?” The boy furrowed his brows unhappily, a little displeased with his ambiguity.

The agent yanked the prisoner’s head by his hair and pulled it closer to the photo. “Look carefully!”

“Yes, yes, yes! Let me think again!” Luo Hanjin gave a flattering smile and tried his best to recall the details. A thought seemed to come to him as he said, “I remember now; her name is Xiaoshi. She’s also in the welfare center at that time!”

Chapter 518: Mu Wanrou’s Motive

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

Luo Hanjin stared at the photograph for a spell as memories flooded back into him. He deliberated. “I remember... Rou’er’s jade was taken from this child...”

“Taken?”

“Sto-Stolen...” He corrected himself.

Yun Tianyou’s heart sank and his facial expression changed imperceptibly. “This means that this jade was originally this child’s?”

“If I remember correctly, yes! This child had that jade, as well as a bracelet, when she was brought to the welfare center. She was dressed in rags, yet she had those expensive items. This left a huge impression on me.”

The boy’s eyes glinted.

‘As for why she wants to have your mother eliminated, it has something to do with her birth.’

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The assassin’s last words reverberated in his ears.

The little boy creased his brows. Connecting the dots together, the entire story gradually became apparent.

Li Hanlin had also sorted out his thoughts by now.

The two women were at the same welfare center in the past. A piece of jade originally belonging to Yun Shishi was stolen by Mu Wanrou, and as a result, Old Mu mistakenly adopted the latter into the Mu family.

Did this mean that Mu Wanrou had usurped Yun Shishi’s rightful place?

Everything in her possession right now was supposed to be Yun Shishi’s?

Hence, alerted to the latter’s presence, the former decided to end the thorn in her flesh?

Mu Yazhe's actual fiancée was Yun Shishi ?

Mu Wanrou wanted to silence her... with this motive ?

“I know why you're locked up in here, so don't lie to us!”

The agent tapped his cheek. “Did you ever do anything indecent to this young girl ?!”

“NO!” The criminal jerked his head in frantic disagreement. “I DIDN'T!”

“NO ?!” The agent bellowed in response.

Luo Hanjin was so frightened he almost peed in his pants. “I swear to god; I really didn't do anything to her! This girl was a little autistic and unresponsive! I did take liberties on her at first, but... but in the end, I did not push through with the act of indecency to her!”

“You took liberties ?” Yun Tianyou's eyes shone with a piercing gleam and his handsome features were painted with depressing hostility.

Luo Hanjin felt a cold sweat soaking his back from the boy's sharp gaze, and he pleaded for mercy right away, “I truly didn't do anything!”

“How did you take your liberties with her ? Explain it to me clearly!” The agent upbraided him.

The criminal incessantly nodded and confessed everything.

At first, when Yun Shishi was brought into the welfare center, Luo Hanjin had taken note of her good looks and sent pictures of her to a few bosses in high society.

This was actually in line with what Qin Zhou had said; young and pretty girls that were placed in the care of the welfare center were turned into ‘thin horses’. They were then sold off to wealthy yet unsophisticated bosses at high prices under the guise of adoption.

Many bosses preferred girls of the ‘growing up’ type.

Yun Shishi’s physical appearance was just the right fit for their taste.

With many of them expressing their interest in the girl, he decided to teach her some skills and sell her off at a handsome price.

Unfortunately, the girl suffered from autistic tendencies at a young age; that car accident, which had taken the life of her mother, scarred her. Thus, by the time she was taken in, she was already in low spirits and her weight rapidly plummeted.

She was usually reserved and unlikeable, like an empty puppet fashioned from wood.

What was the point of having a pretty shell if she did not know how to please others?

Chapter 519: That Hand of Yours Is Truly Filthy

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

Those bosses were in distaste of autistic children.

Taken off the ‘market’, he then vented his rage on to her physically.

He held malicious intentions toward her.

In fact, he laid his hands on her once before, but due to her violent defiance, he eventually dismissed his notions on her.

Later, the Yun family adopted her and donated an astronomical sum as charity fund to the welfare center.

“I swear I didn’t do anything to her! As for ‘taking liberties’, I only touched her hand...” He perspired profusely from fright.

The agent was disgusted by his confession.

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He looked at Yun Tianyou, only to realize that the boy’s face had turned chillingly dark.

“You touched her hand?”

A shadow was cast over his eyes and a smirk came to his lips. “That hand of yours is truly filthy.”

He readily agreed. “Yes, filthy! He he! I’m taking your word for it – it is indeed filthy.”

“Since you agree with me, what should be done then?” The little boy held a hand to his chin and drummed his fingers on the table.

“Dispose of it by yourself.”

His agent tossed a small blade to the criminal. “Do it.”

“What... What do you mean?”

“Discard the hand that you’ve touched her with,” Yun Tianyou emotionlessly commanded.

“...” Luo Hanjin was completely dumbfounded.

Was this child joking with him?

How could such vicious words leave his mouth easily?

Was he truly a six-year-old child?

“Are you kidding me?”

“The rules of this world are really fascinating sometimes. You caused those children to have tormenting memories and be plagued by nightmares for the rest of their lives. You may be in prison right now, faithfully serving your sentence to earn remission, but do you think that this is enough to repent for your sins?”

The boy slowly stood up and sauntered over to the criminal. All this time, he had been communicating his utter disgust for this lowlife via his eyes.

“You... I answered all your questions honestly! What more do you want from me?!”

“What do I want? I have this desire to dig your heart out to see for myself if it is truly black!” he stated flatly. “Unfortunately, I’m squeamish about filth.”

Stricken with terror at the boy's words, the criminal became profusely soaked in cold sweat.

He did not dare cast doubt to the child's statement, for that might antagonize the latter into turning his threat into reality.

“Why? Why are you...”

Something seemed to click in his mind as he dipped his head to take a closer look at the girl's beautiful features in the picture. His expression subsequently sank and he mechanically lifted his head in terror to meet Yun Tianyou's face.

They looked similar.

The air between their brows was especially similar.

“She... Who is she to you?”

“Do it by yourself so as not to dirty my hand,” was merely the boy's indifferent reply. “If I do it myself, it won't be as simple as breaking your hand!”

He jumped up in panic and, noting the boy's dark and malicious gaze, he instantly felt tremendous fear course through him in great quakes!

He was not a believer of retribution.

Even though all his plans were exposed and he ended up being locked up in prison, with his sentence getting shortened each time he pulled a trick, he firmly believed that villains coming to a sticky end was simply a joke.

Retribution could come about, though.

Now, it did.

He could tell that this child was no simple character.

He shivered from head to toe as he sunk into absolute despair.

The agent showed him fake concern. “Do you need my help?”

“No, thanks! I’ll... I’ll do it myself!” he cried out, almost having a mental breakdown. Luo Hanjin’s hand trembled as he gripped the handle of the knife and furiously stabbed the back of his hand with its blade!

Chapter 520: Giving Yichen a Younger Brother

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

“AHHHH!”

A shrill cry resonated across the interrogation room.

“Go on!”

“I’m sorry! I’m sorry!” Luo Hanjin proceeded with his second stab while gritting his teeth and enduring the pain he felt. His legs wobbled from the combination of fear and pain. He was driven into total madness.

...

The criminal was in a state of dementia by the time the prison guards brought him back to his cell. Along the way, he profusely begged for redemption with bloodshot eyes and an ashen complexion.

Yun Tianyou's face was carved in ice as he looked on impassively at the man being dragged away.

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Li Hanlin let out a sigh. He carried the little boy in his arms and took his time to leave.

“Mr. Li, I'm so heartbroken for my mommy. What exactly has she gone through? Depression? Misanthropy? What exactly has she gone through in her dark past? My heart is aching a lot.” The little boy let his agent hug him as his small hand clutched at his chest; his broken heart seemed to be bleeding from the immensity of the pain.

The agent could only sigh. Deep down, he was more worried for this child than Yun Shishi.

“How should we deal with that Mu Wanrou?”

“That spiteful woman is better off dead!” Yun Tianyou's orbs turned pitch-black as his heart was taken over by hatred. In that moment, the sides of his mouth slightly tugged upward to form a sinister smile. “There's no forgiveness for anyone who hurts mommy!”

...

The Mu residence.

As Mu Yichen was going down the stairs, he felt a pang of pain in his heart.

He temporarily halted his steps and grasped at his chest tightly; the mysterious pain in his heart was aching to the point of suffocation.

“Yichen, what is happening?”

Mu Wanrou noticed the grave look on his face and instinctively knew that he just had a relapse.

The child paid no attention to her whatsoever and just continued heading down to the lower level by himself.

Her face grew stiff. She thought to herself that he was biologically not hers, after all, so their relationship could only be estranged; he was not close to her at all.

A skin-deep smile indifferently tugged at the corner of her lips, and she quickly made her way downstairs as well.

The maids have already laid out dinner on the table. She could not help but ask them, “Where’s Young Master Mu?”

“Daddy has to fly straight to England tonight to settle a takeover,” Yichen answered instead. “I overheard this when I was walking past his study room yesterday.”

“He is that busy?”

Mu Sheng slowly came down the stairs with his walking stick.

“Wanrou, why are you back so late tonight?”

Feeling a pang of guilt, she glossed over his words. “I went shopping. I purchased a few sets of clothes for myself.”

“Oh! Sit down.”

The two purposely waited for the old man to settle down in his seat first before they took their places.

As the three sat around the dining table, she raised her eyes to Mu Sheng and broached about her physical condition in a roundabout manner. “Grandpa, there’s something in my mind, but I’m not sure if I should ask you about it.”

“What is it?”

She carefully worded her question. “Six years ago, I was diagnosed as congenitally infertile. Is that result really credible?”

He gave her a look tainted with hesitation.

He recalled watching a show once on TV explaining the term ‘infertile’.

It meant that one could not conceive a child.

He carefully put down his chopsticks and wore a solemn look on his face. “For this, I have invited both local and foreign medical practitioners, and all guaranteed that you are congenitally infertile; you can’t have a baby.”

“Am I really... unable to get pregnant?” She feigned indignation.

“Grandpa, I really hope that I can give birth to a child to continue the Mu family lineage.”

“Grandpa does understand your intentions.” He knitted his brows.
“But this truly can’t be forced.”

“How do you know without even giving it a try? What if I am able to get pregnant? I can give Yichen a younger brother!” She insisted, looking at the little lad gently.

Chapter 521: He only has one brother.

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

Yichen was thoroughly stunned and utterly disgusted by the thought.

Brother?

He only had one brother!

He would never acknowledge any child she bore.

Yun Tianyou’s cold and proud face surfaced in his mind. That boy would be the only one he would acknowledge as his brother in this lifetime; there was none other!

“Grandpa...”

“Wanrou, you can’t rush this kind of thing. Everything will work out in the end.” Mu Sheng quickly consoled her, thinking that she was simply overanxious to have children of her own.

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She was an observant woman and knew that speaking further about this matter would be detrimental.

She did not want to incur Grandpa Mu's suspicion.

Her pregnancy had to be kept a secret until she could derive a fitting solution. If she could not, she would be having a future filled with misfortune!

She got nauseous after dinner and secretly went to the washroom to throw up.

A servant chanced upon her as she was vomiting and walked up to check on her. "Young mistress, are you okay?"

"I'm fine."

"You look like you are having morning sickness!"

Mu Wanrou's face stiffened, and she glared darkly at her.

Knowing that she had hit the wrong note, the servant hastily retreated.

She raised her head to the bathroom mirror and saw a pale face staring back at her.

...

"You can drop me here. Thank you!"

Yun Shishi alighted from the car, went up the driver's side, and smilingly told Qin Zhou that.

With his hands on the steering wheel, he eyed her with concern and asked hesitantly, "Shishi, are you sure you are all right? Have an early rest once you get inside your home, or you won't recover fast!"

“Rest assured, Mr. Qin; I recuperate fast. I’ll recover after a sleep!”
She confidently tapped her chest.

