

Sweet Love 1731

Chapter 1731: Be a Concubine at Most

“Uncle, didn’t you urge me to get married as soon as possible?! Now, I’ve fulfilled your wish of marrying a wife and having children; I’ll be holding a grand wedding in the future, too! Youyou is an excellent and smart boy who will do great things in the future with a little more grooming! He’ll surely surpass me and be a much more outstanding heir than I was when he grows up. My wife, on the other hand, is warm, kind-hearted, and virtuous. I owe her too much and hope that she won’t receive such unjust treatment further!”

“Ha ha! Because of that, you want to sacrifice our family’s reputation and hold a grand wedding? In my opinion, you’re just hell-bent on embarrassing our family!”

Without giving his nephew a chance to speak, Mu Linfeng continued. “What kind of woman is Yun Shishi? She’s merely a tool for surrogacy back then! The contract clearly stated that she mustn’t fight for custody rights regarding the children after she gave birth to them, but what happened in the end?! Not only did she hide one of the twins by her side, she even dreamed of making use of the child to climb the social ladder! Is that possible? What would others think of the Mu family if news got out?! Our centuries-old family’s reputation ought not to be tarnished by that woman! If the public catches wind of the Mu’s young mistress being a surrogate mother once...”

The young man said nothing throughout.

Apparently, he did not agree with what his uncle had just said.

The older man reined in his anger and patiently coaxed his nephew. “I’m naturally happy to see you get married! You’re no longer young, after all. If you want to get married, you should find a well-matched woman. We’ll surely accept one with a strong background and can help in your career! By then, once you build a strong foundation, no one can push you off your position; isn’t it killing two birds with one stone? Instead, you willfully insist on keeping your marriage with that commoner who gave birth to children in exchange for money! How awful would it sound if news of you marrying a single mother spread?!”

“Those are my sons, anyway.”

Having expected better from his nephew, the elderly one was immensely disappointed. “The public doesn’t care about this! They all think that Little Yichen’s mother is Mu Wanrou! Even though the outside world knows that your engagement with her has been called off, they still don’t know who the boy’s real mother is! If news spread and others were to learn that we resorted to surrogacy, it would surely tarnish our family’s reputation!”

“I don’t care about that! My mind is made up! I won’t divorce her. It’s useless no matter what you say!”

The young man’s attitude was very firm, leaving no room for negotiation.

His exasperation rendered the older man speechless for a while before he suddenly made a slight concession. “It’s fine if you insist on not divorcing her and letting her enter the family! I’ll give you some leeway, but there will be no grand wedding!”

“What do you mean?”

“She can only be quietly married into the family! Since you want to marry her, it’s not a problem if she becomes your concubine! Your marriage mustn’t be made known to the world, though! She may be your lawful wife in name, but she can only be a concubine at most! This is the biggest concession I can make!”

Concubine?!

Mu Yazhe’s forehead creased upon hearing that, though he was not surprised by his uncle’s suggestion!

It was very much the older man’s style.

In wealthy families, concubines meant mistresses!

In ancient times, mistresses could not be seen in public.

Even though their country practiced monogamy nowadays, the old feudal system of polygamy remained a common practice in the wealthy and influential families!

Chapter 1732: This is my era now.

Coming from an elite household, Mu Sheng had several wives. There were no impressive weddings organized for them. A second wife, no matter how low her status may be, would be unable to enter the lineage!

If she was a little more competent and gave birth to a talented son or daughter, she would be added to the lineage, but as a second wife, her status would never be acknowledged in public even in a million years.

Mu Lianjue’s mother was one of those wives.

In other words, if Yun Shishi became a second wife to Mu Yazhe, she would not have any status in the household!

In Mu Linfeng’s heart, giving her a position as a second wife was already a favor to her!

For a commoner with no notable background to succeed in marrying into their family was already a huge blessing!

Moreover, his second uncle knew who his wife’s biological mother was.

She was a songstress at a nightclub in the capital, and it was a menial and demeaning job to the older man. Only his uncle’s father, Old Mu, would treat someone like that as a treasure.

Even if they managed to hide the identity of her biological mother, everyone would come to know about his wife’s adoptive parents.

The Mu family’s face would be completely thrown away!

