Sweet Love 2081

Chapter 2081: Not Willing to Disrupt Sis's Happiness

"Are you sure that this is protection and not surveillance?!"

To him, this was not protection but surveillance, instead. He did not like the feeling of being monitored!

Several bodyguards froze. One of them replied obediently, "Grand master does not have other intentions. He is just worried that you might be stalked and assassinated for offending Ohlman. Therefore, he sent us to guard you."

Gong Jie's expression eased a little.

He had offended the leader of a firearms group previously. He got a large part of the Middle East market from the firearms group's tycoon's hands. By completely taking away a piece of fat meat, he had undoubtedly enraged the man.

The ecological balance was paid close attention to on the firearms market. Hurricane Group was dominant on the market, but if they were to put it harshly, there was still 30 percent of the shares stranded elsewhere.

This was not because the organization was incapable. In all honesty, Gong Shaoying had the power to write this amount of shares under his name.

However, the firearms market was considerably fertile. This 30 percent included the government from each respective country and several big and small firearms groups. If they occupied 90 percent of the shares and became truly the dominant company on the market, then Hurricane Group's power would definitely be an eyesore to many. Any dangers would then lurk everywhere for them.

For the ecological balance, his family's organization let go of that ambition and took a step back in consideration of the bigger picture.

A little while ago, however, Gong Jie had snatched a huge chunk of meat from a firearms group. Afraid that his arrogance would bring forth disaster, Gong Shaoying had dispatched some manpower to shadow him.

He regarded Gong Jie highly.

Apart from his innate capability, there was another very important reason for the high regard.

That was he had Mu Qingcheng's blood flowing in him.

His father's most beloved woman. He was wild about her even now. She definitely occupied the thickest and most colorful brush stroke in his father's life.

For his mother, and as their flesh and blood, his father had spent a considerable amount of time and energy on him.

When Gong Jie returned to the family at the age of nine, he braved through many ruthless storms. With his father's support, he was able to achieve the status he had today.

Therefore, Gong Shaoying placed so much focus on him.

However, he was worried that with so much manpower dispatched to his side by his father, they may discover some clues. If his father found out about his sister's existence, things would become complicated!

His sister was very happy now. Although he was unwilling to admit it, it was true that she now had a family and was leading a simple yet happy life with them. He could not bear to disrupt that peace.

The moment he thought of how these guys had been following him for so long, he was undoubtedly sure that they had a distinct grasp of Yun Shishi's whereabouts.

He ordered, "Pretend that you have no idea what happened today; did you all hear me? If my father asks about it when you return, all of you should just tell him that I was resting in a hotel."

"Second master, what do you mean by that?"

Gong Jie grabbed one of their collars and spoke coldly. "Pretend you know nothing about the whereabouts of the woman today. No one is allowed to disturb her. If I find out any of you reporting this to my father, I will kill you all!"

Several of them shivered in fear.

Chapter 2082: If I am no longer the head of the Mu family...

His imposing manner was terrifying. His few words were laced with a threat that left one's blood running cold.

They nodded their heads frantically, instantly expressing that they would not disclose this matter to anyone.

"At the same time, go back and tell my father that I do not need your protection. Do you understand?"

"Yes, Second Master! We understand!"

"Go back!"

Gong Jie waved them off. The bodyguards got in the car as per his order and left speedily.

The man turned around, his eyes distant.

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By the time Yun Shishi returned, Mu Yazhe was already home, but she did not see her two kids. He had probably chased them out for a walk on their way home and came back first.

The man was standing on the balcony, smoking quietly. It was rare for him not to be working in his study room.

There were several cigarette butts in the ashtray at the side. She counted it meticulously and saw that there were quite a few.

He was smoking quite intensely today.

Cigarettes were harmful to the body. She rarely saw him smoke; in fact, this was her first time seeing him smoking so viscously.

She was sensitive enough to know that he was in a bad mood today since returning home.

Perhaps he had encountered a problem at the company.

Yun Shishi walked over slowly, her footsteps so light that he did not notice when she entered the room.

She carefully encircled her arms around him from the back.