Her action made him laugh. “All right, then. I’ll be off now.”

The car slowly drove away.

She watched the car vanish into the distance before she turned around and headed for the door to let herself in.

The sky had turned dark by now.

With one push, the door opened into a quiet and desolate house.

The floor-to-ceiling window was wide opened, letting the strong night breeze send the pristine, white curtains flying about.

There was no one at home.

Yun Yecheng went out to run some errands, while Li Hanlin called to say he would be bringing Youyou to the bookstore. The man seemed to like the boy a lot and vice versa.

Putting her bag on top of the cabinet, she felt cold all of a sudden.

Hence, under the faint moonlight streaming in from the outside, she walked up to window and pulled it shut.

She could instinctively pick up an exquisite, smoky aroma within the stuffy room.

Why is this room smelling of cigarettes?!

Her father had quit smoking long ago.

It was definitely not Youyou, either.

She spun around and swept her gaze across the living room. The spacious place was empty and dead. By the time she turned around, the smell had already died away.

She smiled sheepishly; was it her imagination?

Perhaps she was overreacting.

Feeling tired, she entered her bedroom.

Just as she stepped into the room, a tall and dark figure rushed to her.

Before she could react, she was plastered against the door by the figure!

The tall and lean body easily cornered her!

Alarmed, she stared up at the figure with wide eyes. With the aid of the faint light coming from the window, she deduced from the assailant's build that it was a young chap!

The man had a familiar, velvety scent with a hint of smoke.

Chapter 522: Responding to His Kiss

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

The man had a familiar, velvety scent with a hint of smoke.

Alarmed and angry, she swung her fist toward the man's face on reflex!

Her fist was easily blocked by the man, though!

The man leaned over slightly and proceeded to grip her shoulders tightly, breathing to her ear, "Don't move; it's me."

She got a shock!

"Mu Yazhe?!"

How did he come in?

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The man's mighty and masculine charisma tumbled over and imprisoned her in the darkness.

Why was he here?

Her mind started to whirl after the initial bewilderment.

The development for this area was headed by him. Besides, this bungalow was a gift from him.

Did he have a duplicate set of keys?

The thought of this angered her.

Her heart was still beating erratically from the earlier shock.

Why was this man always so self-centered?

Their clothes brushed against each other's. Past the fabric, the heat from the man's body and breath sent her face aflame.

For some reason, she suddenly thought of Mu Wanrou.

When she saw the woman this afternoon with her overt signs of morning sickness, she had many doubts and gloomy thoughts.

She very much wanted to ask the man of what was going on between him and Mu Wanrou.

More specifically, had he ever touched that woman or any other?

Was she truly his one and only since the beginning?

This question mattered to her all of a sudden!

Before she could say a word, the man bowed and covered her lips softly, robbing her of breath and of the chance to voice out her doubts.

He could not see the hesitation and perplexity on her face in the dark, and neither could she observe his stiff and suppressed look.

It was a lingering and beautiful kiss.

He seemed anxious to devour her, yet at the same time, he was careful not to let loose the raging fire within him. She was akin to a fragile monument, and he had to be gentle with her regardless.

His thin lips pressed tightly over her lip flaps, almost suffocating her. The tip of his tongue gently traced her oral contour, savoring every moment of this intimate connection.

His gentleness melted her heart as she soaked in his shower of love!

The temperature was rising.

Gradually, she relaxed her guard and responded to his kiss.

Her kissing skill was indubitably rudimentary at best.

He reckoned this woman to be dumb. They had kissed a couple of times before, so she should have been enlightened by then, no matter how inexperienced she used to be.

However, when his tongue slid between her teeth and touched her uvula, he was bitten by her a couple of times.

She was unbelievably clumsy!

Despite his displeasure, he still thought that she was cute and adorable in this way!

Hence, he slowly led and guided her in their steamy embrace.

Following his guidance, she slowly learned to respond properly.

Their breathing overlapped as their lips remained interlocked. With them pressing close against each other, they perceived their body temperature rapidly rising. She, for her part, noticed the biological response of his body to hers and blushed profusely.

There was no way for her to resist with him pinning her against the door with his body.

He looked down at her face. Her coquettish and exasperated look was visible and unobstructed from his sight under this hazy moonlight.

Chapter 523: A Beast in a Suit

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

He looked down at her face. Her coquettish and exasperated look was visible and unobstructed from his sight under this hazy moonlight. He pressed her further against the door and unreservedly stretched his hand under her skirt.

“Don’t...” She was startled.

You might return anytime. What was this man thinking?

Hanging within a hair’s breadth of her, he playfully nibbled on her fair earlobe and whispered, “Shishi, I want you!”

His warm breath heated her facial contour.

He gently called her name, his indulgent tone hinting to a secret tryst.

It sounded as if he were beseeching her to fulfill his needs.

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Shishi...

The man hardly addressed her in an affectionate way; hence, calling her in this manner nearly made her lower her defenses entirely!

This man had the ability to make any woman lose her will to resist!

The man's palm took an opportunistic plunge deeper and further while she was feeling mesmerized.

Slightly furious, she quickly grabbed his rampaging hand. "Can you stop misbehaving?"

"Misbehaving?"

He was displeased with her choice of word; he was here only because he missed her terribly.

He would be flying to London tonight for an acquisition tomorrow. This was an important deal to Disheng Financial Group, and it was one he must succeed no matter what!

This would mean that he would be absent in her life for half a month, though.

The thought of not touching this woman for half a month made him unduly frustrated.

He easily shook off her resistance and dug his palm further in while he pressed against her!

He started to get aggressive and, within a second, succeeded in lowering her top past her shoulders.

This incited her agitation more, so she struggled to free herself!

She resisted not because she was not aroused but because she knew that Youyou would be home soon, and the first thing he would do was find her for a kiss and a hug.

If their son were to witness this scene...

The shame was enough to send her face ablaze, and she glared heatedly at the man.

In the darkness, he was oblivious to her warning look and kissed her once more.

His kiss this time around was not gentle and calm like before. It was urgent and desperate, as if he wanted to swallow her right there and then!

She deftly avoided his advances. Amid all this, he aimed to plant a hickey on her throat.

Ahh!

Is this man in heat again?

What a beast in a suit!

There were a few times he almost misfired with the constant rubbing!

That got him really frustrated; hence, he increased his wrist power, and despite her best effort to break free from him, her overcoat was still removed fast.

She was angry as well. “Mu Yazhe!”

“Yun Shishi!” He glared back at her, his need and desire naked on his face.

“Are you in heat?”

“Since you know that I am, why can’t you just cooperate with me?”

The man let his indignation be known to her, instead.

She was thoroughly overcome by his disgraceful reply!

“I’m flying to London tonight for an acquisition, so you won’t see me for half a month.” He clutched her chin and asked, “Do you really have no desire for me?”

She turned beet red at his question. She averted her gaze as her heartbeat accelerated. If he were to switch on the lights this instant, he would bear witness to her scorching face.

They heard the door opening and closing from outside the room.

The pair exchanged looks with a start; their faces, especially hers, turned stiff. She knew with certainty that someone came home.

Chapter 524: Wanting a Kiss and a Hug!

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

Is that Youyou?

The two looked at each other.

They could hear the pitter-pattering of footsteps from outside this bedroom.

Soon after, Youyou's light-hearted and tender voice rang about.
“Stupid mommy, Youyou is back!”

With a click , the lights in the living room were switched on by the little lad; this action was followed by his thumping footsteps up the stairs in search of her.

“Mommy ~ ~ ~”

The man's brows gave a sharp twitch. Why did the rascal have to return at this hour ?

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Yun Shishi was absolutely horrified. Her mind went blank. Not daring to utter a sound, she quickly grabbed her overcoat.

Alas, she could not see where he had thrown it in this darkness.

She did not dare to switch on the bedroom lights for fear of attracting the boy's attention to this room.

She was hobbling in embarrassment by then.

Why—

She was acting as if she had been caught in an indecent act!

“Where're my clothes?!”

As the boy was taking his time to climb up the stairs, she took the opportunity to stand up and look for her clothes. In her hurry to push him away, and because she did not switch on the lights in the room as she fumbled around, she bumped into his chin.

Er—

The two knocked against each other as they missed their steps.

The man lost his balance and fell backward when he was hit.

As her shoulder strap got caught on to a button of his shirt, she was pulled along and tumbled on top of him.

Ping pong! They fell to the ground.

Momentarily dumbstruck, he could only hiss, “Stupid woman!”

“How dare you blame me now?!”

“Can’t you switch on the lights first?”

“I could faint at your words! What if he sees the lights?”

Oh, I’d better lock the room first!

She forgot that her clothes’ shoulder strap was still caught on to his shirt button when she got up, so with a forceful jerk , she fell back onto his chest again.

“...!”

He was almost made speechless by her intelligence.

“Your clothes!”

“What do you mean?”

“It’s still caught on to my shirt button!” the man hissed.

Feeling awkward, she hurriedly reached out to remove the snagged part in vain.

“...” He was angered and teased by her clumsiness.

His intention was to have a good time with her before he left the country; how did they end up in such an embarrassing situation?!

“Switch on the lights first!”

“You stand up first!”

“How do I stand up when my strap is entangled with your shirt button?”

“How do you expect me to switch on the lights when you are on top of me?” The man was silent for half a second before he asked,

“Where’s the switch?”

...

The woman held her chin and sighed, her heart close to despondency.

The boy leisurely took a round upstairs. He could not see anyone, so he went to check the balcony. His mommy had some potted plants, and the first thing she would usually do upon her return was to head over there to water those.

There was no one on the balcony, either.

He wondered if his mother was home yet.

Worried, he quickly took out his mobile phone to call her.

After a few seconds' silence, he heard the phone ring in the living room downstairs.

He was really puzzled by now.

Is she downstairs, then?

Thus, he hurried down again and followed the ringing sound all the way to the bag she had placed on top of the cabinet.

So she's already home?

His eyelids jumped abruptly.

Why did she not answer when he incessantly called for her moments before?

Was his mommy playing hide and seek with him?

“Mommy, where are you? Youyou is home and wants your hugs and kisses!”

The man could not help being stunned by what he heard.

This lad could do a one-eighty before his mother and him.

What a rascal!

Chapter 525: Catching Them in the Act

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

What a rascal!

He was an unapproachable and arrogant kid before him, yet why was he such a docile and lovable child in front of her?

Just as she finally detached her clothes' shoulder strap from his blouse button, she heard the boy call out to her in a lovely voice. She moved to answer him on reflex but managed to stop herself in time.

The two exchanged looks.

She gestured for him to remain silent. "Shhh!"

Right now, even Mu Yazhe knew that their situation was anything but normal and was instead quite indecent.

They were almost caught in the act.

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She slid into her overcoat and surveyed their surroundings right after. Walking toward the French window and dragging it to the side, she revealed a balcony. She looked past her shoulder and signaled for him to leave. "Hurry and leave!"

Contrary to expectation, his blood started boiling and he snorted. "Why should I?"

She was completely dumbfounded. "Youyou is back; go first, hm?"

"I'm not leaving. I haven't even received my kisses and hugs yet. Am I supposed to leave just because you say so?" The man gracefully leaned his back against the wall and imitated Youyou's manner of speaking.

The corner of her lips twitched. “Stop with the jokes!”

“I’m not joking,” he seriously replied.

“Are you a kid as well?!” Angered, she broke into a fit of laughter, instead.

Why does this father-son pair behave in the same manner?

Is behavior hereditary?

They portrayed themselves in a similar fashion when they acted shameless.

Outside the bedroom, Yun Tianyou continued his search as he made his way to the washroom. Noticing lights seeping through a crack in the door, the boy thought that she had probably forgotten to turn them off after she had washed her hands. He reckoned that she was bathing in the washroom now, so he placed his head next to the door and gently asked, “Mommy, are you taking a bath in there?”

No one replied even after a while.

