

Chapter 222: Punishment

Xu Youyou did not need to hear Mo Zhiyun's reply to know how much Mo Zhiyun liked Lu Heyun. However, she knew Mo Shenbai would not agree to that relationship. The siblings were destined to fight over this matter. Who knew Lu Heyun would cause such a rift between the siblings?

At this time, Mo Zhiyun rose to her feet and said, "I'm going to get some watermelon."

Then, Mo Zhiyun ran to the kitchen out of embarrassment. However, after a short moment, she came out with a sad expression on her face and asked, "Why is the fridge filled with apples? There are all kinds of apples. Where are the watermelons? What's a refrigerator without watermelons?"

Just as Xu Youyou looked over, the butler replied, "Those were prepared by Sir. They're all imported apples and are very expensive."

Mo Zhiyun did not like apples. No matter how expensive they were, they were worthless in her eyes. She said, "I don't want to eat apples. I want to eat watermelons. Cold watermelons! What's summer if I don't eat cold watermelons?"

The butler smiled and said appeasingly, "Alright, alright. I'll send someone to buy watermelons now."

Xu Youyou turned back to look at the coffee table in front of her. A plate of apple slices could be seen on the coffee table. Indeed, there seemed to be a lot of apples in the house recently. Now that she thought about it, there were apples everywhere; there were apples in the kitchen, the dining room, the living room, and even in the studio and the bedroom.

...

The moon was bright, but there were not many stars.

The sounds of insects could be heard in the silent summer night.

In the dimly lit bedroom.

Xu Youyou suddenly opened her eyes and sat up. Her eyes were unfocused.

As soon as she moved, Mo Shenbai woke up as well. He got up and looked at the dazed Xu Youyou as though he was already used to it.

Xu Youyou lifted the blanket and got out of bed. She did not put on her indoor shoes as she walked toward the door.

Mo Shenbai looked at the apple on the bedside table with a slight frown. He wore a helpless expression on his face.

'She didn't eat the apple on the bedside again tonight...'

Xu Youyou still sleepwalked these days. Every time she sleepwalked, she would eat an apple. Sometimes, she would eat the apple on the bedside table before going back to sleep. Sometimes, she would walk around the house like a ghost before eating an apple and going back to bed.

Mo Shenbai had spoken to Dr. Shen, and he was told that she was likely traumatized by her grandmother's death and that sleepwalking was a coping mechanism. If she was not doing anything dangerous when she was sleepwalking, the doctor said that he should try his best not to disturb her and let her complete her routine. If he forcefully interfered, it might result in extreme behavior on her part.

If Xu Youyou sleepwalked and engaged in harmful behavior such as hurting herself or others, then a doctor's intervention would be needed.

Mo Shenbai got out of bed and picked up her indoor shoes before he followed behind her. As long as there was no danger, he would let her do what she wanted.

Xu Youyou walked downstairs and sat on the couch. Her dull eyes stared at a certain spot in the air, looking like she was in a trance.

Mo Shenbai walked up to her and squatted down. Then, he helped her put on her shoes gently. When he raised his eyes to look at her, his eyes were like the brightest stars in the night sky. He murmured, "Even if you're sleepwalking, you have to wear your shoes. If you don't, I'm going to punish you next time..."

Despite his words of reproach, his voice was gentle and filled with affection.

Xu Youyou did not react to his words at all, oblivious to everything outside of her dream world. She stared blankly into the air for a long time before she reached out to pick out an apple from the coffee table. Then, she rose to her feet and walked upstairs.

After taking a few steps up the stairs, she turned around and sat down. Then, she lowered her head and began to munch on the apple.

Mo Shenbai was afraid she would hurt herself if she went to the kitchen. Who knew if she would pick a knife up? Hence, he had long instructed the butlers and helpers to keep the kitchen locked every night.

After failing to find a knife repeatedly, Xu Youyou no longer looked for a knife in her sleep to peel the apple. Strangely, she would gnaw at the apple, removing its skin before eating it. She did not litter and would hold the apple skin she gnawed off in her hands.

Just like other times, Mo Shenbai reached out to remove the apple skin in her hands. After throwing it away, he gently wiped her sticky hands. His movements were swift and smooth after experiencing this many times.

Although Xu Youyou was sleepwalking, she did not reject Mo Shenbai's proximity or touch. Instead, she seemed rather obedient, letting him do as he pleased.

Mo Shenbai carefully wiped between her fingers. From the corners of his eyes, he saw her holding the apple with her other hand as she munched on the apple. The apple had been gnawed until they looked like the surface of the moon, riddled with shallow holes. He smiled slightly as he asked, "Are you a mouse? How can you be so cute when you're just eating an apple?"

Xu Youyou seemed to have heard his words. She raised her head slightly and looked at him. This was the first time she had reacted to his words.

Mo Shenbai was stunned. Before he could react, she raised her hand and handed him the half-eaten apple. His voice carried a hint of surprise as he asked, "You want me to eat it?"

Xu Youyou did not reply. She continued holding the apple out to him.

Mo Shenbai lowered his head and took a bite of the apple. The sweet and fragrant juice from the apple filled his mouth immediately. "It's very sweet, just like you."

Subsequently, Xu Youyou withdrew her hand and continued to munch on the apple again.

Mo Shenbai could not help but laugh softly. He gently stroked her head and said, "You're very happy that I said you're cute, right? Is that why you shared your apple with me?"

Xu Youyou did not react. When she was done eating, she held the apple core in her hand and extended her hand.

In the past, she would hold the apple cores in her hand before throwing them away. However, Mo Shenbai would take them from her and help her throw them away. For that reason, she habitually extended her hand to give him the apple cores after she was done eating.

After throwing the apple core, he looked at her with a warm gaze as he wiped her hands again. He asked softly, "You can hear me, right?"

Xu Youyou did not speak.

"Although you're very worrying, you're also very cute. I want to kiss you, can I?"

Xu Youyou still did not react. Her eyes were still unfocused.

Mo Shenbai lowered his head and gently rubbed the tip of his nose against hers. Seeing that there was no response, he said in a low voice, "If you don't say anything, I'm going to take it as a 'yes'."

When Xu Youyou blinked, Mo Shenbai's lips were already pressed against hers.

Mo Shenbai kissed her very lightly, afraid of waking her up. When he pulled away, he saw that her gaze was lowered, and a faint blush could be seen on her face. His heart softened immediately. Just as he was going to say that she was cute again, he heard a startled cry from above.

Mo Zhiyun stood at the top of the stairs, dressed in cartoon pajamas. She covered her face with both hands, but the gaps between her fingers were rather wide, rendering her action useless. She could still see Mo Shenbai and Xu Youyou. She said, "Brother, why are you and Sister-in-law showing your love here in the middle of the night..."

Before Mo Zhiyun could finish her words, Mo Shenbai reprimanded her in a low voice, "Shut up."

Mo Zhiyun quickly covered her mouth and glared at him with her almond-shaped eyes.

'Why are you getting angry when you're the one showing your love to Sister-in-law in this kind place in the middle of the night? Tyrant!'

Mo Shenbai's gaze was slightly nervous as he turned back to look at Xu Youyou.

A slight frown could be seen on Xu Youyou's face as though she was startled by Mo Zhiyun's cry earlier.

With this, Mo Shenbai did not dare to touch her again. He said in a low voice, "You're done eating the apple. Let's return to our bedroom, okay?"