Mu Yazhe froze for a moment. When he realized that it was her, he gently placed a hand on the back of hers and smiled faintly. "You're back."

"Yep!"

She responded before moving to his front. She took away his cigarette and extinguished it in the ashtray, asking in a reproachful manner, "You are smoking very heavily today. Are you in a bad mood?"

"No."

"Still denying it? You usually wouldn't smoke so many cigarettes."

She could not help but feel a little concerned. "Did you have some trouble at the company? You can tell me if you want; I can also give you some advice."

"What kind of advice can you give me?" asked the man with a loving smile. He caressed her head gently with a tinge of playfulness in his eyes.

"Even if I can't give any advice, you can still consult me."

His lips curled into a smile as he mumbled, "Second Uncle talked with me today."

"Mm?"

"He said that if I continue my involvement with you, he will be considering someone else for the family head position."

"What does that mean?"

"Don't let your thoughts run wild."

The woman shook her head hurriedly. "I won't; don't worry. Just tell me everything directly."

All of a sudden, he asked seriously, "I'll ask you first; if I am no longer the Mu family's head, will you still be willing to be with me?"

Yun Shishi pondered on this. She did not know where this question was coming from. After staying silent for a moment, she smiled and answered truthfully, "I did not choose to be with you because I longed for your status as your family's head. When I chose to be with you at the start, it was because I wanted Youyou to grow up with a father by his side. Another reason is that I love you."

Mu Yazhe's eyes glinted.

He already knew the answer in his heart but hearing her say it aloud today was a great gratification.

He knew that this woman was devoted to him not for his status. Deep down, he knew about this well enough.

What she wanted was really simple. Her dream was something he could easily satisfy.

Chapter 2083: She is the only one he cannot lose.

Mu Yazhe's voice suddenly deepened. "I could be the head of the Mus because I am a direct descendant and I had my second uncle's support. This afternoon, he came down to the office to talk to me, or perhaps it would be more appropriate to call it a showdown."

"A showdown?"

"He said that if I wanted to persist in 'going the wrong way', he would have to support another junior in being the family head. He is very unhappy with our marriage."

Earlier in the afternoon, Mu Linfeng went down to the Mu Group's headquarters to seek him for a serious talk.

His first request was for his nephew to divorce the troublesome woman, Yun Shishi, immediately. If he did, Mu Linfeng would hand over ten percent of his shares and arrange his marriage affairs for him. He would marry the princess of Morokko, which would not only raise their family's status but also provide him with great benefits.

If it had been a few years ago, he may have been moved and would have complied to his wishes without much consideration.

After all, it was not important to him who his marriage partner was.

It was enough as long as she brought him benefits.

Now, he no longer thought that way.

He could lose everything else, but she was the only one he could not lose.

Mu Yazhe rejected his second uncle's condition without much thought.

The latter was utterly disappointed.

The man knew that his second uncle was already very disappointed in him. It could be considered that he had paid his dues for getting this far. What the other needed was an obedient chess pawn that could be under anyone's control and not an outstanding family head.

It was extremely regretful that he was no such thing.

Therefore, Mu Linfeng had to change his plans, now wanting to support Mu Yancheng as the family's head, instead.

Although he was not explicit about it, his nephew knew the truth just by simply guessing.

Everyone in their family, especially his second uncle's generation, had second thoughts about him. Ever since he became the family head, his actions had been too drastic to the point that his uncle developed a great deal of enmity toward him.

To be honest, Mu Yazhe originally wanted to leave the family and find another world of his, but there had not been an optimal time for that to happen at the present.

Shengyu Financial Group, which was under his name, may be large, but it was still deficient in a good deal of resources; thus, it was somewhat reliant on the Mu family still. On this note, he could not let go of his leadership role yet.

He had initially planned extremely well, and everything had been going according to it. However, Yun Shishi's appearance had not been within his expectations.

Because of her, he had enraged many people. In their eyes, they could no longer keep him, wholeheartedly hoping to root him out and kick him out of the Mu family.

Youyou had already considered this problem and talked to him about it. The boy expressed that his power could be shared with him if he ever needed it.

Alas, with the man's arrogant personality, how could he depend on his son, especially when it came to business? Therefore, he rejected it without a second thought.