“Mommy, I’m coming in, okay?!” The little boy covered his eyes before he carefully turned the knob and entered the washroom.

He glanced in the direction of the bathtub and peeked through the cracks between his fingers. No one was there.

He crossed his arms in defeat and snorted in annoyance.

Where is mommy hiding?

Has she gone out ?

She could not have gone out without her phone, though...

He exited the washroom and cast his eyes on her bedroom.

He happened to spot the flitting of a shadow through a crack in the door despite the lights being off.

He arched a brow in suspicion. Proceeding to her bedroom, he knocked on the door. “Mommy, I know you are in there. May I come in ?”

“...” Her lips twitched furiously, and she glared at the man hatefully.

The latter looked completely relaxed, however. Unperturbed, he beckoned her with his fingers and then tapped his cheek lightly to give her a hint.

As angry as she was, she had no choice but walk toward him.

The man grabbed hold of her arm and pulled it over forcibly to land her in his arms.

She gritted her teeth, stood on her toes, and cupped his handsome face to plant a kiss on his thin lips.

It was an intense kiss.

The kiss was full of impatience and agitation, making him feel somewhat disappointed at it.

Was this woman seriously chasing him away because of their son ?

As such, he bit the edge of her lip.

She pursed her lips as a corollary and tolerated the blossoming pain. As their lips came apart, she glared at him. Looking as if she wanted to gouge his eyes out, she probed with her gaze. Are you satisfied now?

Perceiving her embarrassment, he teased her with his glance.

You realized that the door was unlocked, so he hurriedly twisted its handle.

The moment he entered the room, all the lights went on.

He swept his gaze over in surprise, only to spot his mother standing by the bed with an unnatural expression. With her hands clasped behind her back, she glanced at him smilingly. “Darling, you’re back!”

Chapter 526: An Indecent Affair! (1)

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

He swept his gaze over in surprise, only to spot his mother standing by the bed with an unnatural expression. With her hands clasped behind her back, she glanced at him smilingly. “Darling, you’re back!”

Left in a stupor, Yun Tianyou stared straight at her face in response. He then scanned her from head to toe and eventually landed an intense gaze on her neck.

Out of the blue, a faint mark of intimacy was present there. Although it was not too obvious, in contrast to his mommy's snowy white, ceramic skin, its redness was particularly vivid.

Seeing the mark, the tip of his brows twitched in a shocking suspicion.

She stood beside the bed looking quite embarrassed. Her clothes were rather ruffled; in particular, noticeable creases could be spotted on the collar.

She forced herself to smile, yet it could hardly conceal her anxiety and embarrassment. A queer smile was visible in her orbs. When Youyou scrutinized her with doubt, her smile became even more unnatural.

“Youyou?” she called awkwardly. Following his line of sight, she looked back at herself, only to realize that her clothes were quite rumpled.

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A strange smile surfaced on her face as he continued to survey her up and down. Thereafter, seemingly having caught on to some clues, his small and youthful face darkened!

His gaze made her feel extremely uneasy.

A strained silence ensued in the entire room right that instant.

She tried to break this awkward tension. “Youyou, what's the matter?”

He kept mum for a while before suddenly sending her a sidelong glance. He questioned her with a strange expression on his face.

“Mommy, I called you so many times; why didn’t you answer me?”

“Because...”

“Mommy, are you secretly up to something?”

She blushed. There were suddenly butterflies in her stomach.

She could not provide an explanation to that.

She sat at the edge of the bed and tapped it to beckon him over.

“Come, Youyou, sit down!”

She tried to shy away from that awkward conversation.

The little boy scanned his surroundings and remained suspicious, but the room looked neat and tidy without any other anomalies.

He then cast away some of his doubts and walked over to her to throw himself into his mommy’s arms.

“Mommy!”

However, the moment he threw himself into her hold, his brows wrinkled.

His sense of smell was especially sharp; he easily picked up a refreshing yet exquisite scent on her.

His sensitive nose could tell that it was a men’s perfume – a scent similar to Eau de Cologne’s fragrance.

In the past, he used to shop with his mommy, and when they passed the perfume stands, he remembered sniffing a scent just like this.

Youyou was stunned, thinking that it was an unusually familiar smell.

... Mu Yazhe?

He has dropped by?!

Yun Shishi dipped her head and cupped his smiling face. She then proceeded to paste a smooch on each side of his cheek and to rub the tip of his nose affectionately. Her actions were, however, met by his odd look. “Youyou... what’s the matter?”

“Youyou can smell someone’s perfume on mommy!” The little boy pouted his lips as he directed his doubts straight at her.

She faltered uncomfortably. “That’s mommy’s perfume.”

“Nonsense. Mommy has a natural fragrance and never puts on perfume.” He exposed her lie mercilessly.

Her expression stiffened.

Was this child usually this observant and effortlessly knew whether she had sprinkled perfume on herself or not?

Youyou decided to clear things out, so he pointed to the red mark on her neck. “What is that?”

“... Where?”

“Here. It’s red.” He narrowed his eyes at her.

She put him down in a hurry and rushed toward the mirror. Spying the hickey on her neck as she looked at her reflection, she was stupefied.

Chapter 527: An Indecent Affair! (2)

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

Huh...

When was this kiss mark left on her?!

That b*stard!

Youyou pursued relentlessly. “Mommy, what is that?”

“It’s a mo— mosquito bite!”

“That doesn’t look like a mosquito bite to me.” Youyou crossed his arms and showed displeasure at her dubious explanation.

She turned and saw him eyeing her suspiciously before he blurted out, “This must be an indecent affair!”

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...

Silence from her!

Can my son be less sensitive?!

It isn’t good... when he’s too smart to handle!

She was at a loss on how to deal with him now!

Not knowing if she should cry or laugh at his words, she could only escape to the bathroom in the guise of smoothing her tousled outfit.

Youyou casually walked around the bedroom and unexpectedly found a shoe print next to the balcony window.

Their family had a contract with a cleaning service, so an auntie would routinely come to clean up the place. The rooms were always pristine and well-maintained.

He stooped down to examine the shoe print closer. It was freshly made, suggesting that the owner of it had just left not too long ago.

He walked over and pushed open the balcony window. Going to the balcony, he switched on the garden lights and glanced across the yard.

Shu—

There was a crisp and clear whistle.

The boy's face changed as he looked in its direction. In the courtyard, a broad and lean man, with his hands in his pockets, stood tall and straight under the canopy of a tree.

“Who is there?”

Mu Yazhe slowly detached himself from the shadows. His devilishly smart face had a mocking smile under the lights' illumination.

His shirt collar was slightly open, revealing a hickey on the neckline, similar to his mother's.

It was bright and glaring.

He was staring provocatively at Youyou!

This man is out to challenge me openly!

The boy made a fist angrily, his face suddenly a mask of unhappy chill.

The man, seemingly oblivious to the boy's chagrin, turned and confidently strode off through the backdoor in the courtyard!

When his mother returned to the room, she saw him standing stiffly on the balcony with a furious look.

“What happened, Youyou?” She walked over and squatted in front of him.

His little handsome face had curled into a ball of grievance by then; with moist eyes and pouting lips, he seemed to think that the world was about to come to an end.

“I'm very unhappy; I want mommy's hugs and kisses!”

He worked hard when she was not around, only to return home and discover that his dearest mommy's hugs and kisses had been snatched away by that man. He was truly feeling aggrieved now!

She quickly gathered him in her arms and consolingly asked, “Youyou, darling, what happened?”

“Mommy... has betrayed me!” he rubbed his eyes and cried out.
“Mommy has another darling in her heart now; Youyou isn’t first anymore!”

She was bewildered and tried to coax him. “That’s not true! Youyou is always first in mommy’s heart! No one can replace Youyou!”

“Boo... boo... boo! I don’t believe you!” The boy sobbed heartily as he accused, “Mommy has a change of heart; mommy doesn’t love Youyou anymore! Youyou’s heart is very much in pain... Wu... uu... uuu... My heart is broken into pieces...”

“...” His mother was made momentarily speechless by his accusation before she helplessly refuted, “Nonsense. Youyou’s heart is intact and not broken! Come and let mommy give you a kiss and a hug. Youyou, stop crying, hm?”

Chapter 528: That is what you get for provoking me!

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

“Nonsense. Youyou’s heart is intact and not broken! Come and let mommy give you a kiss and a hug. Youyou, stop crying, hm?”

With that, she cupped his face and gave a big peck on his cheek.

With tears rolling down his face, he turned the other cheek and asked for the same. “Here, too...”

His mother quickly delivered a kiss on the other side.

“Kiss my lips, too!”

He forlornly pointed to his small, pinkish mouth.

Sheepish, she lightly landed a kiss on his small lips.

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Sip—

The boy was finally consoled and stopped his tears.

Just like the unpredictable weather in June, the boy's gloomy wet face was now all sunshine after her kisses.

Inwardly, he was cursing his father. Mu Yazhe, how dare you snatch my mommy away from me; you just watch!

The little lad went to the study room and locked himself in. Sitting at his study table, he powered on his computer and then activated the control switches for making the bookshelves split apart at the center to reveal a gigantic flat screen monitor.

Opening the system interface, the boy speedily typed on the keyboard to bring up the window featuring the city's traffic control system.

His agent had informed him earlier that Disheng Financial Group would be having an important acquisition tomorrow in London. He reckoned that the man was on his way now to his private jet for an overnight flight!

Lifting his head, his lips curled into a devilish smile as his fingers furiously flew across the keyboard to enter a string of commands. Focusing on the screen as he typed, he successfully hacked into the city's navigation system very quickly.

In ten seconds' time, much to his satisfaction, he had the full view and control of this city's crisscrossing traffic coordinates. He quickly swept his eyes across the screen as his brain visualized the ten navigational routes from the Mu residence to the airport. With a sneer, he entered another row of commands to have the traffic lights in those ten routes flash red.

Mu Yazhe, are you out to challenge me?

Such naivety!

...

Baa baa baa—

Du du du—

Car horns and sirens blared one after another and irritatingly pierced the eardrums of those currently on the Huai'an Highway.

Car taillights could be seen stretching up to dozens of kilometers on this highway. The sight was enough to numb anyone's scalp.

“Director Mu, we seem to be caught in a traffic jam!”

The chauffeur anxiously turned to inform his master of this.

Mu Yazhe was checking emails on his tablet when he received this news.

He raised his head and looked out. Cars had gathered close to theirs by then; this made it difficult for the driver to maneuver the vehicle away from this road.

“What’s the matter?”

“There’s a traffic jam...”

“Didn’t I tell you to avoid the congested route?”

“Director Mu, this has never happened on this route before. This is also the fastest way to the airport.” Feeling wronged, the driver defended himself. “The traffic lights in front of us seem to be faulty.”

“Faulty traffic lights?”

“Eh! It seems that all lights at the outer loop are faulty; that’s why we are experiencing a traffic jam here.”

“D*mn!” The man looked at his watch. There was not much time left to the last flight out of the city tonight. If he missed this flight, he would need to submit a new application for his private plane to fly out!

If so, he would likely miss the acquisition deal tomorrow.

It was not the peak hours now; moreover, the traffic system in the capital had always been stable. Why did the traffic lights suddenly malfunction for no reason?

The traffic enforcers, who had arrived at the scene at this point, got down to the business of easing the jam.

The traffic support team only managed to patch the problem in the system after 20 minutes. It took another half an hour after that for the traffic situation to return to normal.

Chapter 529: I am not as simple as you think.

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

The car sped all the way to the airport with the man in it. He almost missed his flight.

Just before he entered the flight cabin, his handphone rang and he answered it.

The little lad's evil, tender voice came through. "Mu Yazhe, that is what you get when you provoke me!"

The man was badly stunned. "You did all that?"

He cocked his brow in question. It was too bewildering for him to accept.

How could a mere seven-year-old easily hack into a massive traffic navigational system?

What would the city's traffic department think if they learned that the cause of this freakish incident was a mere boy who just had his seventh birthday?

