Sweet Love 4221

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Their conversation topic moved on from Gong Jie to Alice.

Yun Shishi was curious, and asked Alice half-jokingly if she had a boyfriend. Alice, however, made it clear that she had never thought of getting married.

"Not getting married?" Yun Shishi didn't look surprised to hear that. Some women didn't like the idea of getting married. They were probably disappointed in men, or disappointed in marriage, and didn't want their freedom restricted by it.

However, Alice said frankly, "Actually, I have high expectations of marriage and family, but it's just that those expectations are too high. It's not something that can be forced, so I might as well stop hoping."

"Why do you say that?" Yun Shishi did not comprehend. Logically speaking, most people who refrain from marriage were usually emotionally scarred or didn't expect anything from marriage.

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Yet, as Alice had said, if she had high expectations of marriage, why would she not think of getting married?

Alice could see her confusion. She took a deep breath, and said calmly. "I can't bear children. In the past, I've thought about getting married and having a family, but because of the condition of my body, it has become impossible. Since it's impossible, I might as well give up any illusions I might have."

"How could that be !?" Yun Shishi was surprised to hear that Alice was barren.

Alice had never mentioned this to anyone before. Now that she mentioned it, it came as a surprise. Therefore, Yun Shishi found this strange.

"What happened?"

Alice did not hide it from her. She recounted, "It must have been years ago now. Gong Jie returned from Africa sick with a plague he had contracted there. I remember that time. In Africa, the plague was rampant. Gong Jie caught it, and when he returned to Hurricane, he was immediately quarantined. At the time, there was nothing anyone could do about the virus. In Africa, anyone infected with it was disposed of like a corpse. Many people who caught the virus were left in quarantine facilities like rotting livestock. Most died of starvation before the virus could eat away at them."

"Starvation..." Yun Shishi felt her chest tighten at her words. She knew, of course, that her brother had recovered, but... How did he manage to do so? She had a vague feeling that it had something to do with Alice being barren. She had followed the news, too. Back in college, she'd followed the news often enough to know how the Aymanla virus had ravaged Africa. "Was it the Aymanla virus?"

Alice nodded. It was the Aymanla virus. At the time, Gong Jie had not been seriously infected, but no one knew when the condition had worsened.

This realization then dawned upon Yun Shishi. "I heard that a vaccine was later developed for this virus, but even now, the epidemic in Africa is still not under control."

"That's right." Alice said, "Because vaccines are expensive. Poverty is rampant in many parts of Africa. The vast majority of war refugees cannot afford to pay for a cure."

Yun Shishi probed. "Did you develop this vaccine?"

"That's right."

"Well then ... "

She and Hua Jin spoke almost in unison. "Did you develop it?"

"Uh huh. I suppose you could say that!"

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At the time, Alice was a young doctor. She was not an authority in the field, and therefore helpless against such a plague. After Gong Jie and a few others were quarantined, Hurricane's medical center went out of control for a long time.

No one knew how bad a damage the virus could cause, which meant that no one knew how long Gong Jie could survive the infection. Many of the infected mercenaries who had returned from Africa with him did not survive.

Therefore, at that time, Alice was extremely nervous. The important thing was... Even though the preliminary vaccine had been created, no one dared to put it into use without it having undergone trial. And of course, no one dared test it out on Gong Jie.

So, at that point, driven by some unknown motivating factor, she turned up in the lab and calmly offered herself as an experimental subject.

Everyone was overjoyed.

At the time, Alice was very young. She was working at the medical center and had not yet joined the Hurricane Group. She was just an intern and certainly wasn't experienced. Hence, she wasn't considered a valuable staff member from the perspective of the others. However, since she was willing to pay the price with her body, the researchers who studied vaccines were naturally pleasantly surprised.

Except, Alice had also been told in advance that because this was the first version of the vaccine and it had never been tested, her life could be in danger if the trial failed. Alice understood, but was unafraid.