He appreciated his son's kind intentions, but he was not at a point where he needed to rely on him to expand his territory.

In any case, victory was still within his grasp on this point.

If Mu Linfeng was determined to discard him and disregard the bigger picture, neither side would win in the end.

Also, the Mu Group's vitality would be wounded heavily. Without him, it would be in ruins.

However, there were probably more things he needed to be concerned about, so he harbored the attitude that he would destroy them both indiscriminately. He would never let his second uncle off easily regardless of how much he might lose.

Chapter 2084: New Year Shopping

Anyway, the battle horn had sounded, and he was unafraid of what was awaiting him in the time to come—even if it was an extremely brutal war.

His wife wrapped her arms around him and flashed him a comforting smile. "I'll accompany you through it all regardless."

As he hummed an acknowledgment in response, he pulled the woman into his embrace with a grab of her arm and placed a gentle peck on her forehead.

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The end of the year was drawing near, and Yun Shishi was all prepared to go on a shopping spree in preparation for the Lunar New Year. She had heard news of a shopping mall offering storewide discounts in conjunction with the festive season. The prices of the retail goods offered had been marked down so low that they were practically a steal. She, thus, specifically called her husband and requested him to return home earlier that evening.

It so happened that the man managed to settle all his pending company affairs by six o'clock. He, therefore, knocked off from work early and headed home straight as per her request.

Yun Yecheng and Yun Yehou were already there by the time he reached home. After their joyous and harmonious dinner affair, the family of six drove to the aforementioned mall to do their shopping.

The woman, however, was astounded to find the entire mall devoid of people, save for the retail staff stationed there, as soon as she stepped inside. Her shock was quite valid, considering that she had never seen a mall as empty as this one during its operating hours.

All that was in sight was the piles of goods on the racks and counters, each with their respective discounted price tags. Not only that; apart from the festive music playing in the background, the massive mall was utterly quiet.

It got her feeling worried for a moment, for she thought that the mall was closed, but there was not a sign at the entrance stating that it would be closed for the day.

She even specifically inquired about this at the service desk, and the answer she got from the receptionist left her dazed and incredulous.

"You're Madam Yun Shishi, aren't you?"

"How do you know my name?" questioned the woman with a start.

The receptionist went on to explain with a smile. "We've cleared the mall for you as per Chairman Mu's instructions so that you won't be disrupted during your time here."

"You've cleared the mall?!"

Her eyes bulged wide in surprise.

The twins, who had been curiously leaning against the counter beside her, exchanged knowing looks. They immediately understood what was going on.

Their father was probably not too fond of being in crowded places and, hence, ordered the manager of this mall to clear the site in advance.

"Well, you're a public figure now!" kindly Youyou reminded his mother. "Daddy's probably afraid that unnecessary trouble may arise if the mall gets too crowded, so he ordered them to clear the place."

"Ah, I see... That's boring, though. One can only feel the festive mood while doing their new year shopping among the crowd."

To think that she had actually been so serious about this shopping trip and had even left the house all geared up and armed to the teeth.

In the end, there was no other customer in the mall except for them.

Her gloomy reply got her older son snickering behind his hand. "Looks like daddy's well-intended efforts have gone to waste."

His twin, however, thought otherwise. "It might be better this way. After all, trouble will abound if it gets too crowded here."

"Yeah. With the mall emptied, we can freely do our new year shopping," echoed the older boy.

"Oh, well." The woman nodded in acquiesce, despite not knowing if it was worthwhile for her husband to do so. Her intention for coming to a big outlet mall was to save money, but if he paid a hefty sum just to empty the mall... would that not mean that they had burned a huge hole in their pockets, instead?

Even her father stepped forward to give his two cents' worth. "Just accept your husband's good intentions! My daughter, you're earning more now; there's no longer a need for you to scrimp and save every penny earned. It's rare for us to gather and shop as a family, so let's just enjoy ourselves. That's the joy of new year shopping, after all."

"That's true." She found what he had said to make sense.

New Year is all about spending time as a family.