(vit(function(){}){()})

"Who else can pull that off?"

Inside the study room, Yun Tianyou had a headset on as his hands fiddled with the 17-level Rubik's Cube. With his lips arching playfully, he said, "I am really sorry that you almost missed your

flight. I just want to see if you have the ability to catch the last flight.”

This was pure evil.

He actually mocked his father this way.

The man was not the least bit upset, though. In fact, he only felt flabbergasted with his son’s capability.

This was a boy who had paralyzed the city’s traffic system in a short time, which later required an hour to return things to normal.

It was hardly believable that a six-year-old could do that.

“This must’ve been a shock to you.”

The boy put the solved puzzle cube on the table. Propping his chin on his interlocked hands, he enunciated, “I heard you’re checking on me.”

“...”

“Aren’t you investigating the president of Lezhi Holdings?”

His father’s face stiffened, a premonition rising within him.

“Mu Yazhe, since you are my father, I’ll let you in on a secret,” the little boy casually spouted into the mouthpiece. “I’m the president of Lezhi.”

“You?”

He was rooted to the spot.

He... is the president of the biggest toy manufacturing company in the world ?!

The boy did not mind divulging his identity to his father, especially when he imagined the look of shock that was probably on the latter's face. This was enough to make him smile in satisfaction.

This identity was already enough to make his father shock, but that was not all he was.

His status did not end there.

If he were to tell him that he was not just Lezhi Holdings' president but also Hurricane Group's senior management member, would this make his hapless father be immensely shocked ?

How would his father react if he learned that he controlled the entire market for firearms in East Asia ? What kind of astonishment would he express ?

How would his father react if he discovered that 'Deva Eye' system, which was currently being developed by Hurricane Group, was his creation and found out that his toy models were being used by the group for military armament ?

Of course, he would not tell his father this, nor would he let the latter find out.

It would tarnish his reputation if these secrets came to light, would it not ?

These secrets belonged to him alone.

Pouting slightly, he casually added, “Mu Yazhe, your son isn’t as simple as you may think.”

The man raised his brow; the little fellow had far exceeded his expectation!

“Does your mommy know of this?”

“She doesn’t, and I won’t tell her!” The child continued to speak.

“Mu Yazhe, there is something you need to get right!”

“Er?”

“Before you start pursuing my mother, can you settle your fiancée first?” the boy asked coldly.

“...”

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"Mu Yazhe, there is something you need to get right!"

"Er?"

"Before you start pursuing my mother, can you settle your fiancée first?" the boy asked coldly.

“...”

Chapter 530: Mu family is a tiger' s den.

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

“...”

“You are aware of Mu Wanrou’s origin, right? You should know her real identity!”

“I know.”

Yun Tianyou asked with a start, “Why haven’t you done anything yet, then?”

“You need not worry about that!”

The man did not know where the little lad got the intel, but he was truly impressed with his exceptional capability by now.

Nevertheless, he did not want his son to interfere in this matter.

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This was what he had to do as a man; he definitely would not let his son enter the picture.

The little boy snorted. “I can’t be bothered as well.”

What if Mu Wanrou got exposed?

He did not want his mother to return to the Mu family and be their mistress.

He found it to be distasteful!

Status, power, wealth – what the Mu had he had. Besides, returning to the Mu family might not be a good thing.

He had seen that Grandmaster Mu and disliked him from the start!

From the complexities in the man's eyes he saw, this Mu Sheng was no simple character.

His instinct was telling him that his mother would meet perilous problems if she were to return to the Mu family.

When Li Hanlin was investigating Mu Wanrou's background, he had discovered something else. It was about that car accident involving his mother who was nine at the time.

That was a terrible accident. Of the three car passengers, one died, one was injured, and the last one went missing without a trace.

Yun Shishi's mother apparently died in that horrific car accident.

Tracing back the history, the agent learned that this was not a straightforward accident like what it seemed on the surface.

Mu Sheng had excessively doted on his adopted daughter, Mu Qingcheng, in his early days.

The Mu family had a piece of jade, a family heirloom, that was passed down for generations only to male descendants.

Mu Liancheng was the sole and true heir of the Mu family back then, but the old man chose to give her the jade token, instead. This gesture signified her great importance to him.

Subsequently, the woman fell in love with a smuggler and became an unwed mother. The old man was so furious he forced her to abort the child.

The lady refused and subsequently left the Mu family. She vanished into thin air and was later untraceable.

Old Mu searched high and low in the capital for her.

A few years later, a rumor of the mafia chasing her car, making it flip over a cliff, and causing her death circulated in the capital.

Was it really the mafia, though? The agent suspected that the old man had had a hand in the car accident!

It was said that the old man was so fond of the lady it bordered on obsession.

If that were true, then the Mus would indeed be a tiger's den.

Yun Tianyou would certainly not allow his mother from returning to such a scary place.

“Since you like my mother, don't let her be a third party! Before you pursue her, clean up the women around you first. Keep in mind that that is my minimum requirement!”

The little boy coolly told him with no reservation.

He was negotiating with his father indubitably.

He had the rights to negotiate with him in this regard, too.

“My mommy has the looks and charms, and she has such a capable son. Do you think she only belongs to you?”

He was disgusted just by remembering the dirty, underhanded means Mu Wanrou had used to bully his mother.

Still, he would not step in to settle this matter about that woman. This was his father’s affair and he should settle the score himself. That was his minimum requirement.

Chapter 531: Mommy Is in Charge of Looking Pretty

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

If Mu Wanrou did not know her place and came after them again, he would readily dispose of her to avoid dealing with that eyesore repeatedly!

Mu Yazhe was not privy to the progress of his son’s investigations.

Right now, he had his reasons for keeping Mu Wanrou by his side.

Similarly, he would not bring back Yun Shishi into the Mu family for now.

Thus, he did not go into details about this and simply said, “Rest assured; I’ll handle this properly.”

“Mu Yazhe, you’d better not let your son down!” The little boy’s furrow loosened, feeling rather satisfied with his father’s reply.

Once the little boy ended the call and exited the study room, he saw that his mommy had prepared their dinner.

(vit(function(){()})

Wholly unaware to the suspenseful confrontation between the father and son, she beckoned her son over as soon as he left the confines of the study room. “Youyou, come and get dinner!”

“Okay!”

Youyou was moved – his mommy hardly cooked.

Making his way over to the dining table, a streak of awkwardness made its way on his face and an exasperated smile crept across his lips the moment the two bowls of instant noodles came into his view.

“What is this?”

“Noodles,” she answered shyly.

“What is that scorched mess on top of the noodles?” With a stiff expression, he pointed to that unknown, burnt mass swimming in the bowl.

She nervously replied, “That’s a sunny side up. I forgot to take note of the heat when I was frying it.”

“And this...” Youyou fiddled with his chopsticks and pieces of diced meat emerged from the broth.

“It’s square ham. I diced it into pieces. The ham tastes better this way.” She explained.

...

He was speechless for a moment.

“Mommy...”

“I wanted to keep it simple! Anyway, instant noodles are delicious! Youyou, don’t be too picky with your food. Mommy cooked this painstakingly!” She clasped her hands together and pleaded to him with a thick face.

“Mommy, since your culinary skills aren’t up to par, aren’t you afraid of being unable to get married?”

She responded at once. “Nope.”

“Mm? Why?” he curiously asked, proceeding to sit at the dining table.

“It’s because Youyou’s dishes are the best. Whoever marries mommy will truly be blessed!” she declared with complete satisfaction.

Youyou blushed and rebuked, “Mommy is the meanest!”

A bowl of instant noodles with a sunny side up and diced ham toppings for dinner – having this simplest meal seemed a little miserable.

Still, it had been a while since she whipped up something. No inspiration came to her in the kitchen, so she decided to prepare two bowls of instant noodles, which were simple and convenient to make.

Her son might have dissed her, yet he still finished the entire bowl of noodles down to the very last drop.

His mommy had made it, after all.

Even if the sunny side up had an unappetizing appearance, it was still made with his mommy's efforts, and he would not mind eating it.

Yun Shishi, meanwhile, felt somewhat ashamed. "Youyou, is mommy too irresponsible for serving you instant noodles?"

He asked back in a hushed tone, "Mommy knows herself well enough?"

She went quiet from his words. "..."

"Forget it; I forgive mommy." He placed his chopsticks down and glanced up at her before he said with a grin, "My mommy only needs to be in charge of looking pretty; Youyou will be in charge of earning money and supporting the family!"

"You are barely seven years old! How do you earn money and support the family?" His mommy was teased into laughter by him.

"What if I say that I can do it?" He quipped.

"Hm?" She did not get what he meant.

“Forget it. Mommy is too dumb.” The little boy was not courageous enough to be frank with her.

Forget it! Let’s wait for a while longer!

He would find an appropriate time to spill everything to her.

Otherwise, he was truly afraid that his dumb mommy would be unable to digest everything.

Chapter 532: Plotting Something in Secrecy?

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

On a private jet.

Mu Yazhe, who was sitting on the sofa comfortably, casually stirred his coffee. His orbs were dull and profound.

Yun Tianyou’s arrogant words reverberated in his ears.

He had indeed spent the past few days investigating the identity of Lezhi Holdings’ CEO.

Of course, never did he once imagine that the person who had parachuted to the top position of that toy manufacturing company a year ago was actually his son.

A year ago?

How old was the boy then?

(vit(function(){()})

Six years old?

Who would be convinced that a six-year-old could head the board of directors?

It was no wonder that Lezhi higher-ups had not seen their mysterious CEO even till today.

No one would be able to bear the thought of their CEO being a mere seven-year-old.

What was the relationship between Yun Tianyou and Hurricane Group?

From his investigation, the CEO of Lezhi Holdings had close ties with that international firearms group. Could his son perhaps be deeply involved with the latter?

He warned him to clean out all the women beside him, especially emphasizing Mu Wanrou.

Could his son have, perhaps, looked into everything about that woman?

Furrowing his brows, Mu Yazhe slowly placed down his cup of coffee.

Truthfully, he had known of that woman's identity long ago.

A decade and a half ago, when his grandfather first brought her into the family, the old man held no suspicions toward her as she had that keepsake.

Grandpa Mu directed all his love and longing for Mu Qingcheng to Mu Wanrou as he missed his adoptive daughter dearly.

Grandpa Mu's love for Mu Wanrou, however, had Mu Liancheng casting doubts on her legitimacy. He proposed to have the newly adopted girl undergo a DNA maternity test.

Mu Sheng then studied Mu Wanrou's facial features carefully; indeed, her looks were not just a tad different from Mu Qingcheng.

No traces of the latter could be seen from her at all.

He was a little doubtful if she was truly Mu Qingcheng's biological daughter.

When the results of the DNA test came out, the probability of maternity was 99.999%.

Everyone was convinced with the results.

When she hit adulthood, however, even Grandpa Mu thought that her identity was questionable.

They looked different. Too different.

Be it the looks or aura, they were worlds apart.

He started holding suspicions toward her.

Although she looked beautiful and delicate, the air between her brows was completely unlike that woman – causing his skepticism to spiral upward.

Therefore, Grandpa Mu ordered someone to retrieve a lock of her hair and send it for a DNA testing again behind her back.

The results were still the same.

Mu Yazhe thought that this was dubious. Having the matter secretly investigated, he found out that she had bribed the staff at the hospital's Department of Genetics to modify her DNA test results.

Indubitably, Mu Sheng believed her identity.

Unbeknown to him, the actual DNA results had already been disposed of by Mu Wanrou.

Mu Yazhe was in doubt; since she was not the actual daughter of Mu Qingcheng, what was the matter with the DNA test report a decade and a half ago?

Perhaps, someone was plotting something in secrecy?

Following the traces of evidence, he continued his investigation and eventually uncovered that Mu Wanrou's identity was falsified.

The paternity test report 15 years ago had been modified as well.

While the culprit for that was still unknown even now, Mu Wanrou's fake identity was affirmed.