A romance between an ordinary girl and a noble prince only happened in fairytales!

The reality was that cruel. He should not be blamed for being snobbish!

A woman like his nephew's present wife could never enter their family, but if his nephew persisted in this marriage with her, and he remained stoic about it, he also could not guess what kind of shocking action the young chap might take!

What if he caused some over-the-top news? He would be too ashamed to meet anyone!

If that was so, why not have both sides take a step back?

His original intention was for Yun Shishi to enter their family as a second wife and have his nephew marry another lady with a strong background. He did not care whether there were feelings involved or not. As for the candidate's family background, he was not that demanding.

After all, if he were to pick one out of the thousands of women in the capital who had a status equivalent to or qualified enough for the Mu family, he would be unable to count all of them with one hand.

As long as her history was decent with a grounded family background and she had a warm and kind personality, she would be qualified to assume the responsibility of becoming their family's young mistress.

With that, once his nephew's current wife entered the family, he could execute the necessary action!

Who knew, though, what he was planning to do from the way he spoke with a sense of detachment?!

The younger man furrowed his eyebrows before suddenly letting out an icy laugh.

"Second uncle, do you know what generation we are in now? This talk about second wives or whatnot—you can save it! When I married her, I made up my mind to be devoted to her solely—only she can be the young mistress and no one else!"

"You!"

His uncle was rendered momentarily speechless from fury. Recovering eventually, he yelled, "Young chap, why are you so stubborn?!"

"Aren't you the one who's being stubborn? Haven't I said, time and again, that I, Mu Yazhe, will never reach a point where I must rely on a woman to establish my position? I'm no ordinary person, so don't see me like those who marry women with outstanding family backgrounds just to stabilize their foundation! That's unnecessary!" He scoffed, his words bold.

What he said was qualified, nonetheless.

While his uncle's help could not be disregarded when it came to him reaching where he was now, a man that had little capability would be unable to make a name for himself in this sinister, elite household.

Even though the journey toward becoming the family's head had been thrilling, he did it with elegance. It was unlike those bloody clan battles where neither party ended up with nothing. His existence was a legend in itself!

Chapter 1733: Do not touch the family's capital if you are that capable!

He was extremely confident and conceited. One could even say that he was being arrogant!

He believed in his ability, so he needed not use marriage as a way to strengthen his status!

Mu Linfeng did not look up to such a way of thinking at all.

He was nearly driven to madness by then.

The chap really did not know the rules regarding this.

“Are you so adamant on doing things your way?! Can't you just listen to me for once?! For such a huge matter like marriage, which should be decided and match-made by parents, how could you treat it like child's play?! Your parents aren't around anymore, yet as your elder, you refused to listen to my advice!”

“Second uncle, you should be aware of who the family head is right now!” reminded his nephew coldly.

He choked on his words.

“As the most powerful figure in the family, do I still need someone else's guidance regarding the major events in my life, such as marriage? Your generation has passed; it is my generation now! No matter what I choose to do, you have no right to interfere at all!”

Mu Yazhe paused for a moment before continuing. “Alright! There's no point in continuing this; it will all just be a waste of breath if you continue to speak.”

His words were filled with mockery as he clearly had no intention of giving his uncle any face. The former no longer wanted to continue bickering with the latter, either!

The latter was so furious that he was ready to explode. He breathed heavily as if on the verge of hyperventilating. He was silent for a moment before he yelled, “Fine! You're tough! You're the toughest! You look down on my suggestion, clearly no longer regarding me with any importance! Heh! Just because you are the family's head, it means that you have the right to be the wisest; is that so?! You sure are insolent now that you are at the top! Even at this moment, you no longer respect me! You really are not discriminating! If you are so capable, don't touch our family's capital when you manage your wedding affairs! Don't touch a cent from the company's accounts! I'll see what you can achieve after leaving the family!”

With that, his uncle hung up the call in a huff.

The young man threw his phone to the side nonchalantly.

When it came nighttime, he invited Lu Jinyu to meet, but instead of calling it an invitation, it would be more accurate to call it a summon.

The location was at a private clubhouse.

By the time his subordinate arrived, he had already scored a shot at the billiard hall. Seeing that his man was present, he placed the billiard stick down and raised his head. “You're here!”