She did not hesitate to use herself as an experimental subject. However, as expected, the experiment failed and she was infected by the virus. She underwent emergency rescue for several days before coming out of danger. Further, because she had participated in human experimentation, she was struck off by the hospital she worked in. It was also because of this infection that she became barren.

Due to the viral attack, most of the chromosomes in her body had been damaged. Even if she could give birth, there was an overwhelmingly high chance that the child would be defective.

So she gave up the idea

"You did it for Gong Jie...?"

"..." Alice was suddenly silent. She pursed her lips, and merely said, "You can take me as a sort of Virgin Mary, sacrificing my life for the health of the people of the world."

Her nonchalance now made it difficult to imagine the pain of her decision then. However, Alice did not say it aloud that indeed, she had been willing to go through this for Gong Jie.

She'd met Gong Jie by chance, before entering the Hurricane Group, as a medical volunteer heading for Africa. And it was this one meeting that changed everything forever.

She'd dreamed of entering the Hurricane Group and becoming part of its medical center. Instead, as soon as she'd arrived, she'd had to treat Gong Jie, who had contracted the virus. She did it almost without thinking, even though she knew that this outcome was definitely not something she could bear. It was just that at that time, she was hot-headed and did not think things over.

Gong Jie didn't even know about this. Neither did Alice speak about it very much. She had only found out that she had become infertile after a series of full-body examinations following her recovery.

She found it hard to accept, but she did not have a choice. The only comfort was that Gong Jie came out safe and sound. As the result of Alice's infection, the vaccine was perfected and he fully recovered. The cruel virus left no mark on his body.

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That was enough to be of great comfort to Alice! At least Gong Jie was fine. She liked Gong Jie. It probably wasn't love, but it was enough for her to give up everything she had. However, she had never confessed her admiration for Gong Jie to anyone.

It wasn't that she thought he was out of her league, but she knew perfectly well that the man had no interest in her. If this sort of affection were not mutual, then coming clean with it would only become a burden. So Alice had never mentioned it to Gong Jie, in order not to burden him with it.

More than that, she had no expectations for Gong Jie to reciprocate just because she adored him and made sacrifices. That would not be love. That would be blackmail. That wasn't her goal or her style of doing things. Therefore, the matter was suppressed, and her fondness for Gong Jie was restrained.

Alice smiled and replied, "I didn't expect that my unintentional act would indirectly save Gong Jie. It's a coincidence!"

Her attempt at levity was met with a grim expression.

Despite the fact that Alice didn't look the least bit regretful, Yun Shishi ventured cautiously, "Actually, you're doing all this for Xiao Jie, aren't you?"

Alice looked startled, but said nothing. She avoided Yun Shishi's gaze and said casually, "No, I just did what I had to do. Because of me, a vaccine was created and the disease came under control. As for Gong Jie, that can only be considered a coincidence."

Since she said this, Yun Shishi did not make further remarks to expose her. But she could see that Alice was holding back her admiration for her brother. She was almost certain that Alice had ended up barren because of the man. But she could also understand Alice's unspoken feelings.

Because... If love were destined to fail, it would become a burden if it had been made known.

Alice did not wish to impose any burden on Gong Jie. So she looked nonchalant, carefully guarding the last of her dignity. She didn't want her affections to become forced and pitiful.

"Actually, being infertile is not a big deal." Alice pursed her lips and said seriously, "If there's a chance in the future to meet someone I like and who likes me, and if he doesn't mind, we can adopt a child and treat her like our own. At the very least, that will fulfill my dream of being a mother. Even if she's not my biological child, I'll treat her as my own."

She already had plans. Except that would come later.

Alice got onto her feet and said, "I'll go in and check on Natalia's condition!"

In this way, she avoided the topic.

It was clear that she was not very willing to discuss the matter. Yun Shishi and the actor acquiesced and rose with her.

The three of them entered the room. By then, Youyou was sitting on the front of the bed and Little Yichen was leaning back on the sofa. He was obviously tired and had fallen asleep. However, he was sleeping lightly and had been resting with his eyes closed when Alice's entry woke him.