He did not disclose her identity from the get-go, however.

Back then, it did not matter whether his fiancée was authentic or fake.

As the heir and future head of this powerful and elite Mu family, he had no say in his marriage. This had been decided by the family elders long ago.

Chapter 533: Send a Team of Bodyguards to Follow the Crew

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

As the heir and future head of this powerful and elite Mu family, he had no say in his marriage. This had been decided by the family elders long ago.

He could only agree and not disagree to the marriage arrangement. As for Mu Wanrou, he was not enticed to touch her at all.

Hence, when their engagement was approaching, riding along the convenience of a health checkup, unbeknown to everyone including herself, he spread a lie of her infertility.

Of course, the woman was healthy and could bear him a healthy baby any time.

What he did was bribe the specialists into telling her that she was infertile.

This was earth-shattering news to her.

This would mean that she was unable to continue the Mu family's legacy, and her 'Young Mistress Mu' would only be a mere title.

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The Mu family had access to the most advanced medical facility; hence, despite being deeply dissatisfied, she did not question the diagnosis.

She could only accept the ‘fact’ that she was unable to conceive.

Grandmaster Mu was sorry about this, too.

In the end, the family arranged for surrogacy, which misguidedly led him into discovering Yun Shishi, the real biological daughter of Mu Qingcheng.

It was as if fate had played a big joke on him.

...

Yun Shishi got up early in the morning. Before her father brought Youyou to the kindergarten, the boy specially prepared breakfast for her. A note, with his neat and elegant handwriting, was left on the table. ‘Mommy, Youyou is going to school now. All the best to the boot ceremony later! FIGHTING!’

She was astonished with his note, as well as his beautiful handwriting.

After that, she sat down to enjoy the wonderful spread before her.

She tidied herself up and was about to leave the house when she saw a long Bentley and a van parked outside her house. A few men dressed in black suits were standing respectfully outside the door. When they saw her, their gazes turned sharp and alert.

She was astounded by this grandiosity before her. Taking a step back in awe, she asked, “Who are you people? What is this...”

“Miss Yun, we are here under Chairman Mu’s order to send you over to the boot ceremony at the production camp.”

“Chairman Mu?!” She blurted this out on reflex after recovering from her shock. “Mu Yazhe?”

Why is he making such a big fuss?

She suddenly recalled Qin Zhou’s complaint about that man.

It seemed that Mu Yazhe had given an ultimatum to Lin Fengtian.

No physical contact between her and any male artiste was allowed. She needed to have a stand-in even for the kissing and hand-holding scenes.

The director nearly suffered a stroke because of that demanding order.

She thought it was a joke at first, but upon seeing this platoon of bodyguards outside her doorstep, she finally realized how serious he was.

Why is that man such a ****?!

What an obsessive pervert!

He was physically in London now, so he sent a team of bodyguards to watch over her, instead?

If the film director caught wind of this, he would vomit blood again.

The man in a suit did not say anything further and just opened the car door for her to get in.

Laughing dryly, she said, “There’s no need for this grand arrangement, right? I can go there by myself.”

“Miss Yun, this is Chairman Mu’s order. Please don’t make things difficult for us.” The leader spoke in a low and firm tone, which allowed no further dispute.

She got into the car awkwardly.

The car arrived at the production base without a hitch.

Chapter 534: Crazy Popularity

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

Today was the boot ceremony for the movie ‘The Green Apple’. It was set to be held at City Barn Film Set, so all the production crew was early at the site.

It was going to be a grand ceremony with the presence of big stars.

All production teams, editing, make-up, lighting, artistic, et cetera, were in attendance. They were the cream of the crop with an equally impressive line-up of cast.

Besides the star-studded line-up of Gu Xingze, Yan Bingqing, Yang Mi, Li Jiuxian, and Song Tianyang, even the supporting cast were undertaken by well-known artistes.

In contrast, Yun Shishi was just a new artiste under Huanyu. This alone was enough to incur the envy of the rest.

Gu Xingze had purposely flown back from Paris last night to attend this ceremony. As his van slowly rode into the film set, the paparazzi, which had been waiting around for long, swarmed forward and surrounded the vehicle.

At the same time, his fans who had camped overnight at the carpark, sprang into action. They yelled their adoration as they chased after the van.

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“Xingze, Xingze! King Xingze, we love you! We love you...”

“Ahh... Xingze!”

“... He’s so handsome! Woo woo woo! I finally saw Xingze in person!”

At the scene, everyone was caught off guard by the cries and howls of the agitated crowd.

Lights kept flashing.

The disorderly scene was distressing.

Dozens of microphones were held aloft outside the car door. The crowd refused to move; everyone wanted to be the first to interview the superstar.

His one word could be the next headline on the entertainment news page.

The entertainment reporters wrestled with one another as they craned their necks to get a better view of the superstar inside the car.

Different from Gu Xingze, another van in the carpark with a supporting cast had gone unnoticed to the paparazzi.

Looking empty and neglected, it was a stark contrast to Gu Xingze's crew.

The other stars needed the publicity and would go to great extent to get some. Whereas for the superstar, he had no lack of it no matter where he was.

Inside the car cabin, Gu Xingze wore his shades and a mask as he looked gloomily at the clamoring crowd outside the car. He sat motionlessly and expressionlessly. Plugging his ears with headphones, he listened to his album DEMO.

The assistant beside him was perspiring anxiously as she tried to get in touch with the security team from the production crew.

“... That's right. We are at the carpark!

“We are surrounded by paparazzi! Didn't you clear the place before we came?!

“All interviews are set after the ceremony. Xingze is not accepting any now!

“Eh! Please send someone over to do crowd control now!”

Once she put down the phone, the entire crew in the car could only wait patiently for help to arrive.

The driver looked at the mayhem outside the car and wistfully commented, “These paparazzi really work hard just for a headline.”

“The nearby hotels were already booked by the paparazzi two days ago so that they could get an opportunity to interview Xingze at the boot ceremony for ‘The Green Apple’ today.”

“Didn’t the production team arrange time for interviews with him?”

“The scheduled interviews are only for those reporters who have been invited. The production team only provided passes to first-rate magazines and media reporters. Tabloid reporters are not qualified to enter.”

Chapter 535: Fanatical Fans

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

The assistant snorted and explained, “The interview script is prepared by the production team beforehand. The reporters can’t ask anything they want.”

Er—

Soon, the security team came over to clear the crowd.

The reporters refused to cooperate and got into a tussle with the guards, instead. Amid the clamoring and shoving, a few ‘sasaeng’ fans mixed into the crowd and plastered themselves close to the car doors, banging hard at the its windows.

Deafening screams could be heard.,

“Xingze! Ahhhh, Xingze! Xingze! I love you! I love you! You will always be my man-god!”

“Hubby! Hubby...”

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Having finally seen their idol up close, these few fanatical fans could not hold in their excitement and tears.

Gu Xingze, meanwhile, could not be bothered with them.

The assistant was dumbstruck by their fanaticism. “Oh, sh*t! Can they not be so crazy? Can they keep a shred of dignity?”

“It’s so exaggerated! The boot ceremony is about to start soon.”

“What’s going on with the production team? Why is their security so lame? How can they not clear the crowd in advance?” someone grumbled at one side.

“The production team may not have realize the extent of Xingze’s popularity.”

Yun Shishi arrived in her car. As it rode into the carpark, she could hear the deafening noise outside the car window.

Startled, she looked out of the window to see a van being surrounded by crazed fans and paparazzi.

Among the crowd were the security guards from the production team – planking them were the entertainment reporters with their cameras, bulky video recorders, and microphones. Some of them were holding onto their voice recording pens just next to the car door. None refused to give way.

Fanatical fans could be seen banging on the car windows as if they wanted to tear the car apart.

The maddening scene was terrifying and astonishing to watch.

What is happening?

In the past, she had only witnessed such a scene on TV.

Being immersed in the actual happening, it felt scary.

As the car came to a steady stop, she got out of it.

The harsh sun was shining at the moment, so a guard quickly took out an umbrella to shield her.

Under the careful protection of the guards, they quickly matched toward the film set.

An observant showbiz reporter standing not far away caught sight of their movement. “Eh? Isn’t that Yun Shishi?”

Oh, my god! It’s Yun Shishi—

Everyone turned in the direction of his gaze with a start.

She had stepped out of a van and was now protectively walking forward with the tight protection of a dozen of bodyguards in black suits. Her arrival was awesome.

Every reporter who was present knew who she was.

She was at Huanyu's annual gala as Gu Xingze's female companion. With her glamorous outfit and amazing presence, she stole the limelight from many first-tier actresses.

Many were debating over her background and status in secret. Who was she actually?

She was just a newcomer with no acting career to boast, yet she was able to attend Huanyu's annual gala as the companion of a great superstar. Many were amazed and envious.

Once the gala concluded, she successfully signed on with Huanyu Entertainment and made an official debut.

For her first movie, she was handpicked by Lin Fengtian to star in his newest film as the female lead, becoming the next 'Feng Lady'.

Moreover, she even had the privilege to have Qin Zhou, who propelled Gu Xingze to stardom, as her agent!

Could it be that she had some fascinating background or status that relegated first-tier actresses like Yang Mi and Yan Bingqing as mere foils, instead?

Now, she was making a grand entrance to the boot ceremony. There must be something interesting about her!

Chapter 536: Boastful and Shameless

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

With that realization, the group of reporters suddenly surged toward her in hopes of getting to her ahead of the rest.

When she saw the horde of reporters rushing toward her with their big and small equipment, the expression on her face changed, and she subconsciously took a stumbling step backward.

Immediately, a bodyguard stood protectively in front of her and blocked the reporters from approaching.

The guards sent by Mu Yazhe were highly skilled. With their competent training, they easily held off the paparazzi.

In fact, just a few of them standing there menacingly with their hulking figures and deadly expressions was enough to keep the reporters at bay.

The paparazzi did not dare to approach!

“Eh ? What happened ? Why did the paparazzi run away ?”

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Gu Xingze’s assistant sat in the car and wondered aloud as she watched them flee in another direction. Quizzical, she followed them with her gaze and saw them chase after a sweet-looking girl with their cameras.

The reporters were deterred by the girl's bodyguards from drawing closer and could only follow her at a distance. She, under the protection of her men, left the scene speedily in an orderly fashion.

“Is that the female lead of this film, Yun Shishi? She's here, too, and what... an awesome entry!” The assistant could only marvel with her eyes wide open.

Gu Xingze turned to look over his shoulder. Through the car window, he saw her, in the center of the crowd, making a low-key escape. His eyes deepened slightly.

The assistant tapped on his shoulder. “Xingze, take this chance to get out of the car!”

Thanks to Yun Shishi, the crazy paparazzi were distracted.

Just as the assistant stepped out of the car, a few security men from the production team rushed over and chased away the fans. They then escorted the superstar to the film set.

“Sister Bingqing, is that Yun Shishi the newbie you've mentioned before? The one that tried to put you down?”

Yan Bingqing's assistant pointed at Yun Shishi's back and asked this with displeasure while she alighted from the car.

The actress snorted with a smug look. “That's the b*tch who rebutted me at the makeup trial, all right. What a boastful and shameless creature!”

“I heard that she had managed to enter this production with no credentials. Did she, perhaps, use any underhanded means? If not, how did she get such wonderful resources?”

“Well, it’s obvious that she used dirty tricks to get to where she is now,” the actress retorted bitterly. “If not for her, I would have the female lead role!”

The assistant stimulated gleefully, “That’s right, Sister Bingqing! Anyway, you can put your foot down once the production starts. Don’t let her think that you are easy to bully just because she is the female lead!”

“Hmph. I’m biding my time.” The actress was smart in this regard as she waved her hand and said, “I’m leaving this matter aside first. Let’s see her future behavior! If she still wants to fight with me, I’ll show her what I’m capable of!”