“Since the chief has called for me, I must make sure not to be late no matter what!”

The new arrival took off his jacket just as the waiter brought alcohol over. He picked up a glass of red wine and took a sip before breaking into a comfortable smile.

“Chief, did you call me here today for another important matter?”

This subordinate, who had just addressed him as ‘chief’, was an influential figure. He was also a close friend of his for many years now.

Their bond may be even closer than just friends.

Apart from his family, the man had laid many connections and secretly cultivated his influence. Thus, besides his property at the Mus, he also owned assets under his name.

It was just as he said. Even if he departed from his family, he would not be left with nothing!

As for his family who would be jettisoned by him, they would surely be in ruins!

While his uncle had indeed polished him to be the successor, the Mu family’s current foundation was all due to his guidance and hard work.

The young man was no fool, though. He would not sacrifice himself to grow his family’s business!

He had seen through the way society worked. He was determined not to be bound by his family for his entire life, so he had begun a tight preparation for setting up his industrial territory a few years ago!

Chapter 1734: Who can the chief’s wife be?

At this point in time, he could confidently say that, while the assets under his name could not match what the Mus had as of now, they were still sufficient to found his very own empire. For many years, he had spread his connections and multiplied his commercial network and assets.

Lu Jinyu was among those he had cultivated. This young man could be said to be his confidante; he trusted his efficiency and integrity. This was friendship built through the commercial bloodbaths they shared in the past years.

The reason he had called over his confidante was to discuss the impending marriage.

Since he made such a beautiful promise, he must make good of it!

His uncle told him that he could go ahead with the wedding but without the resources of his family.

Having agreed to it, he intended to keep his words!

The man replied with a smile, “Can’t I ask you out for a drink?”

“Well, I’m overwhelmed by your attention!” retorted his confidante smilingly as he put down the wine glass in his hand, picked up a cue stick next to him, and stood before the pool table to study the game.

His eyes were glinting.

Lu Jinyu, a man in his twenties from a rich family, with his lanky frame and smart-looking face, could hold a candle to Mu Yazhe when it came to manner and charisma.

This chap might be young, seemed genteel with his refreshing and sunny aura, and could pass for a down-to-earth gentleman, but in reality, he was a ruthless man, much like a wolf in sheep's clothing, through and through.

His capabilities were undeniable, and he had never failed before.

Mu Yazhe sat on the sofa and watched him stand by the pool table. As he bent over to take a shot at a ball, the man suddenly announced brashly, "I'm about to hold a wedding ceremony."

Cough!

The young man was so startled that the cue stick slipped and the ball plummeted off track to hit the edge of the table.

He turned around to face his boss, unable to conceal the shock on his face!

"Chief, I'm not prepared for this piece of news at all! Are you... truly about to do so?"

"Eh!"

"Oh, my..." He slapped his forehead as he gave a dumb comment. "It's too sudden—way too sudden! I'm not mentally prepared at all!"

His boss snorted. "Why do you need to be mentally prepared for my marriage?!"

"That's because I previously reckoned that you won't be setting up a family within this decade!" His follower answered him truthfully before the guy expressed his curiosity. "I'm really curious, though; which woman is formidable enough to snag our chief's iron-clad heart? I truly admire her!"

To him, his chief was a classic type of abstinence for rejecting intimate relationships of all sorts.

He had never seen any woman appearing next to the man since he had known him.

Many flocked to him but none roused his interest.

His chief was an ambitious entrepreneur and put all his heart, as well as mind, on his career blueprint. He had once questioned his boss' sexual orientation inwardly and was slightly worried over the latter's proclivities and predispositions!

"Still, I must say that I'm rather relieved to know that you have a woman now!"

He heaved a sigh of relief.

"What do you mean by that?!" asked the other with a frown.

"Nothing!"

He quickly denied any issues, knowing very well that if his chief learned that he had once doubted his sexual orientation, he would... end up in a very bad state!

"Chief, who's that lady? How about introducing her to me next time?"

The man simply snorted. "That's not necessary!"

His confidante could somewhat feel his boss' wariness toward him.

Chapter 1735: Preparing for the Wedding of the Century

His little, fragile heart could not help feeling hurt!