The boy opened his eyes and saw Alice and his mother. He stood up. "Mommy... eh? Alice, you're here too."

"How is Natalia now?"

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"How is Natalia now?"

The boy said, "The temperature seems to have gone down a little. It's not as high as before."

"Let me see." Alice walked over, took out the temperature scanner, and scanned the girl. It showed a temperature of exactly thirty-nine degrees, which meant the fever was slowly subsiding.

Her brow relaxed. "There seem to be signs that the fever is subsiding." Yun Shishi, too, was visibly relieved.

Hua Jin, on the other hand, was still worried. "Will it worsen again?"

"I don't know." Alice shook her head. "I now have a preliminary suspicion that she has a superficial fever. There's no inflammation, no viral infection, and no sign of any cold or internal fever. My guess is that she hasn't been able to sleep well for days. Her constitution is a little weak, so she has a superficial fever, she'll recover with enough rest."

"Oh..." The actor relaxed a little at that.

Yun Shishi expressed her concern. "Are you sure she's fine now? 39.8 degrees scares me. Youyou had a poor constitution when he was a kid, but he never had such a high fever."

Alice said soothingly, "Don't worry. It's all right. If anything happens, I'll guarantee her safety. Anyway, I'm here today, and I don't intend to leave. You guys can go and have some fun without having to worry about this. It's rare to be able to take a vacation. You should enjoy it. Leave Natalia to me!"

Her words worried Hua Jin instead. He said miserably, "I'm not in the mood to play when I see her like this. It's okay. I'll stay here with her too."

Alice nodded. "Don't worry. Get a good night's sleep. If all goes well tonight, the fever will probably go away by tomorrow."

"That would be best." Yun Shishi was relieved to have Alice around. She saw that Youyou's gaze was fixed on Natalia, so she went to the boy and quietly knelt next to him. "Stay here," she said seriously. "Take good care of Natalia, okay?"

The boy looked at her, then at Alice. "Since Alice is here," he said suddenly, "she'll take good care of Natalia. I want to stay with Mommy."

She was taken by surprise to hear that. Youyou had always stuck close to her since he was little so it wasn't surprising. But at some point, the boy had begun to stand on his own two feet. Gradually, he had become less dependent on her.

Initially, she had thought that in Natalia's condition, the boy would be reluctant to leave, that he would be worried enough to stay and take care of Natalia. She had not expected him to offer to stay with her.

Despite herself, Yun Shishi laughed and said, "Mommy isn't sick. Why are you suddenly thinking about spending time with me?"

"Mommy doesn't need Youyou's company if you're not sick?" The boy suddenly clung to her, wrapping his arms around her and snuggling into her. "I just want to be with Mommy..." he whined.

It was already rare for the boy to wheedle. When he did, it was as if he had gone back to being six years old and insisted on sticking around her all the time! Yun Shishi instantly softened and melted.

She lifted the boy gently into her arms. He was so big, and was over ten years old now. As she lifted him into her arms, he instantly laid his head gently on her shoulder as he had done when he was a little child.

Somehow, she could sense a little helplessness in him. She was that sensitive. Therefore, she felt that the boy was inexplicably feeling down today. "What's the matter?"

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"Nothing..." The boy's voice was muffled, monotonous, and oddly vulnerable. "I want to be with Mommy—"

Yun Shishi's eyelids suddenly fluttered. She frowned, vaguely aware that perhaps the boy had overheard her conversation with Alice. Even though she had kept her voice low, the boy might have heard her and taken it to heart.

Would he think that she was worried about Gong Fan but no longer regarded him as the most important? Unsure how best to comfort him, she tightened her arms around the boy and smiled at the actor and Alice before turning away with him in her arms.

There was a long silence on the way back.

It was only when they were about to enter the villa that Youyou asked quietly, "Mommy, are you... worried that Gong Fan will never come back?"

Yun Shishi was stunned by the boy's question. It was a long time before she found her voice. "I'm a little worried... After all, it's so unusual that he hasn't shown up in so long."