Chapter 2085: An Ordinary Yet Beautiful Wife

The woman regained her smile. Taking the twins' hands in each of hers, she turned toward her husband cheerfully. "Let's head inside."

Mu Yazhe walked over and lightly picked up Youyou's free hand while Yun Yecheng was responsible for pushing his brother's wheelchair. The family of six, thus, entered the mall in a grand fashion.

Even though Yun Shishi did not have many relatives to visit her over the Lunar New Year, she still needed to decorate her place a little and stock up on the necessary items to match the festive season.

Besides buying the standard new year goodies, such as peanuts, sunflower seeds, and pistachios, she had to prepare some gifts for her visiting relatives, too; thus, the woman bought several big gift hampers for them.

By then, she was all caught up in the festive mood, which was a first for her.

She used to be very distressed whenever the end of each lunar year came around, for this celebration was quite an expensive affair and would leave her cash-strapped by the time it was over. On top of purchasing the aforementioned items, she also needed to buy new clothes—from down jackets and pants to shoes—for everyone in the family, which were quite a hefty expense.

Even though Youyou, her mini God of Wealth, would receive plenty of red packets—some of her affluent relatives would each give him a red packet worth several thousand—during this period, she had never touched that money. Instead, she specially opened a bank account for him and saved it all up. By now, there was quite a tidy sum in that account.

Since her income had greatly increased at present, she no longer needed to compare prices before she purchased anything. She could just add whatever she liked into her shopping cart.

Once she was done purchasing the new year goodies and merchandise, she led her family over to the branded fashion boutiques to buy new clothes.

That was when she recalled that her husband was quite particular about his clothes. Every article of clothing in his wardrobe was tailor-made by big brands, each costing tens of thousands.

There might be plenty of luxurious goods retailing at the boutique stores here, but none could be compared to the ones he was currently wearing.

Feeling slightly panicky, she dragged the man to the glass window of a men's clothing store and carefully probed, "Do you like the clothes in there?"

She thought that he would not show the slightest interest in them and would just give her a flat refusal in disdain. However, much to her pleasant surprise, he scanned the interior of the shop carefully and with much interest. "Let's go in and have a look."

"Okay!"

A bright smile formed on her face as she took his hand in hers and entered the shop with him.

This particular store, which sold mostly overcoats, had great designs. The coats were slim-fitting and complemented one's figure very well. For someone as tall and slender as Mu Yazhe, his aura and presence could easily squash those supermodels when he wore such outfits.

After selecting several designs, the woman got her husband to try them on. He, too, very patiently tried them all.

Buying clothes that were mostly only worth several thousands each was a first for her, though this was not the first time that she was getting him clothes.

Even though she could afford to buy him clothes from high-end brands, she, somehow, felt like buying outfits from slightly inferior brands to those expensive labels he was used to as seeing him wear these pieces made her feel that they were finally standing on the same ground.

It gave her the feeling that he had integrated into her world, and that sense of intimacy was indescribable.

While the man was trying on the coats, Yun Yecheng pushed his wheelchair-bound brother to a nearby store to look for silk blankets. The twins, on the other hand, sat waiting on the sofa.

As for Yun Shishi, she continued browsing through the racks, hoping to select a few pieces that would better complement her husband's disposition.

Today, the actress had gone out with a completely bare face, along with a fleece cap and a pair of glasses to somewhat disguise herself. Without that usual, dazzling and glamorous aura surrounding her, she appeared more reserved and gentle as opposed to her onscreen persona.

In fact, she looked just like an ordinary yet young, beautiful wife.

Chapter 2086: Yes, he is my husband.

"Try this piece."

She pulled out a long trench coat from the rack as she spoke.

Mu Yazhe tipped his head slightly in acknowledgment. "Okay."

He then took the coat from her and disappeared into the fitting room, which seemed too tiny and cramped for him that his wife could not help worrying if he would hit his head.

The shop assistants, apparently, failed to recognize the actress, for they gathered around her with reddened faces and asked softly, "Hey, sweetie, is that hunk your husband?"

It got Yun Shishi panicking for a moment and somewhat worried that she might have been recognized. From their looks of amazement, however, she surmised that their attention was probably all on her husband instead of her.