“Eh! Sister Bingqing, you are a first-tier actress; she can’t hold a candle to you. This production has spent so much on her without knowing if she’s worth the investment. Who knows? She may end up as a box-office flop!”

“That’s enough. The ceremony is about to begin, and the media are already present. We’d better hurry.” The assistant immediately followed suit at her reminder.

Over a hundred production crew had been waiting for quite some time for the ceremony to start.

According to tradition, the movie’s pilot poster, coupled with incense candles, fruit, and a grilled pig head, would be placed as offerings on the table to bid for good luck and a smooth production.

Chapter 537: Boyfriend Charm to the Max

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

The main cast were all present, and to Yun Shishi's surprise, she found Jun Mo on the set as well. She immediately greeted her with a smile. "Jun Mo, you are here, too."

The latter smiled in return and said, "Eh. I was pulled over by Qin Zhou for a cameo appearance."

"Which character?"

"The character name is 'Su Qi'." She thought for a while before she continued. "I just skimmed through the script last night, so I may not be familiar with the persona yet. It seems that this role has a few scenes with your character."

In the script, Su Qi was Yin Xiachun's first love, which was a male persona. Yun Shishi was somehow perplexed by this arrangement.

She examined Jun Mo from head to toe, and she had to admit that the latter fit the style and description of the character she was set to portray. Tall, slender, fashionable, and boyish – she had all the necessary criteria to be labeled as a pretty boy.

Still, it was rare to put a girl in a boy's role.

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Despite that, Jun Mo did not seem to mind at all. "I have no track record. Actually, this role was set for someone else, but Qin Zhou

managed to wrangle it away for my sake. He wanted to carve an acting career for me.”

Her voice revealed a trace of guilt.

This boyish role was actually meant for a new male artiste, but in the end, it was given to a girl. This would definitely infuriate that boy who was initially selected.

Yun Shishi knew very well what she meant.

Their manager wanted this singer to go down the path of acting.

With good resources poured into it, ‘The Green Apple’ was set to be the next blockbuster movie. Many fresh faces hoped to debut through this film even if it was just a minor role or a cameo.

This singer could very well garner numerous fans with this character.

In the film industry, the youngsters were the biggest consumers. It so happened that teen flicks were Lin Fengtian’s specialty, and all his works were well-received.

Besides, it was worth mentioning that Su Qi was a very likable character in this film, so it was no wonder many newbies were eyeing it.

In the novel itself, this character was only second in favor to the male protagonist, Yin Dongyu. It went to show just how popular this character was.

Even Li Jiuxian was rejected for this role as his looks did not fit what Lin Fengtian had in mind.

This was a character who was handsome, gentle, sunny, and faithful. He was the ideal prince charming of every girl and had many touching scenes with Yin Xiachun in the script.

Notwithstanding her gender orientation, Jun Mo was indeed very suitable for this role.

The actress herself smiled and said, “I heard that there’s a kissing scene between Yin Xiachun and Su Qi in the movie. Shishi, you don’t mind giving your first on-screen kiss to me, right?”

Yun Shishi turned beet red on the face. With pouting lips, she smiled shyly and replied, “Have you really gone through the script? My first on-screen kiss isn’t with you.”

“Oh, really. I’m so disappointed...”

“Stop teasing me!”

The boyish woman seemed to be moved by the ethereal girl’s sweet smile for she unknowingly stretched out her hand to ruffle her head. “All right. I was just pulling your leg. Don’t take it for real.”

“Jun Mo, I must admit; you do have the boyfriend charm!”

That startled her and she quickly smiled. “Then, what do you think if I want to be your boyfriend? How about that?”

She leaned over and inched toward her ever so slightly. The gentle expression on her face was enough to melt any girl’s heart.

Yun Shishi could only stare at her face up close with her heart pounding wildly.

The singer light-heartedly chuckled in amusement at her embarrassed reaction. “Shishi, you are really adorable.”

“You really ought to stop teasing me!”

Qin Zhou walked over from behind and glared at them both. “The ceremony is about to start. You two should get in line!”

The two looked at each other and made a face before returning to their respective positions in the queue.

Chapter 538: Exclusive Interview with the Main Leads

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

The ceremony officially commenced.

One after another, the directors and the executive producers went up the stage to present their speeches to the reporters. This was followed by a representative from each department of the production team taking turns to offer their joss sticks on the raised platform.

Finally, being the two main leads, Yun Shishi and Gu Xingze offered their joss sticks as well.

The reporters roared with excitement as the two made their way up the stage while facing each other.

The climax of the entire ceremony was undoubtedly the appearance of these two main leads.

The leads' physical looks were put to the strictest test filming for a teen movie, and the two were simply textbook examples for looking frozen in time.

When the 24-year-old and the 28-year-old stood together, they seemed to fit perfectly, just like the main characters in the novel.

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Yun Shishi specially picked a snowy-white dress as her outfit today to showcase her beautiful figure and body proportions. Her hair, soft and smooth, cascaded on her shoulders like silk, and her complexion, fair like white ceramic, was pure and refined.

Gu Xingze, meanwhile, donned a white blouse and a pair of form-fitting black trousers. His simple outfit exuded nothing but youthfulness.

His exquisite features were vibrant yet handsome, his skin was fair and clear, and his eyes were limpid. Therefore, despite being 28, he did not appear awkward at all playing Yin Dongyu from his high school to his university years.

No post editing of photographs was needed when the two stood together. Their outstanding physical features seemed to guarantee that the movie would be a box-office hit.

Every reporter in the audience could not help sighing ruefully.

Rumors had it that Lin Fengtian was very demanding; he made accurate judgments on actors and stood his ground when it came to selecting his cast.

Initially, these reporters had questioned how Yun Shishi got the female lead role, but looking at the two actors on stage right now, they could only lament and envy how young and beautiful they appeared and how the years had been kind to the two.

There was truly a reason why Lin Fengtian had chosen her as the female lead!

Be it her appearance or aura, she was more than qualified for the character!

Comparing all the candidates, especially when Yan Bingqing, Yang Mi, and Yun Shishi were together in the same room, one could easily see the difference in the quality of their physical looks despite being of the same age.

Yun Shishi's eyes met Gu Xingze's before they made their way to the tribute table with joss sticks in their hands.

The latter dipped his head to light the joss sticks. The two then bowed in an orderly manner. After the offering was done, it was time to interview the two main leads.

“Hello, Yun Shishi! I'm a reporter from Phoenix Media. Please briefly talk about how you feel playing as ‘Yin Xiachun’!”

Having gone through improvisation training, she had a draft worked out in her mind within a few seconds. She answered with a smile, “Thank you for your question! I'm very happy to be able to work with such an excellent team. Director Lin is a very responsible and dedicated director; he strives to make his work be the best examples of beauty and excellence. The work attitude of the production team is great as well. I'm very honored for this chance to work with so

many talented colleagues. I also love the screenplay of the movie; I've previously read the novel, and I'm touched by Yin Xiachun's personality. She is spirited and dares to love and hate. I'll work hard and do my best, so please take good care of me!"

An ovation rang across the venue as soon as the last word left her mouth.

"Hello, Gu Xingze! Could you give us your thoughts on starring in this movie as well?"

Looking into the camera, he grinned and replied in a magnetic voice, "I'm very happy to be part of Director Lin's production again. This is the third time that we're collaborating, and I'm honored to be given another chance to work with such a talented director."

Chapter 539: Her Unsatisfactory Improvisation Skills

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

He paused and turned to look at Yun Shishi before he continued.

"I'm very happy to work with Shishi as well. She's the 'Yin Xiachun' I approve of. She is spirited and a very skilled rookie actress. I'm delighted to work with her, and I hope that the upcoming filming will be successful. Please look forward to 'The Green Apple'. Thank you."

A reporter promptly raised his hand to ask another question. "Xingze, there's a rumor that you recommended Yun Shishi to Director Lin. Could you attest to this rumor?"

A hush fell over the crowd instantly.

Everyone stared at one another in consternation.

Yun Shishi was recommended to Lin Fengtian by Gu Xingze ?!

Gu Xingze held his tongue for a while before he nodded haltingly in affirmation. “Yes.”

The reporters in the audience burst into an uproar at once.

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The situation quickly spiraled out of control.

These reporters who were invited to the press conference had their releases prearranged by the production team. However, with Gu Xingze’s response stirring them up, their questions gradually deviated from the objective of the interview.

“Gu Xingze, what is your relationship with Yun Shishi ?”

He deliberated before giving an answer. “We’re friends.”

“Normal friends ?”

“There are rumors of Yun Shishi being your first love. Are they true ?”

“Those are baseless rumors.”

“Gu Xingze, what is your opinion about Yun Shishi being a rookie actress ?”

“She may be a newbie, but she’s got spirit and potential. She is sure to become an outstanding actress in future.”

“Gu Xingze, Yun Shishi was your plus one at Huanyu’s annual gala. Did you ask her to be your partner yourself?”

“I did.”

“May I ask if you two...”

...

Realizing that the situation had spun out of control, Qin Zhou immediately sent some personnel to escort the two off the stage and let the emcee present the closing speech. The kickoff ceremony was, thus, wrapped up in a hurry.

As soon as she got off the stage, Yun Shishi’s expression turned ugly. She was taken aback by the imposing questions that those reporters had showered them. There were even a couple of times when she could not provide answers to their queries. If it had not been for Gu Xingze’s valiant improvisation skills, she might have accidentally said the wrong words then.

With a decade-long experience of acting under his belt, the superstar was practiced at improvising. He was already used to situations like this and could quickly respond to any questions thrown at him by the reporters.

Still, it could not be helped that she felt a little queasy.

The man lowered his sight to observe her somewhat flustered face and inquired gingerly, “Startled?”

“A little!”

She was still in a state of shock.

How did the situation spiral out of control? The reporters should have interview releases prepared in advance.

He comforted her by patting her shoulder. “All of them are like this. They jump at every chance they get. Even if an interview release is prepared beforehand, they won’t follow the rules all the time.”

“Mm. Thanks for earlier. If it weren’t for you, I wouldn’t know what to do.”

She expressed her utmost gratitude to him, yet he could only smile at her in response.

Qin Zhou hurried over, and as soon as he spotted her, he gave her a good scolding. “Why are your improvisation skills this poor? Have you fed what you learned to the dogs?!”

Feeling wronged, she reasoned, “Mr. Qin, this is my first time!”

He ignored her explanation and flew into a rage. “You nearly slipped up a few times just then! You scared me! If not for Xingze, you would probably be led on by those sly reporters.”

She was devastated by his reprimand. “...”

“Also, your standing posture just then almost embarrassed me. Did you not practice your postures properly? Just a few questions, and you’re already stumped?”

Chapter 540: Call me Xingze.

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios#

“Please. Even if you don’t know how to reply, smile! You must maintain your goddess-like image, always! What’s with that dumb face earlier?! The reporters will always choose pictures with shock value to publish along with their articles. You were so stunning back at the gala, but once you turned around, your candid pictures were taken by them. Do you still want your goddess-like image?!”

His rapid bombardment of savagery had Yun Shishi’s soul almost leaving her body.

Gu Xingze squeezed his brows and reminded, “Qin Zhou, be gentle.”

“Fine. Clear up everything. We still have a photo shoot with the creator tonight. Remember; if someone fights you for your seat later, don’t give in to them, got it? You’re the female lead. Just stand beside Xingze.” He gave her this advice, worried that Yan Bingqing would vie for her seat.

She nodded in understanding.

After the photo shoot with the creator, the kickoff ceremony officially ended.

In the blink of an eye, it was already evening.

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“Shall we have dinner together?” Gu Xingze shifted toward Yun Shishi and asked.

She smacked her lips together. She somewhat felt famished, so she dipped her head in consent.

He probed again. “What do you want to eat?”

“Erm... Is there anything good to eat nearby?”

He replied, “We’ll go to wherever you want to eat.”

She suggested with a playful giggle, “Let’s go have western food.”

He could not refrain from letting out a chuckle as he acceded to her request.