"Mommy... if... if he disappears forever... please don't get upset with me, okay?" Feeling helpless, the boy said earnestly, "I was worried, too. I was afraid he'd suddenly disappear. I was actually prepared to co-exist with him, but... I don't know what happened, he just disappeared. I had no way of finding him."

Yun Shishi was at a loss for words! Why would he think that way!

"Why would you think that? Why would Mommy get upset with you for this?" Yun Shishi knew full well that the boy had found out about her fears and helplessness. He was overwhelmed by guilt and therefore feeling uneasy. She was frustrated. It was her failure to control her own emotions that created the unease in the boy. "Don't worry, it doesn't bother me too much. Don't be sad. Besides, isn't it a good thing if Gong Fan disappeared? At least, it means that you've recovered?"

The boy gave a small nod.

Yun Shishi carried him back to his room and reassured him. "Stop imagining things, okay?"

"Alright..." The boy, however, was reluctant to return to his room. "Mommy, I want to go out to the sea," he told her.

"Sure, we can go out to the sea. We'll get Daddy and Little Yichen to go out to sea together, okay?"

"What about Little Sister?"

"Little Sister gets seasick. Besides, the sea breeze is too strong and the sun is scorching. Little Sister has tender skin. It won't be worth it if she gets burned."

"Okay."

Having given her word, she got Mu Yazhe to charter a boat and the family of four set sail.

The trip out to sea took a full day. Lunch was served at sea. It was mostly freshly-caught fish from their trip. They did not season the fish too much. The food retained its original taste and was very delicious.

Out at sea, the twins sat back-to-back with each other, fishing by the boat, while Yun Shishi carried a fresh coconut, drinking and basking in the sun, losing herself in the moment.

When she returned in the evening, she made a point of checking on Natalia. Fortunately, as Alice had said, her temperature had gone down quickly and although it had not yet returned to normal, at least it meant her condition was improving.

Relieved that Natalia's fever was subsiding, Yun Shishi urged Hua Jin to take good care of the girl and quickly took her leave.

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After the vacation in Saipan, Alice returned to the Hurricane Group to complete some paperwork. She was expecting to travel back and forth between the mainland and the Hurricane Group for some time afterwards, so that she could monitor the stability of Natalia's condition.

Alice settled into the villa that Gong Jie had purchased for Hua Jin and Natalia. After a few days of monitoring, however, Alice discovered something of relative importance. And that was... Natalia's particular restlessness in the absence of the crystal ball.

At night, the girl had great difficulty falling asleep. Often, even after she had fallen asleep, she would be plagued by nightmares, as revealed by quality-of-sleep tests. Continuous nightmares had a serious impact on the quality of her sleep, and this indirectly led to her fretful mood.

That meant... The crystal ball had some sort of mysterious effect on Natalia.

Alice hesitated for some time before she finally decided to return the crystal ball to Natalia. Before doing so, she deliberately installed hidden security cameras in the room. The recorded footage would be transmitted directly to Alice's phone and would be monitored 24/7.

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Initially, Hua Jin objected to this. He didn't feel that Alice had the right to put Natalia under such surveillance, even though she had a condition. Even split personality patients had an absolute right to privacy.

However, Alice did not buy into that. She felt that the priority was to decipher the connection and bond between the crystal ball and Natalia. The actor thus went along with it and did not interfere too much.

Hence, having found an opportunity, using the excuse that the airport had located the crystal ball, Hua Jin then returned it to Natalia. The girl cradled the crystal ball lovingly. Even her mental state seemed much improved. Hua Jin was curious when he noticed her holding the crystal ball as if she'd found a new lease of life. Hence he asked her secretly why she thought that the crystal ball was so important to her.

The girl replied, "At night, there'll be a fairy in the crystal ball, singing me to sleep."

"How is that possible?" Hua Jin kept staring into the crystal ball, but he couldn't make any sense of it. "Where's the fairy? Why can't I see her?"