She smiled shyly as she replied, "Yes, he's my husband."

"Wow! He looks so young!"

"Well, what did I say? I could tell that they're a young, married couple at a glance."

"Don't people from the city usually marry at a later age? Why did you two get married so early?"

A young, married couple...

An unexpected gush of warmth flooded her heart upon hearing that.

She loved the warm, fuzzy feeling of proudly looping her arms around the man's and officially introducing him as her husband.

Youyou burst into a fit of giggles before he finally regained control of himself and said to the shop assistants, "Don't be deceived by my mother's young appearance; she's past her twenties."

"Yeah. Daddy and mommy are already hitting thirty. They're no longer young," added Little Yichen as he cheekily took a dig at his parents, which earned him a cool, oblique glance from his mother.

This fella, after spending so much time with his savaged twin, has been led astray. He's no longer cute as before with his sharp tongue!

The retail employees, however, were tickled pink by their cute appearances coupled with their response. Their hands flew to their faces as they shrieked in delight.

"Aiya! Are these cute, little kids yours, miss?"

She nodded, only to receive looks of envy from them. "Gosh! They're as good-looking as the mixedblood child stars we see on TV! Just look at their big, bright eyes and their long, curly eyelashes!"

"Yeah! If I could have such adorable twins for kids, I'd surely wake up laughing from my dreams."

"It's all about the parents' genes at the end of the day! Just look at their parents! Their mother is a pretty lady, and their father is a handsome man. It's no wonder that the little ones were born looking just as fine as them!"

Those who worked in the sales line, naturally, had quite the gift of gab, their words sounding as sweet as though they had been smeared with honey. Nevertheless, what they said was all true.

The twins had not only inherited their mother's dewy eyes but also their father's impressive-looking eyebrows and facial structure. Hence, despite their young age, it was not hard to imagine the sort of handsome chaps they would grow up to be.

Yun Shishi's vanity was fully satisfied when she heard their compliments. After all, no mothers would not be pleased and ecstatic to hear others praising their children cute.

She could not resist pinching her boys' chubby cheeks as she dissed, "Cute as they might be, they are quite the imps and rascals! They can be rather mischievous and are quite a handful at times!"

"It goes to show that they are smart and quick-witted."

"Children are cuter when they're a little mischievous. They aren't cute if they behave just like blockheads."

One of the assistants, who had been staring long and hard at her, suddenly exclaimed in surprise, "You look like a certain movie star, miss!"

The person, who had just spoken, was an ardent moviegoer, frequently asking her colleagues to accompany her to the cinema after work. The reason she had only said that her customer looked like a certain movie star was that it totally did not cross her mind that the person before her was the celebrity herself.

She did not doubt her identity at all, for there was no reason for a hot, money-making starlet, who was always decked in clothes from high-end brands, as seen on screen, to patronize such a small outlet store!

Chapter 2087: Simple Happiness

What was more; the customer before her appeared so gentle and affable—never once putting on airs unlike the glamorous celebrities as seen on TV. One could not help but desire to get close to her.

Not a trace of shock was revealed on Yun Shishi's face when she heard the question. Instead, she maintained a neutral expression and calmly asked, "Which movie star?"

Of course, she knew which celebrity the shop assistant was referring to, but at times like this, only by maintaining her composure could she not arouse suspicions from others.

"Yun Shishi!" answered the shop assistant excitedly. "Wasn't there a trending movie titled 'The Green Apple' just some time ago? She starred in that movie! Have you watched it?"

"Yes, I've seen that movie, and now that you've mentioned it, I recall some people telling me exactly that. The thing is, I don't usually pay attention to the cast of a movie when I watch it, so I've forgotten which actress they're talking about."

Youyou's lips twitched in amusement when he heard his mother's response at the side.

Can one listen to the nonsense mommy is spewing with a straight face?!

It looks like her ability to give spontaneous responses has improved a lot, considering that her past self would surely be looking guilty and uneasy right now.

"Have you all watched that movie? Gu Xingze starred in it, too. It's a great film!"

The rest of her colleagues exchanged wistful looks before shaking their heads in response.

"No..."