"Chief, you're being petty here! As your sworn brother, of course I hope to have a chance to meet my sister-in-law! Besides, I really look up to her and want to see the lady who managed to tame my cold-hearted boss!"

"Well, the chance will be there soon! Our engagement ceremony is coming up, and you'll get to see her in person!"

The man's lips could not resist curling into a warm smile at the mention of Yun Shishi.

This unconscious move was something that his sworn brother had never seen before.

Taking all these in, Lu Jinyu just had to mumble beneath his breath, "I really didn't expect to see the day when chief is in love!"

As a bachelor, he could not help being sour grapes at the moment.

He felt he had been savagely dug at!

"I called you specially to discuss the wedding preparation. I'm no good at such things, after all, so I want to seek your opinion!"

His confidante broke out in a cold sweat. "Chief, I'm no good at that, either. I'm not married yet; in fact, I don't even have a girlfriend."

He mulled on it for a while before muttering, "Well, according to customary wedding, the couple must get a new house as their matrimony home for a start. Next is to add a decent wedding car, followed by a grand wedding. I guess a wedding process is like this, right?"

The man was dumbstruck. "I'm not asking for your opinion in that regard!"

Now, it was his turn to look lost. "Then..."

"I like to have a grand ceremony!"

This was something his buddy agreed naturally!

"Of course; that goes without saying! Chief's wedding must indubitably be extravagant!"

The man added, "If I want to have a grand wedding, I will need money, but I don't wish to touch any of the Mu's assets!"

This was his primary consideration.

He gave a promise to his woman that he would hold a wedding of the century for her!

He ought to fulfill that promise at least as a show of his sincerity.

For that to happen, he would need money!

His uncle said that he could have his wedding, provided that no family accounts were dispatched or money was wired. This meant that he could not touch his sizable assets under the Mu Group.

After all, his uncle had already forewarned him, and he had readily agreed to his terms. Since he gave his words, there was no way he would go against the agreement!

When he said that he would not touch the money, he would do exactly that.

His uncle was just waiting for a chance to mock him!

The old man reckoned that, without his family's support, his nephew did not have the means to hold an earth-shattering wedding. The former was pretty sure that the latter would be incapable of coming up with a large sum by himself, unless he raised the fund using his family assets.

By then, he could laugh at the young man for not keeping to his proud promise.

This would undoubtedly put a damper on the latter.

Alas, what he did not know was that his nephew had long been secretly building his empire outside the Mu family's sphere of influence and had even amassed quite an asset chain by himself.

The latter had enough personal assets to play around with.

The problem was that the young chap's personal assets were all invested in the industrial chain and were constantly circulating as funds for various projects. If he were to pull out a significant amount at once, it would hurt his portfolio to some extent.

It was unnecessary to put a dent on his many years of hard work for a wedding.

Hence, he called his confidante to discuss this matter. He wanted to know how long he would need to transfer out this sum from his finances without detriment.

Lu Jinyu had much more experience in this aspect.

Chapter 1736: A Bold Move

Lu Jinyu had much more experience in this aspect.

This was the reason for him asking out here. "How much can I withdraw in a short time frame?"

His buddy was too taken aback to respond at once.

"...Chief, does that mean that you want to use your money for the wedding?"

"Yes."

"Why?" That really got his man confused.

Mu Yazhe could simply use the huge assets readily available from his family; in fact, he could easily raise several hundreds of millions of funds overnight without a hitch.

There was no need to touch his hidden money.

“You don’t have to question my decision. I have my reason for doing this.”

“Alright! I understand.”

He did some mental calculation and finally spoke after a few moments of silence. “Most of your funds are locked in various investment entities. I’ve calculated, and there’s not a lot of money we can withdraw for use in a short time; you can get out, give or take, about tens of millions.”

When the man heard that, he frowned. “That’s insufficient.”

His buddy sighed. “What to do? The year-end is drawing near and money is tightly locked in during this period! This is what we can withdraw at most!”

The man tapped his fingertip lightly on the tabletop. “How long will it take to pull out 500 million yuan?”

Cocking his brow in astonishment, the other mentally calculated again. “We’ll have to wait after the new year at least. Our investments will make large profits then, and a few hundreds of millions won’t be an issue!”

“Does it have to take that long?!”