"Hmph, only I can see her. No one else can see her at all! This is a secret between her and me! A secret only the two of us know!" She clutched the crystal ball protectively to her chest and refused to let him look at it again.

The day Hua Jin returned the crystal ball to Natalia, Alice activated the surveillance. It was also this surveillance that led Alice to discover a serious problem.

She realized, through the surveillance camera, that Natalia would hug the crystal ball and stare into space for a long time before she went to bed. It was as if she could see something in the crystal ball. However, immediately afterward... Her state would undergo a clear change. This state was not unfamiliar. Alice knew very well that in such a state, Natalia had accepted hypnosis.

How did that happen? This was somewhat beyond what Alice knew. Logically speaking, even in hypnosis, there had to be two parties, the hypnotist and the person being hypnotized. It wouldn't work if one party were to be missing.

The crystal ball was just an auxiliary prop. Without a hypnotist, no matter how many crystal balls there were, they could not result in hypnosis.

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More astonishing was the fact that Alice, through the surveillance, had finally discovered Natalia's second personality. Natalisa finally made an appearance.

It was early one morning. Alice had set the alarm to wake up. Normally, Natalia would be up at 8am but Alice would set the alarm for 7am, waking up ahead of time to keep an eye on the girl. She realized there was something unfamiliar about Natalia the moment she opened her eyes.

The girl had no idea there were surveillance cameras in the room, let alone the fact that Alice was monitoring her every word and action. Hua Jin didn't know where Alice had placed the surveillance cameras, much less Natalia. In fact, Alice's surveillance system was very discreet.

There were a total of ten spots in the entire bedroom that had been secretly installed with surveillance cameras. One of them was at the head of the bed, pointing directly at Natalia's face.

When the girl woke up, she was without Natalia's usual expression, but with a coldness Alice had never seen before. Cold, dark, and devoid of any earthly aura. This had to be the second personality Professor Romanka had channeled... Natalisa.

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The girl first sat up in bed. Instead of dressing immediately, she sat by her bed for a moment. Then she went to the desk and sat down. She stared at the calendar for a long time. She seemed to be observing the date, and, well, something else.

Alice made careful observations. She realized that Natalia was acting odd, in addition to the changed look in her eyes. That was when she was sure that she was looking at Natalia's second personality, Natalisa.

That, at least, proved... Professor Romanka's "manufacturing theory" was an absolute success. Even a person with a sound personality could develop split personality through external manipulation. This result almost subverted the understanding of all the researchers.

Alice got out of bed. By then, Hua Jin was up as well, preparing breakfast.

Natalia's breakfast was always prepared by the actor.

Surprised to see that she was already up, he asked Alice curiously, "Why are you up so early?"

Although Alice was up early, she did not have the habit of eating breakfast, so she did not come downstairs every morning. She said to the actor, "We have a problem."

"What's the matter?"

"I think it's quite possible that Natalia has switched personalities today. Just... pretend you know nothing about it."

The actor looked mildly surprised, but before he could ask anything, Natalia came downstairs.

Because Alice had doubts about whether this was indeed Natalisa, she approached the situation with reservation and made the assumption that it was Natalia even though she was not convinced at all.

By the time Natalia came downstairs, Alice had already realized, through her scrutiny of what she saw on the surveillance TV, Natalia was detached and not even like a normal child. Once downstairs, however, the girl put on Natalia's usual innocent expression.

"Morning!" The girl went to the foot of the table and sat down like a little angel, with an innocent expression on her face. "Are we eating ham and bread today?"

Hua Jin looked startled, but Alice interrupted him. "It's sandwiches with milk today."

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"I don't want milk anymore. I drink milk every day. I think I'm tired of it," she said.

Alice quietly instructed him to prepare some yogurt.

She asked the girl, "Is yogurt okay?"

"Yes, that works too." Natalia nodded, looking as if she were no different from her usual self.