"Movie tickets are expensive, so I can't bear to splurge on them."

"I'm busy enough with working overtime and this other part-time job that Xiao Lu and I have. I don't have the spare time to go watch movies. What's more; my house rent has recently increased. I have to scrimp and save whenever I can."

While they might be speaking lightly about their situations with smiling faces, the actress could understand the unstated bitterness beneath it all.

Just a year or so ago, she was probably just like these young employees—working hard to make ends meet while fretting over the living and rental expenses.

The cost of living in the capital was very high, and the lands did not come cheap as well. The exorbitant land prices here were what led to the outrageously high housing rentals.

The few ladies here did not look like locals and seemed to have come from the provinces. They came to the capital with simple, ordinary dreams of theirs, only to realize, after settling here, that they had to slog hard to achieve them.

It was the same for her back then.

Her dream, at that time, was actually very simple: own a modest-sized house. The eighty-square-meter house would come with two bedrooms, a small study room, and a brightly lit balcony, and she would be content with just that.

She hoped that a lamp in this bustling city bathed in neon lights would, one day, light up because of her.

Having achieved this dream at this point, however, she found herself slightly longing for those hard times of the past.

Despite living an impoverished life back then, a hot bowl of soy milk before work and a cup of milk tea after work were enough to leave her feeling very much satisfied and blissed. It was because of such poverty that she could enjoy little warmth in her everyday life.

She was so easily satisfied with ordinary and simple happiness at that time, yet this happiness was all lost now that she owned everything she could have. Gone were the days where she would feel bliss just because of a bowl of soy milk or a cup of milk tea.

One's mentality tended to change once they started possessing more things. Perhaps, it had also gotten more difficult for them to discover such simple yet ordinary happiness.

Right now, she could not help feeling even more envious of her past self and these optimistic, young ladies who were full of dreams.

Mu Yazhe had once told her that he would feel very envious of her at times. She could not comprehend his words back then, but she fully understood them now. He was probably envious of how she could find happiness in the simple and ordinary things.

While the ladies were idly chatting away, the man, who was done putting on the clothes, walked out of the fitting room.

Chapter 2088: Unexpected Mushiness

The sales assistants immediately flocked to him and led him to a dressing mirror.

Youyou could not help widening his eyes when he looked over.

Likewise, his twin was practically gaping in wonder. "Wow!"

The older boy hopped off the sofa and ran to his father's side before circling around him. Amazement shone from the depths of his glistening eyes. "Daddy looks so suave in that ensemble!"

"Isn't that so?! He does look really handsome and smart-looking in that trench coat. In fact, he won't lose out to the good-looking celebs you see on TV! Your mother has quite an eye for fashion! She's picked out a piece that really suits your father! I've never seen any other customers who are able to carry this trench coat as well as he does!"

The staff was neither trying to stroke the man's ego nor buttering up to him; those were heartfelt words, and that trench coat had indeed complemented his disposition quite well.

Was there not a saying that went: 'Clothes make the man'?

One's good looks could be further enhanced when they wear a nicely matched outfit which suited them.

Yun Shishi, meanwhile, could not help feeling relatively smug with herself and was up on cloud nine when she heard the retail staff singing praises about her good taste.

Her husband, too, seemed to be satisfied with her choice when he took a gander at himself in the dressing mirror.

"Not bad."

Despite the succinct, two-word reply, it revealed his immense satisfaction for the trench coat.

Being an extremely introverted person, it was tough for him to express his joy upon coming across something that he was particularly satisfied with. Considering that he would only say "It's okay" most of the time for the average things, "Not bad" was enough to prove that he was truly satisfied.

A bright and dazzling smile appeared on his wife's face as she wrapped her arms around his. "Don't I have good taste?"

"Yes!"

"Why aren't you giving me a reward, then?" asked the woman deliberately.

"A reward?" With a slight arch of his brow and a devilish smirk on his lips, Mu Yazhe lazily turned his handsome face over to his wife. "What sort of reward do you want?"

She did not explicitly state what she wanted, though, and merely retorted, "He he! It'll depend on your performance."