“How about the matrimonial home? Are you preparing this by yourself, too?”

The man answered brashly, “Haven’t you heard me earlier? I’m not going to touch one cent from my family. All the properties under my name currently belong to the Mus. I’ll definitely purchase another property and put it under her name this time!”

Pouting, Lu Jinyu retorted, “The matrimonial home isn’t the biggest concern! The real question is how do you want the wedding to look? Having a wedding is like a bottomless pit, and there’s no limit to how much you can spend.”

“It has to be glamorous naturally!” The man answered the question in his deep tonal voice. “I don’t want to postpone the wedding for long. As for what you’ve said just now, I have no issue with waiting for the money to come in after the new year. I don’t wanna hold a wedding in winter, too! The wedding is good after spring. Keep a close watch over the capital for me!”

His confidante was really curious about Yun Shishi by now!

Indeed, what kind of woman was she to make his chief put so many lavish details on their wedding—even to the point of touching his secret funds willingly?

This had never happened before!

“Chief, when is the engagement ceremony?”

His boss smiled. “The preparation is almost done! I’ll invite you when the time comes.”

“Oh; good! I’m looking forward to it!”

He sat at the table and assumed a serious look all of a sudden. "Chief, putting this aside; since you asked for me, I have some things I need to bring to your attention!"

"What are those?"

The man's expression turned cautious as well.

Soon, he discussed the problems that had surfaced within the company recently. When it came to critical matters, as a sworn brother, he would never make his decision and would always seek his boss' advice.

Five years ago, the man started building his influence outside the Mu Group.

He immediately sought Lu Jinyu as his right-hand man.

Chapter 1737: A man falling in love...

He could understand the reason for his boss' action.

Looking at the current situation, the Mu family could be considered the top elite in Asia. With a few hundred years of history, they could single-handedly support a large chunk of the eastern part of the world!

Globally, only a few conglomerates could stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the Mus.

Still, the man made up his mind to ditch that household and build his career because, for one, he was very ambitious. Even though the Mu Group had a long history, there was little room for growth by now with its many shackles.

The family continued to thrive due them dabbling in the political arena, and they could be said to be the powerhouse behind the local economy. However, this also meant that any move would directly lead to economic turbulences, so there were many constraints in place.

Two, there were too many intricacies involved in running a family business. Every action had to be planned carefully when the interests of many were at stake.

Hence, he very resolutely established his own Shengyu Financial Group from the networks and connections he had amassed through the Mu Group. After three rounds of financing, his empire had slowly gone on track.

By now, the momentum of it had become a force to be reckoned with.

This group had four big enterprises.

One of the businesses was called Easy Buy; it was an online shopping site he had set up seven years ago. No one bothered with the site when it was first set up. Having great foresight, he saw the potential in online shopping then and decisively invested in creating one such online platform, just in time to pioneer such an advanced enterprise. Easy Buy finally traded in Hong Kong stock market one year with great valuation.

Aside from this online shopping site, the man also hunted for many good bargains in other business sectors.

Including properties, holiday resorts, financial products, et cetera, the group had its hand on many untapped emerging industries which had great potential.

As his capable right-hand man, Lu Jinyu held the helm and took care of all affairs in Shengyu. Usually, he would settle any problems by himself and would not need to report everything to Mu Yazhe. His business acumen and ability were strong enough for him to hold his own.

Still, he would seek out the man's opinion when it concerned serious or exceptionally challenging issues!

He recounted the recent problem, big and small, to his chief.

The man gave him some suggestions, and after some discussion, the two inadvertently came up with the same conclusion.

"My thoughts are the same as yours; I didn't expect that!"

"You don't need to seek my opinion on some matters. I trust you'll handle them well. After all, you are handpicked by me for your capabilities."

His confidante smiled. "Now that we've finished our discussion, how about going for a game?"

He was itching to test his skills against his boss as he looked at the pool table. It had been a while since he last played with him!

"I can't!" The man stole a look at his watch. "It's getting late; I have to go home!"

He frowned. "What? Why are you in a hurry today, or is it because you are rushing home to see your wife?"

"Eh!" The other smiled in admittance.

He seemed to have been mesmerized by that smile on the man's face for a brief second.