But Alice shuddered. This girl before her now didn't seem to be much different from the usual Natalia. However, the cold expression on the girl's face at the moment of waking was heavily impressed upon her. Could all this be her disguise? Alice had to wonder. Was Natalia putting on an act?

She made an assumption.

Natalisa was familiar with Natalia's personality. Therefore, she would deliberately imitate Natalia in words and actions. She was even familiar with what Natalia liked... Yogurt, ham, comic books, swings...

However, when the actor held the yogurt out to her, the girl clearly hesitated. It was only after a short while that she picked up her cup and took a sip from it. She knew Natalia's likes and dislikes well enough to play the part of Natalia without batting an eyelid.

Alice acted like everything was normal in case it aroused the girl's suspicion.

After a day, nothing seemed out of the ordinary.

Natalia was clearly not close to her. After breakfast, she went back to her room. Through the surveillance screen on her phone, Alice saw Natalia sitting at her desk, quietly reading a comic book. She was engrossed in it and didn't seem to have changed much from before.

Unless... Had she imagined the scene this morning?

Alice remained skeptical, and soon the day passed. As usual, Natalia went to bed early. Except, Alice made the shrewd observation that the girl did not touch the crystal ball again before bedtime. Instead, she marked a circle on her calendar before she went to bed early.

Alice sneaked into her room while she was asleep. By then, the room was unnaturally quiet apart from Natalia's quiet breathing. She was obviously asleep.

Having made sure of this, Alice flipped through the calendar. She was shocked to discover that only certain dates on the calendar were marked with a circle. On average, there were only two dates circled out of a week. At most, there were three. This phenomenon had been going on for two months.

Was she to understand that this was Natalisa's mark on the calendar? If it was Natalisa who woke up, she would leave a circle on the calendar as a mark. In that case... Natalisa would have made an appearance about nine times in a month.

And on these nine occasions, Hua Jin hadn't been the least bit aware of it. Did that mean that Natalisa's uncanny disguise was so good that even the people around her didn't realize it?

Alice could not help feeling horrified.

So why was Natalisa imitating everything Natalia said and did? What was her motive for doing this? To disguise herself so that no one would notice? Could this be a means of self-preservation?

Then, if the hypnosis did indeed take place, what purpose did Natalia have, to hypnotize Hua Jin and Gong Fan? More importantly, how did a child, even if it were a second personality that had been created, come to acquire knowledge of hypnosis?

It was too shocking!

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Before that, Alice had been in the habit of communicating with the actor every day, usually over the phone, to keep up with Natalia's condition and changes. However, the actor had invariably indicated that "nothing was unusual".

That explained a lot. There was so much to discover. Alice suddenly realized that Natalia might have many secrets that no one knew about.

The next day, as Alice had discovered through surveillance, it was still the other personality, Natalisa, who woke up, not Natalia.

As soon as she went downstairs, she skipped over to Hua Jin and asked with a smile, "Can I go play with Youyou today?"

"Youyou?" he asked, startled.

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Now that Alice wasn't around, he didn't know how he should respond. There was no way he knew how to monitor Natalia. Usually, the phone that was connected to the surveillance camera was kept by Alice. Therefore, he had no way of observing which personality the girl standing before him was.

"Eh? Can't I?" Natalia looked rather disappointed. "Can't I go play with him? I'm bored being home alone."

The actor grinned at her and offered, "I can play with you."

"But ... you're no fun!" Natalia sat down at the dining table and put her head in her hands, crestfallen. She pouted. "Besides, I don't feel comfortable with this aunty around."

Hua Jin knew that Natalia was not close to Alice. It was not surprising that she did not like Alice. Hence he coaxed her, "I'll take you to play with Big Brother Youyou tomorrow, okay?"

"No!" Natalia actually began to wheedle. "I just want to go today. Can't we go today? Is he busy?"

"Well, it's not that, really." After deliberating for a long time, the actor finally nodded gently. "Alright then! I'll take you there after breakfast."

"Alright!" Natalia clapped her hands in delight, looking really happy.

"In this case you have to be good and finish your breakfast before I take you there."