Without warning, he put his hands on her face and leaned in to give a light peck on her ruddy lips. Even though it was just a chaste kiss, it was full of love and indulgence.

The shop assistants, who were caught off guard by this unexpected display of mushiness, could only silently suffer behind them.

Ah...

Sheesh. How could they openly show their affections for each other right here in front of a bunch of single ladies? Have they spared a thought for us at all?!

They were all unattached without boyfriends, so they were dealt with quite a blow upon seeing the lovey-dovey couple in action.

Moments later, Yun Shishi turned around, asking, "How much is this trench coat?"

"Are you sure you want this piece, miss?"

"Yes!"

"This piece is currently on discount. It was originally priced at 2999 yuan, but it's now 2199 yuan!"

"2199?"

She could not help but crease her brows in surprise.

That's a steal!

The lavish interior of this shop had misled her into thinking that the clothes they sold cost tens of thousands per piece.

It turned out that there were still some brick-and-mortar stores around here with a conscience, selling their goods at such reasonable prices!

Upon noting the expression on her face, though, the shop assistants mistakenly thought that she had found the piece to be expensive; hence, they quickly added, "Don't just look at the price. Not all cheap clothes are well-made. Look at its material and quality. You can feel it for yourself. This is a hand-stitched piece that's made of real wool..."

"No, it's not that... I don't find it expensive at all!" she explained immediately.

Do I look so poor that I can't even afford a piece of clothing which is only worth 2199 yuan?

"Can I pay by card?"

"Sure!"

One of the assistants immediately brought the credit card machine over to her, and she handed a card over for payment and signed on the receipt thereafter. The staff then ironed the trench coat, packaged it neatly, and passed her a shopping bag which contained her purchase.

"You and your husband really are a loving couple! I'm so envious of you!"

"Is that so?"

Chapter 2089: Imitating Their Parents

"Yes! Look at how much your hubby dotes on you! The way he looks at you is enough to melt any girl's heart!"

"My life would be perfect if I could have such a husband!"

The actress smiled and stuck out her tongue cheekily. "Actually, he is a very boring guy and comes across to most people as too aloof."

The smiles on the store clerks' faces did not abate even though they were swearing inwardly, *Oh*, so you have the same opinion, too! Your hubby is way snobbish! His face resembles an iceberg except when he looks at you!

The family left the mall, with the wife hanging to her husband's arm. Before long, the two lads clamored for some milk tea.

The night was especially chilly as cold gusts of wind bellowed in the northern sky. The evening chill was frighteningly freezing as if ice blocks were riding along with the wind.

Normally, the two kiddos would not think of drinking milk tea, but the thought of a cup of warm and steaming beverage in hand was welcoming in this freezing weather.

As they waited for their milk teas, the cold was too much to bear even for an adult, and the woman tried to keep her hands warm by constantly rubbing them against each other and blowing on her palms.

Her husband saw what she was doing and walked over to her. He then clasped his large palms gently over her small ones.

She did not expect his hands to feel this hot and told him, "Your hands are warm." His hands were so broad that they covered her small palms entirely. She could feel the heat transmitting from them to hers.

The man hooked his lips into a smile and clasped her hands even tighter. His hands were inside his pants' pockets most of the time, so they naturally would feel warm and cozy once taken out.

He dipped his head and lightly blew spurts of air across her palms. Thereafter, he gently rubbed his across hers with a serious look on his face. He appeared as if he were attending to an important affair like this.

Her gaze fell dumbly on his handsome profile. For a long time, her eyes lingered on him without blinking.

While he busied himself with trying to transfer heat into her hands, he could sense her attention on him. Looking up to meet her eyes, he asked quizzically, "What's wrong?" He saw the stunned expression on her face.

"N-Nothing much..." She collected herself and smiled. "I'm looking at you."

He pecked his lips against her icy-cold fingertips and asked, "Are your hands still cold?" His gentleness was almost too good to be true.

His wife was so flattered by his loving attention that a fiery blush crept up her face. Feeling shy, she looked down and muttered softly, "No... My hands aren't that cold now..."

He brought her hands to his chest and wondered aloud, "Why is your face so red, then?"