Seeing the strange look on the former's face, the latter raised a brow with a start. "What happened? You seem to be in deep thought from the look on your face!"

"Nothing much; it's just that you seem to have changed!" commented his confidante truthfully.

"I've changed?" His interest was piqued. "In what way?"

"It's a feeling that's hard to explain!"

Chapter 1738: There is a phrase to describe you.

"It's a feeling that's hard to explain!"

Back in the days, the man came across as cold and aloof—a brilliance that belonged to a ruler—but after falling in love, his aura had changed somewhat.

The brilliance surrounding him had softened now, and whenever he spoke about his wife, his face would display a warm and gentle smile that did not exist before.

This was, perhaps, the greatest change love had brought to the man!

His chief had changed, and he was elated with this change!

The past Mu Yazhe was like a block of ice. Reigning high above the rest, he was untouchable and unreal, but it was different now.

There was warmth in his smile, and he was gentler than before; in contrast, previously, he was hard for anyone to get close to.

He liked this change, where the smile on his boss' face was enough to warm his heart.

Suddenly, he realized that he was once more gazing adoringly at his chief, much like a dog waiting for food scraps. Woofing a few times, he complained pathetically, "Chief, why do I feel that I'm being tamed like a dog even though my sister-in-law isn't around?"

The man gave a frosty glance at his right-hand man. "It's time for you to find a girlfriend!"

"I agree! How about the chief introducing me to a lady?" He decided to be thick-skinned for once.

He thought at first that the man would reject resolutely, but then, the latter, who was seemingly in a good mood today, unexpectedly asked, "What kind of woman do you want?"

"I want someone like my sister-in-law!"

The man's eyes turned cold as he snorted. "Dream on!"

"Eh?"

"You won't be able to find another woman like her in this whole, wide world! You don't need to think of it in this lifetime—heck, not even in your next life!"

This confidante was stunned at first before bursting into laughter. "Chief, do you know that there's a phrase to describe you right now? It's very appropriate!"

"What phrase is that?"

Lifting one brow, he smiled. "Wife-slave~"

Mu Yazhe: "..."

...

The engagement ceremony was under tight preparation.

Yun Shishi did not know that the man had already started preparing for their engagement ceremony. Right now, she was kept busy in the production set. There was a night scene scheduled today, so she would be unable to return home that night. For that, she had informed the man and the two lads in advance!

Night scene, like its namesake, meant a scene that happened at night. As such, they could only film it at night!

What was interesting was how Gu Xiaoyang had behaved when he approached her to discuss this matter. Unlike his haughty self in the past, he actually appeared wary and nervous, fidgeting with his hands anxiously behind him.

He made her so nervous with his mannerism, thinking that she might have made a mistake in her shoots.

In the end, he was here to ask if she could stay behind for the night scene.

She did not know whether to laugh or cry. "Of course, Director Gu! This isn't a problem at all!"

He nodded eagerly. "That's good!"

After saying that, he quickly disappeared before her to finish his work.

She was flabbergasted, inwardly amazed at her husband's authority!

By now, no one, not even the snobbish Lin Zhi, dared to be funny with her!

The preferential treatment made her feel rather awkward, instead.

Just when she was studying her script, Hua Jin saw her after he did his makeup. He walked over and sat by her side.

Chapter 1739: Hua Jin's Background (1)

So far, all of Yun Shishi's parts in the drama period were shot first, and since the scenes mostly revolved around Lin Zhi or the other supporting cast, she did not have much interaction or meeting with the idol.

He was surprised to see her staying behind for the night shoot.

"Shishi, long time no see! You seem to be very busy recently!"

His chumminess was something she had to roll her eyes at.

Oh, well.

Only this man seemed to be immune to her special status!

She was unsure whether the idol was unaware of her status or just did not care about it. While the rest of the production team only wanted to keep their distance from her, he would get close to her whenever he got the chance.

She was unable to shake him off at all.

However, after interacting with him for some time, she came to realize that he harbored no ill will toward her. His teasing was simply what it was—a harmless joke.

Previously, someone in the production team tried to put her down. He bore witness to this bullying in silence before subsequently putting that person in place by stacking the deck against the bully.

Thus, despite her mixed feelings about him, she knew that he meant her no harm.

It was just that...

She just could not understand his interest in her.