Secret·Love, a restaurant serving western cuisines, was located within the busiest area on Huaihai Road. The restaurant, which was decorated with elegant finishes, served exquisite western food – hence its popularity. Without a reservation, it would be difficult to arrange for a seat in the establishment, and furthermore, it was currently dinner time.

Gu Xingze was aware that Yun Shishi was craving for western food at Secret·Love; thus, he requested an assistant to phone the restaurant for a reservation.

The restaurant manager subsequently reserved a booth with a nice ambiance for them. With dim lightings, stained glass windows, and beaded curtains, it looked uniquely romantic.

As such, when the waiter led them into the booth, her heart tingled with joy and excitement!

She occupied her seat, looking all satisfied; her little head spun around curiously to inspect the ornaments in the booth.

Gu Xingze, meanwhile, slid into his seat gracefully. She glanced up at him just then and shot him an extremely bright smile, saying joyously, “It’s really romantic here. This is a good place for a meal. Xingze, thank you.”

He fell into a tiny stupor. It just dawned on him that she had thanked him for bringing her here to enjoy western food. At that, his brows could not help coming to a slight crease.

He was tired with western cuisines for he had eaten such from a young age. To be honest, the food prepared by Secret·Love did taste authentic, but his picky taste buds deemed it to be only of an average standard.

He originally intended to bring her to a French restaurant he frequented if she enjoyed western food, yet seeing how she longed to come here, he disposed of that thought.

Observing his knitted brows, she came to an assumption that she had somehow angered him. As she remembered her calling him directly by his name just then, she timidly corrected herself as her face blushed with embarrassment. “... Mr. Gu!”

He raised a brow in suspicion, and she went on to explain herself. “I shouldn’t be addressing you by your first name.”

“You may.”

“Hm ? What...”

He picked up the menus in composure and handed one of them to her. Looking deeply into her eyes, he simply said, “You may call me by my first name.”

There was a moment of warmth in his orbs before they quickly reverted to their original calmness. He glanced downward to read the menu.

She was stunned for a while. Did he just say that she could call him directly by his first name ?!

Chapter 541: An Extremely Beautiful Sight

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

Xingze.

Xingze... What a wonderful-sounding name!

Qin Zhou's words were brought to her mind; very few people seemed to be experienced enough to call him by his first name. He permitted her to do so, though. Did that mean that he considered her as a friend?

Thinking of this, she suppressed her glee by pursing her lips.

Western cuisines were prepared in a similar fashion, yet steak was the most sought-after specialty in Secret·Love for its unique flavor and delectableness.

He decided on some snacks and a medium rare filet mignon with peppercorn sauce. Yun Shishi, conversely, was at a loss!

Flipping through the menu, her eyes were filled with a variety of dishes, including mouth-watering steaks and pastas, as well as

visually appetizing snacks, fine desserts, and ice creams. Everything was truly bedazzling to the eye.

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She had never ordered western food on her own before. Thus, without anyone guiding her, she did not know what to choose at all. This looked good, and so did the other. She was in a dilemma!

Her stomach was already growling from hunger. To satisfy her greed, she wanted to select a portion of everything, yet she was worried that she could not finish them all, and the food would go to waste. Her eyes then desperately flew toward him for help.

He appeared not to notice her imploring gaze, however. Right now, his attention was occupied with wiping the utensils using a napkin he had retrieved.

Feeling defeated, she dropped her head and agonizingly pouted her lips. She skimmed through the menu again before lifting her gaze and beaming. “I’ll have the same as him!”

She might not know exactly what his order was, but with his palate, it should be delicious! She did trust his preferences.

The waiter bobbed his head in understanding and respectfully asked for clarification. “May I know if you want your filet mignon to have peppercorn sauce and be medium rare?”

She affirmed her order with a dip of her head. The waiter then stored the menus away and took his leave with a smile.

Her lips curled up in satisfaction. She turned around to watch the man wipe his utensils with a napkin a second time. For some reason, her eyes were riveted to his fair and slender fingers.

His hands were so beautiful they looked better than woman's.

His hands' joints were distinct and his fingers were thin and long. A dazzling ring decorated his pinky.

Though the beautiful hands' owner was holding a fork and a knife now, they were still a beautiful sight to behold.

She suddenly recalled Qin Zhou mentioning that this man was extremely squeamish about cleanliness. Puckering her lips, she copied his action and seriously wiped clean her utensils with a napkin, too.

“Oh, it's Xingze!”

A saccharine voice rang out and interrupted the ongoing comfortable silence.

She lifted her gaze, looking perplexed. A woman in a glamorous black dress and expensive makeup stood at the side of the booth.

Besides the woman stood another who was dressed just as beautifully, and sophisticated, as her.

The two, who paired off for a meal, walked past their booth and unexpectedly saw Gu Xingze!

He rarely visited a restaurant like this for a meal, so the woman was very surprised. Still, as stunned as the woman was... She then cast

her sight onto Yun Shishi and was somewhat in doubt. Who was this girl sitting across him?

Dressed innocently like a student, she appeared prim and proper. However, unlike a young mistress from a rich family, she seemed to be just an ordinary citizen. Was she a newbie actress?

The woman could not help being startled. She seldom saw him with a girl like this.

Chapter 542: Xingze, Who Is This Girl?

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

She was very particular with physical appearances, but even she had to admit that the girl before her was unbelievably gorgeous. She had fair skin, unclouded eyes, rosy lips, and pearly white teeth; she was already very attractive without makeup.

Many men would jump at such a beauty if she were to be thrown into the industry she was working in!

The man curtsied to her.

Yun Shishi recognized one of them with a look.

She did not know her name, but that last time she had a meal with Mu Yazhe, she came barging into their room with another man.

This woman was Ye Minglan.

The woman beside her was called Huang Na; she was another young mistress from a rich family in the capital.

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Both were born with privilege – rich socialites with a high social standing. They often flitted in and out of high society.

Ye Minglan and Gu Xingze were merely acquaintances. They were able to maintain a cordial relationship after encountering each other before. Therefore, she slid naturally into the empty seat beside him.

She called over a waiter and ordered a few dishes.

The situation was a little awkward for Yun Shishi, though. Ye Minglan was probably friendly with her because she did not recognize her and simply deemed her to be extremely familiar-looking.

Ye Minglan did not view the girl sitting across him in a positive light, but she maintained the smile on her lips. Turning to the man, she asked, “Xingze, who is this? Won’t you introduce her to us?”

“My friend,” he stated flatly, leaving out the details. On the surface, his attitude suggested that she was someone of no great importance to him.

In fact, this was his way of protecting her.

Ye Minglan formed a slight grin. While the girl’s identity was still shrouded in mystery, from his attitude toward her, she believed her to be just a friend of his.

She might be a little repulsed by her presence, but she still extended her hand for an introduction in a friendly manner. “Hello, I’m Ye Minglan. I’m Xingze’s friend too. This is my good friend, Huang Na!”

Yun Shishi forced out a smile on her face and returned the handshake. Nonetheless, she felt a knot in her tummy. She was rather timid from a young age, so she was shy around strangers. At present, she was sitting with two strangers; thus, instinctively, she became a little withdrawn.

Huang Na was the superstar’s fan, but she did not have much interaction with him. Occasionally, she would spot him from afar at some business receptions. Now, encountering him at this proximity, she realized that he was just like what the rumors said: handsome with an air of elegance. Her interest in him was then piqued by a huge margin.

She did have some self-awareness though.

She could only eye the man like this. Getting close to him was harder than her initial assumption after all.

Without relying on to Ye Minglan, she would not have the chance to sit here.

Their orders came swiftly as they were prioritized by the server. The waiter treated them with tremendous respect. After all, his restaurant manager specially instructed him to serve the customers in this table with utmost care.

Yun Shishi was very famished, but once she looked at the dishes delivered on the table, her appetite was slightly reduced. She became a little doubtful of the man's taste.

Before this, she neither knew the meaning nor the concept of the doneness of a steak.

Before this, she also never knew that a living thing like a snail could be used to whip up a delicacy!

Therefore, when the dishes that were brought to the table comprised of a steak cooked half-rare with visible traces of blood and the so-called 'baked escargots with herbs', she was absolutely taken aback.

How does one consume this stuff?!

It was too late now for regrets as everything was already served on the table. Rejecting the order would turn her into a joke, right?

Thus, with a determined look on her face, she clenched her teeth, picked up the utensils, and proceeded to slice the steak.

The steak was half-raw, and with the heavy stainless-steel utensils, as well as her awkward table etiquette, she was totally unable to make a cut at it.

She grimaced in deep vexation and embarrassment.

She glanced up at Gu Xingze who had neatly and effortlessly sliced his share into bite sizes. Seemingly sensing the pair of desperate eyes trained on him, he looked up and saw her silently cry for help at him by pouting her lips.

He chuckled to himself, thinking that the little fool should not have ordered the same menu as his. How would she be able to accustom her palate to his acquired taste?

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Quietly, he pushed his plate to her in exchange for hers. She was momentarily stunned by his thoughtful action. Eyeing the bite-size chunks of meat on the plate, she, albeit with some difficulty, put a piece into her mouth using a fork and swallowed it with her eyes closed!

Oh! The half-cooked steak was so raw she was unable to swallow it.

She looked suffocated as her mouth was stuffed with the meat slice she could neither spit out nor swallow.

She really regretted ordering this dish. If she had known earlier, she would have ordered something different!

Ye Minglan's order was served soon after, and hers consisted of tasty tapas that looked so tantalizing to Yun Shishi's eyes. The former was unaware of what she was thinking, though, and just happily ate while she chatted with Gu Xingze.

Yun Shishi wanted very much to order something else, but it would be rude to interrupt. Hence, she could only bow her head and continue swallowing her food without chewing it.

The man was not keen to chit-chat in the first place, and when he turned to regard her, he saw that her face was looking miserable and forlorn. He could not help laughing at that. Casually putting down his utensils, he asked, "Do you want to order something else?"

Her eyes brightened at his suggestion, and she nodded vigorously, as if she had just received a pardon. She could not bear eating this kind of food any longer.

He subsequently ordered a plate of pasta and some desserts for her. Having a small appetite to begin with, her little tummy quickly bloated from the food she swallowed.

Halfway through their meal, Ye Minglan suddenly thought of something. Turning to face the man, she requested, “Xingze, today is my birthday. I wonder... if I can have the honor of having you at my birthday party?”

Before he could reply, she quickly added something else. “I am going to hold my birthday celebration in a bar; many friends are attending as well! Xingze, surely you won’t reject me, right?”

True to her status as a frequent socialite, worried that he might reject her request, so she skillfully put it across in a way that he would be unable to refuse.

He thought for a while before nodding in acquiescence.

The woman was naturally elated with his response.

He turned to Yun Shishi and said, “Let’s go.”

“Mm.”

He stood up elegantly and left together with her. Ye Minglan and Huang Na were ready to go as well and asked for the bill, only to be told that the man had placed all their meals on his tab.

Huang Na, who was very besotted with the man, expressed her curiosity over the woman who was with him. Her friend's face sank with her question and curtly retorted, "Who else can she be? She's just a mere friend of the superstar! Do you really expect that woman to be his girlfriend?"

Chapter 544: I will be the Young Mistress Mu if I am married.

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

Huang Na was surprised to hear that. "Oh, god. She looks like the innocent-type that is to Xingze's taste!"

Gu Xingze had once commented in an interview that he preferred the innocent-type with waist-long hair and clear, sparkling eyes.

Yun Shishi fulfilled his criteria of an ideal woman to a T.

"Why do you care who she is? Do you even know why I invited him to the party tonight? I'm creating a chance for you. Na Na, don't disappoint me!"

Her friend could not help teasing her. "Don't you like him, too?"

She smiled and replied, "He is indeed one of a kind, but what I have for him is only admiration; I already have someone else in mind."

"Who is that?" The other dug further curiously.

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"Mu Yazhe." She snorted.