That got the woman feeling flustered and embarrassed. "Oh! It's nothing much... I-I guess it's due to the cold..."

As she mumbled an excuse, she avoided her husband's eyes, only to see her two boys at the side showing derision on their faces.

The two brats were imitating their parents! Youyou was pretending to be his father as he held his older brother's hands tightly. Looking lovingly at his brother the way his father did, he asked, "Are your hands cold?"

Little Yichen imitated his mother's utterly shy and nervous look as he fluttered his eyelashes, dipped his head, and mumbled, "No... not really..." He seemed to have inherited his mother's flair for acting with his expressions looking just right!

His younger sibling did not let up his act as well as he continued with his imitation by kissing his brother's fingertips and repeating his daddy's loving words. "Are your hands still cold?"

"No... My hands aren't that cold now ... "

Chapter 2090: It is too embarrassing!

By then, the younger boy, who had become immersed in his roleplaying, displayed the kind of tyrannical love his father often showed as he pulled his brother's hands into him much like what his father had just done.

Their mother was struck speechless as she watched them acting out her coy scene with her husband.

What are these two brats doing?! Are they out to tease me by imitating our intimate action?!

Her older boy managed to bring out the full expression of her coquettish mannerism, where she flaunted her smile while discreetly displaying subtle desire. To which, Youyou responded with an aloof and detached demeanor as he read his line. "Are you feeling shy, baby?"

"Oh... oh... What are you doing? Why do you address me as 'baby' in front of strangers? It's too embarrassing!" cried the older twin, his ruddy cheeks puffing petulantly.

Their mother was shamed beyond words.

Their father, meanwhile, threw them a sidelong glare followed by a loud, frigid snort. Clearly affronted, he sent them a clear hint.

Little Yichen quickly withdrew his hands from his brother's grasp and pointed a finger at the latter. "I got nothing to do with this. This was his idea."

The other boy was flustered!

What an unreliable chap!

His brother was playing along with him just fine when the older sibling conveniently turned against him just because of one dirty look from their father.

The three were not in a hurry to drink their milk teas after their orders were ready. With each one holding a cup in their hands, they warmed their palms with the beverage container first.

What about Mu Yazhe?

He followed behind with their bags of purchases in hand while the trio chatted and tittered to their hearts' content.

His youngest son turned his head over his shoulder, saw him with his load, and giggled gloatingly. "Look at daddy; he's our hardworking henchman!"

The big boss in question, who had been described as a 'henchman', glared obliquely at his son. He gave a loud, haughty snort in retaliation at the boy, who was trying to stifle a snigger with his hands.

His wife and older son also turned their heads over to throw him a sympathetic look; in comparison to his younger brother, the older boy gave a more humane response to his father's efforts. "Daddy, you're doing well! Thank you for your hard day's work!"

This rascal is riding over me now!

Despite his disdain at their teasing, the man felt his heart warming for the first time.

He had not thought much of the New Year in the past.

New Year was a celebration foreign to him—one that hardly conjured an image of bliss.

Most of the time, the approaching new year meant that loan applications at the banks would be delayed while the activities around him picked up pace.

It also meant seeing an increase in the number of employees applying for leave to keep up with the festive spirits on the streets.

All these, though, had nothing to do with him.

He would go to work as usual during this period. In fact, he often worked overtime in his office on the New Year's Eve, poring through boring annual reports and thick stacks of proposals while listening to the ticking sound of the wall clock as it moved, bit by bit, toward midnight.

He could feel none of that family bliss which a new year holiday was supposed to bring. In reality, there was no difference between New Year's Day and any other normal day.

Right now, however, for the first time in his life, he had a taste of what it meant to spend a heartwarming New Year with his family.

Little Yichen walked over to him and helped him with two bags. The chap was strong, so it was no sweat for him to carry these two parcels.

Yun Yecheng and his brother got themselves four sets of silk quilts, which could keep them warm at night.

The old man reckoned that it was time to change their sheets to these quilts as the weather had turned cold; thus, when he saw them on sale, he took the opportunity to get four. The grandsons would have one while his daughter and son-in-law would have another. The remaining two would be for him and his brother.

The family turned toward the car park after they were done with their shopping.