Besides trying to please her whenever he saw her, he would look after and protect her.

She was less guarded against him after a while.

“Hua Jin, leave me alone; I’m memorizing the script now.”

“You only know how to memorize the script day in and day out. What a bore!” he muttered.

“No one knows how to have fun except you, alright?”

He laughed and poked her with his elbow playfully. “Hey, what made you join showbiz?”

“Me?”

“Eh, eh!”

She replied truthfully, “It’s by chance, I suppose! Making movies earns me some money, and that’s what made me join showbiz.”

He pouted in disdain. “What a reason!”

“...What do you mean by that?”

“Shishi, what a strange woman you are! In this materialistic industry, every woman here is ambitious! For example, they look for fame, money, or a sugar daddy—all hoping to strike it rich with a son... Everyone is ambitious except you! Why come into the entertainment industry when your appetite is easily sated?”

She gave him a simple answer. “To provide for my family.”

Blinking his beautiful eyes, he watched her quietly before he dismissed her words with a smile. He was used to her frankness by now. “Still, you are adorable in this way—and silly to boot for suffering in silence like a punchbag when bullied.”

“You’re the punching bag here!”

“Do you think I’m like you? Whoever tries to bully me will soon after beg for mercy on their knees.” He smiled. “You should know that, in this ‘dog eats dog’ world, only the strong win, so we must become strong at all costs! Your kindness is a bane at times, you know?”

“I don’t like fighting with others. This is my nature. I did discover that my character isn’t made for this industry, too!”

She propped her head on her hands and watched the production team busied themselves with the props at the scene. Suddenly, she asked, “How about you?”

“Huh?”

Chapter 1740: Hua Jin’s Background (2)

“Huh?”

“What made you join this industry?”

His face suddenly changed, and his expression cooled somewhat. “Do you think I’m here because I like acting?”

“...What do you mean?”

“I joined this industry a few years earlier than you did, so I’ve seen enough of the people in here. Sometimes, I really feel tired, but even if I feel tired, I still have to play by the rules of the game here.”

Pausing, he turned his head to look at her. “Do you know how much I envy you?”

She was puzzled at his sudden question.

“You asked me what made me join this industry, right? I didn’t join it willingly; instead, I was made to become part of it.”

“Made to?”

“Eh! I was sold by my father to work here!” He looked downcast as he spoke.

Yun Shishi was dumbfounded. “Sold?!”

She looked at him with astonishment and thought that he was joking at first. What kind of father would sell his son to work in this industry?

For the first time, she had interest in his background.

Looking shocked, she quickly probed. “What do you mean by that? What do you mean by you being sold to work here?”

“It’s because... my father gambled a lot and eventually incurred a debt he couldn’t pay, so he ended up selling me to his creditor.”

While he spoke, his lips curled into a self-depreciating jest. “This sounds ridiculously funny, right? I couldn’t believe it at first, too—that my father would do such a thing. I was only fifteen then.”

Slowly, he narrated his life story to her sans any emotions; it was as if he were sharing someone else’s story.

Actually, he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth. His father was part of MNC’s upper management, while his mother ran her business.

The financial crisis in 1998, which swept across the whole Asia, threw his wealthy family into disarray.

His mother's business closed down; not only that, MNC was not spared from the onslaught of economic recession.

The family had to face sizable debts just as his mother's company folded. At that critical moment, his father had taken the risky move of embezzling company funds to pay off their debts.

This matter was found out, unfortunately. As his father was unable to pay off the amount he had stolen, he was sued and eventually sent to prison.

His ten years' jail term was an added woe to his family which was breaking apart.

Despite their struggles, he had never complained once. As a young boy, he tried his best to be obedient and studious. Alas, his mother could not stand the hardship and ditched them in the fifth year; she chose to flee from this city with another man.

His father learned about this while he was serving time in prison and seriously fell ill.

After he was released from prison, the man could not find a job due to his past crime. Although he was very capable, most companies wanted employees whom they could trust. With his past record, who would want to employ him?

Hence, without a stable income, his father eventually had to look for a manual job at a construction site.

His drastic fall from grace was difficult for the man to swallow.

He was once honored and accomplished, yet look at him in the end? It was hard for others to imagine what he was feeling.