“Master Mu?! Doesn’t he already have a fiancée?!” Huang Na exclaimed as she recalled the news earlier.

“What if he’s engaged? That woman, Mu Wanrou, can’t bear him a child, so I doubt that she will be favored. Anyway, I hardly see her around Master Mu. This must be a prearranged marriage for him. Besides, even if he’s married, that doesn’t mean he can’t have a few wives, right? Just look at the Mu family’s tradition; the head of the household for the past generations have been practicing polygamy! There’s no missy in the whole capital who doesn’t hold a secret desire for him. Every girl wants to be the next young mistress to his high self!”

Her friend was even more startled to hear that. “Don’t tell me that you want to be his kept mistress?”

With a haughty laugh that was full of disdain, she replied, “Mistress? Hmph! I, Ye Minglan, will be the young mistress in the Mu family!”

...

Imperial Bar was the most expensive club and the most upmarket one to be found in the capital.

The golden hour had arrived.

The atmosphere was soaring with the heavy metal music and staggering stage lights. The crowd was getting closer to the climax of this night.

This limited-membership bar, which was opened by the young heir of Ocean Holdings in the capital, was patronized by the sons and daughters of the capital’s rich and famous. Besides well-known

artistes and superstars, highly acclaimed film producers and directors were frequent visitors of this bar, too. Gu Xingze was, of course, no stranger to this place. In fact, he was on good terms with some musicians here and came over regularly to support them.

However, unlike the other patrons who liked to party, he preferred to occupy a secluded table alone with a bottle of Hennessy whenever he was here.

The offspring of the capital's wealthy and top officials could often be found here around midnight. Those young princes and princesses gathered here to while the night away.

Actually, it would be more accurate to call this place a Hall of Fame.

At this moment, a popular rock singer was standing on the stage and singing his heart out in an upbeat and wild tempo.

At a VIP table, dozens of beer glasses clinked against one another at once with a loud ting !

“Yeah! Cheers!”

A man with sharp features excitedly downed his drink at one go. His cheeks flushed an apparent red from drinking too much.

A pretty girl in brunette had to clutch his shoulders for support after a mouthful. She waved her hands wildly in the air, mumbling unintelligibly, “I can't anymore... woo... woo...”

The rest gave her a consensus boo in seeming disappointment; they were not ready to let her off and continued to force her to drink.

These pretty lads and lasses sitting at this VIP table were naturally the so-called sons and daughters of the rich and famous in the capital.

Chapter 545: I shall keep you company.

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

That inebriated pretty brunette was the young missy of Grace Holdings.

The smart-looking man beside her was the owner of this bar, as well as the son of Ocean Holdings, Xu Liang.

Yun Shishi followed Gu Xingze into this bar and had to cover her ears from the deafening music.

The atmosphere inside the bar was at its climax now. Dumbfounded and bewildered, she watched the crowd sway their bodies uninhibitedly to the music on the dance floor.

She hardly visited places like this, so although this bar was not as smoky as she had imagined, she was still unable to adapt to this messy and loud environment.

The bustling and upbeat music was nearly overwhelming her eardrums, and the mingling crowd was almost squashing her. Subconsciously, she reached out to hold the man's hand tightly. His hand was cool to the touch, yet it provided her great comfort.

He felt her little hand tugging at his and lowered his head to see the lady beside him with such a helpless look on her face. The message of rejection was clear in her eyes.

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She was terribly uncomfortable here to the point of disliking the bar.

Indeed, she, who was innately taciturn and introverted, was ill-suited for such a place.

He caught hold of her hand and asked with a raised brow, “You don’t like this place?”

“Ah?! What did you say?!” It was too noisy inside this bar, so she failed to catch his words. Standing on her toes, she brought her ear closer to him.

The man was lanky, so despite her best effort to stand on her toes, her head barely reached past his shoulders.

She leaned her head on his shoulder in slight frustration, which made him smile in response. Lowering his head, he slowly articulated his words to her ear. “You don’t like this place?”

His deep voice, which was full of magnetism, was slightly gasping for breath. It fanned her neck warmly. That part of her body seemed to be on fire as well, causing her cheeks to turn red. She nodded unnaturally. “I don’t like it!”

Fearful of him not catching her words, she showed him her dislike of the place through her face.

“We’ll leave if you don’t like it here.”

He held her arm and was about to turn and go.

Startled, she quickly pulled his sleeve and smilingly said, “Aren’t you having a date with your friend here? Don’t worry about me; you do what you need to do, and I’ll keep you company!”

Keep him company...

His lips curled into a sweet arc as he raised a brow in surprise.

From his oblique view, he caught a glimpse of a slim shadow walking toward him through the crowd.

Ye Minglan had changed into a sexy long black dress. With her wavy curls hanging loosely and voluminously on her chest and after reapplying her makeup, she looked more charming and amorous than ever.

“Xingze, you’re finally here; I’ve been waiting for you!”

He broke into a slight smile. She turned her gaze toward Yun Shishi who was standing beside him. In a white dress, the latter’s pair of slender and fair legs was exposed. Her standard student outfit exuded a taboo beauty.

Currently, many men were into this sweet and innocent fad of uniform seduction.

She was dressed like this because she wanted to look youthful during the boot ceremony. Now, standing at this bar, she very much looked out of place.

Ye Minglan found her looks to be quite familiar all of a sudden. She seemed to recall seeing her before but could not recollect the specifics.

Right now, she, who showed up in such an occasion in her wholesome outfit, looked so... awkward.

Chapter 546: A Bigshot

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

Yun Shishi could feel the woman's intense gaze on her, so she instinctively hid behind Gu Xingze as she surveyed her surroundings with trepidation. Her small hand clutched onto the sleeve of his shirt while her lips formed an unnaturally tense arc.

Ye Minglan flashed her a friendly smile. "Hello. Do you remember me? We met at the restaurant earlier."

Although she did not like this girl, she was still his partner, so naturally, she would not dare to pull a face on her.

Yun Shishi was somewhat at a loss with her friendly greeting and wiggled her head in puzzlement. Feeling slightly embarrassed, the young mistress pulled out a grin right away. "No worries. We'll become closer in no time! Xingze, come with me. Everyone is already in there except for you!"

He inclined his head to indicate his understanding. Looking down, he captured Yun Shishi's hand in his again as he guided her to follow Ye Minglan toward a booth.

The young mistress rushed to the booth first and eagerly announced, "He he. I've invited someone special today! Won't you get off your seat quickly, Li Chengze? Go over there; go sit over there! Make room for him!"

Li Chengze was a little displeased from this. They had a particular sitting arrangement, but since today was Ye Minglan's birthday, she naturally had the biggest say about it. As for the other seats at the booth, they had to be seated according to their social standing.

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The seat he was at was nicely positioned.

However, the birthday girl actually demanded for him to give up his seat; how could he not be a little shocked by this? He was considered as a bigshot within the capital, so why should he give up his seat to another?

He was rather dissatisfied with her decision.

“Oh. Just who is this coming bigshot to make even the beautiful Miss Ye eagerly chase people away?”

She beamed. “You'll know when the person arrives!”

As soon as the words left her mouth, Gu Xingze made his entrance to the booth with Yun Shishi's hand in his.

Everyone gasped as he unveiled himself to them under the dim lights. Meanwhile, Li Chengze suddenly had a lump in his throat, which caused him to have a coughing fit!

A handsome man in a white blouse appeared before his eyes. Each movement he made exuded gentility and notability.

His refined features, which seemed to have been intricately carved, were exceedingly beautiful. He had sword-like brows which were

handsome, deep-set yet charming phoenix eyes which slanted upward at the ends, and thick curly lashes which perfectly framed his expressive eyes.

If one said that the him in front of the camera was elegant and gentlemanly, then the him stripped of all his pretense was wild and intractable. All could not directly cast their sights on to the superstar who gave off this reserved yet haughty aura.

In contrast, when everyone shifted their gazes on to the girl shyly standing beside him, all the men present could hardly repress their excitement.

How beautiful was this girl exactly?

They could not express her beauty with mere words.

With hair as soft as the clouds above and brows shaped in the form of a warbler, her beautiful brows came to a slight crease on her fair and oval-shaped face. Her eyes, curved like a pair of almonds, were moist and charming. She simply mirrored an immortal of the ancient times capable of capturing the hearts of many.

However, as of now, her rosy lips were firmly pressed together, so she appeared to be a little reserved.

She dressed differently than those women who frequented bars in skimpy outfits and seductive clothes.

This girl just had to wear an attire akin to a student, which was totally out of place in this bar. She looked so delicate that, with one pinch, water could be squeezed out from her. One's heart would grieve even by taking a bite out of her.

Ironically, all men could least resist such a deadly temptation!

Li Chengze, conversely, was completely stunned.

He was also momentarily astonished.

Was she not that rumored pet of Master Mu?

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Ironically, all men could least resist such a deadly temptation!

Li Chengze, conversely, was completely stunned.

He was also momentarily astonished.

Was she not that rumored pet of Master Mu?

It was such a pity that a charming lady like her was already taken!

If only he had met her earlier!

Still, why was she with Gu Xingze now?

“Master Gu!”

This time, without the birthday girl reminding him, Li Chengze mindfully gave up his seat.

As a person who was part of the high society in the capital, a true nobility like him would naturally know of the superstar's identity.

It was all because of this man's older brother, Gu Jinglian. Even if one did not know of the capital's mayor, they should know of that eminent figure.

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Practically everyone in the high society knew of the Gu family. Li Chengze had had some dealings with that family's omnipotent head.

Therefore, for the sake of the older brother, he had to show Gu Xingze some respect.

He extended a warm hand to the superstar, who was staring at him from his peripheral view with no emotion. The man did reach out his hand to him, yet it only touched his for the briefest moment. His apathetic attitude had somewhat embarrassed Li Chengze.

He chided himself, yet he kept a proper smile on his face.

The superstar helped his companion to a seat. Wanting to satisfy his selfish desires, Li Chengze took the seat beside her.

He glanced at the lovely creature by his side. When her exposed fair arm accidentally rubbed against his elbow, he was barely able to contain himself!

Face to face with such a gorgeous lady, even her small and unintentional movement made him nearly unable to sit still.

The woman sitting beside Li Chengze could not refrain herself from eyeballing the superstar.

She was not a socialite of this class and was only a budding model. Having never attended a social event in high society before, her lowly position evidently did not qualify her to meet Gu Xingze in person. She only knew of his decade-long experience in the entertainment industry and his unreachable status as a superstar.

He was just a celebrity, yet he actually made Li Chengze voluntarily offer him his seat – he was definitely no simple character!

Hence, she lightly nudged Li Chengze's elbow and whispered a question to him. "Master Li, this Gu Xingze seems to be a person of importance?"

"Mm! His older brother, Master Gu, is a force to be reckoned with."

"Master Gu? Which Master Gu?"

All his attention was centered on Yun Shishi right now, so he had no patience for her queries. Flashing her with an annoyed look, he said, "How many Master Gu is there in the capital? He's the one that I told you before – one of this capital's four masters."

"I only heard of one Gu family that can exert influence in the capital with their mighty legacy!"

"That's them! Who else can Ye Minglan respectfully and fervently address as Master Gu? Obviously, it's that Gu Jinglian from the Gu family!"

The face of the man beside Li Chengze unknowingly drained of all color. "Ah?! He's... Master Gu's younger brother?!"

He lowered his voice as soon as he said that. "I thought he's just a celebrity! He looks really young. Is he in his early 20s?"

Sitting adjacent to them, Ye Minglan obviously overheard their little chit-chat and snorted haughtily. "Today, if it weren't for me, you two wouldn't even be qualified to sit with him over some drinks!"

Li Chengze hissed at her but did not refute her at all.

In his heart, he acknowledged Gu Jinglian as a powerful figure.

However, Gu Xingze was no more than an illegitimate child of the Gu family. Unacknowledged, he was, thus, inferior to his older brother. What was he being so cocky for, then ?!