"Okay... alright."

Just as Natalia was finishing breakfast, Alice came downstairs. For some reason, the girl's smile faded when she saw the woman. Since she had also finished her breakfast, she immediately said to Hua Jin, "I'm full. I'm going upstairs to get change!"

With this, she started up the stairs.

Alice looked back at her and asked, a little strangely, "Change? Is she going somewhere?'

The actor replied, "She wants to go and play with Youyou."

Alice's expression darkened slightly at that. She hurried to his side and lowered her voice. "Did you... agree?"

"Uh huh."

Sensing something wrong in her expression, the actor became nervous and asked, "What's wrong? Shouldn't I have?"

"Not that you can't. It's just that she's unstable at the moment. I don't want her coming into contact with the boy."

"Why do you say that?" He found that odd. "I don't see anything wrong with her, do you?"

"Just because you can't tell doesn't mean things are alright." Alice gave him a reproachful look. "Are you going to take her there soon?"

Hua Jin nodded hesitantly. "Yes ... "

Alice exhaled deeply and frowned. How could she trust Natalia to be alone with the boy? She was afraid something might go wrong.

Studying her face, he asked tentatively, "So, should I tell her otherwise?"

"Forget it!"

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"Forget it!" Alice waved her hand. "You've already promised her. If we were to back out now, she'd be suspicious. Oh well, I'll come with you and pay closer attention. I might be able to observe something."

The actor nodded in agreement.

However, when the three of them were about to set off and Natalia realized that Alice was joining them, she immediately pouted unhappily.

"Why is she coming with us?" She muttered at Hua Jin, making it clear to him that Alice's company made her uncomfortable.

Crouching down, he asked her curiously, "It seems that you're not too fond of Aunty Alice, huh?"

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Natalia glanced back at the woman and nodded miserably. "I don't know why. It feels like she's spying on me!"

Her answer proved her to be so sensitive that even Hua Jin was stunned for some time. He looked up and glanced at Alice as Natalia continued stubbornly. "I'm not going if she is! I'm not a prisoner. What right does she have to spy on me?"

Then she turned her head angrily to the side and said unhappily, "I know I'm sick, very sick, but that's no reason for her to spy on me!"

At such a young age, her ability to reason was no less than that of an adult. The actor pursed his lips and glanced helplessly at Alice.

Alice looked from the actor to Natalia and raised an eyebrow, probably aware that she had upset Natalia by joining them. She also felt that it seemed inappropriate for her to go along. If she caused Natalia to be wary, it would be bad for her research.

Hence Alice stepped back and said, "In this case, why don't the two of you go ahead? I won't have much to do there anyway."

"Okay... alright."

Alice then turned and went back to the house. However, she stood at the window until she saw Hua Jin get into the car with Natalia. After they had left for about a quarter of an hour, she walked to the garage, got into a car, and took a shortcut towards Yun Shishi's house.

Natalia was on guard. Alice's sixth sense told her that this child was not Natalia, but Natalisa. Therefore, there was absolutely no way she could sit back and do nothing.

Because she had taken a shortcut, Alice arrived at Yun Shishi's house before Hua Jin.

Knowing that the actor and Natalia were coming, Yun Shishi had started preparing a fine lunch. She was surprised to see Alice at the door.

"What's up?" She looked at Alice, puzzled that she had come to meet her alone. "Where are Hua Jin and Natalia?"

"The girl is guarded against me and didn't want me to come along, so I came in secret. She said she wanted to play with Youyou, and I didn't feel comfortable leaving her alone with him. I'd like to have a chat with him."

Yun Shishi immediately nodded at that. "Yes, sure."

Alice went straight up to the study on the second floor, where she found the boy reading. She knocked on the door and walked in. The boy was surprised to see her.

"Alice?"

"Shhhh." Alice came up to him, looking rather serious. The boy was startled.

"What is it? You don't look too good. Is something wrong with Natalia?"

"I don't know when she'll turn up. But now, I've got something to tell you, and we'll keep it short."