

## Chapter 241: An Incredible Discovery

Xia Xibei was stunned upon seeing Qiao Yanjue in the back seat.

“You...”

“I’ve just finished some meetings and am ready to eat,” Qiao Yanjue said with a smile. “You are done with class, right? Let’s eat together.”

The assistant sitting in the front had a mixed expression on his face. Looking at the rearview mirror, he could see his cold boss smiling like a flower. His heart beat wildly and he had to quickly lower his head.

He seemed to have made an incredible discovery!

The assistant had met Xia Xibei before, but he didn’t expect Qiao Yanjue and Xia Xibei to become so close. Before, they were even fighting one another.

Now, it seemed as if his own boss was the enthusiastic one.

Eat together? What girl was lucky enough to receive a personal invitation from Master Jue?

There were many socialites in the city who wanted to have a meal with Master Jue and couldn’t!

Moreover, their boss suddenly wanted to acquire an entertainment company yesterday. The idea was so random, everyone was caught off guard.

If the team hadn't been composed of elites who worked overtime like crazy, they couldn't have gotten it done today!

Listening in on the conversation between Qiao Yanjue and Xia Xibei, was it possible that... This had something to do with her?

While many thoughts tumbled through his mind, the assistant's expression stayed the same.

Xia Xibei didn't know that the unsmiling assistant had so many internal speculations. She didn't refuse the invitation and got into the car.

Behind her, Xia Qinghan, who had just come out of the building, stopped and watched in surprise as Xia Xibei entered a low-key, luxury business car.

She hadn't seen the people in the car clearly, but people who could afford to drive this kind of luxury car were definitely not ordinary people.

But how did Xia Xibei get involved with people like that?

Xia Xibei was almost an orphan, without the care of a father or a mother. How could she know someone like that?

Thinking of Xia Xibei's beautiful face, Xia Qinghan got a shocking idea.

Had she found a rich benefactor?!

Although this idea passed by in a flash, it filled Xia Qinghan with suspicion and contempt.

If Xia Xibei really did such a thing, it would be disgusting!

Meanwhile, Xia Xibei had no idea that Xia Qinghan saw her get in the car and had imagined a bunch of inexplicable things.

Soon, the car reached a restaurant.

As soon as they got out of the car, the manager greeted them with a warm smile.

"Mr. Qiao, welcome!"

After seeing Xia Xibei next to Qiao Yanjue, he was stunned for a moment, his smile brightening soon after.

This must be Mr. Qiao's girlfriend! She was really young and beautiful!

The two of them together were well-matched and pleasing to the eye!

Thinking this, the manager led the two into the private room.

Looking around, Xia Xibei became confused when she saw that they were the only people in the room.

“They are eating nearby.” Qiao Yanjue saw her confusion and explained, “I am their boss, after all. I’m afraid that they will have indigestion if they eat with me.”

Xia Xibei chuckled, not having realized he was so self-aware.

That being the case, she didn’t ask his staff to eat together with them.

The private room had old-fashioned decor, with small rockery and flowing water.

The environment was very good with semi-circular, antique-style benches so one could sit close together or apart.

After sitting down, the two of them were separated by a distance of about two people.

Soon, the manager and his crew brought out the prepared dishes.

Putting a cup of soup in front of Xia Xibei, he explained with a very bright and sincere smile, "This is the soup Mr. Qiao had us prepare especially for you."

## **Chapter 242: Should Treat Her Better**

Xia Xibei's expression became a bit complicated as she looked at the soup in front of her.

This was a cup of medicinal soup, and with Xia Xibei's skill, she could easily tell the medicinal materials used to make it.

She knew that the purpose of this soup was to nourish the yin and replenish blood, most likely made with advice from a Chinese doctor with advanced medical skills. This was suitable for her to drink now.

After the manager finished speaking, he made everyone else leave the room.

"You had it prepared in advance?"

Xia Xibei knew that this pot of soup must have taken at least two hours to simmer.

"Yes," Qiao Yanjue nodded.

“You were so sure I would come with you?”

“I wasn’t,” he said with a smile. “If you didn’t have the time to come over, I’d have taken it to you.” Adding some food to Xia Xibei’s bowl, he continued, “Eat. You have been in class all morning. You must be hungry.”

Seeing the chicken with the skin removed in her bowl, Xia Xibei felt even more complicated.

She couldn’t help but ask directly, “Why are you so good to me?”

“This is being nice to you?” Qiao Yanjue was taken aback. Wasn’t this the basics?

His answer stunned Xia Xibei.

“Isn’t it?”

“If you think so, then so be it.”

Qiao Yanjue smiled, but his heart felt a little bitter.

He hasn’t even done anything, but in her opinion, this was being good to her. It made his heart feel a little sore.

How many sufferings had she experienced that she'd make a big deal out of a little kindness?

Thinking about Xia Xibei's life over the past 10 years, Qiao Yanjue finally understood her reaction.

Only someone who had never received much love since childhood would be so vigilant and hesitant when faced with other people's concern, always fearing that it was fake.

He thought of the prickly-as-a-hedgehog Xia Xibei from not too long ago.

When someone treated her badly, she would raise all her thorns and fight back, sharply and fiercely.

People like her fought back when attacked.

However, if others gave her a little warmth, she would become gentle and a little flattered.

Whatever she received, she gave back even more.

She was a young and lively teenage girl, but sometimes she had a sense of maturity.

This was a time to rely on her parents and family, but she carried everything on her own shoulders, never showing any trace of fragility.

If it weren't for this conversation today, Qiao Yanjue wouldn't have understood so quickly. This girl had no sense of security.

Looking at Xia Xibei's dazed expression, Qiao Yanjue felt hurt and sore in his heart, the hazy feeling he had experienced earlier becoming clearer at this moment.

He should treat her better!

"Eat. The food here is very good. Eat more."

He was very fortunate that he had changed his attitude towards her before. Otherwise, Xia Xibei would definitely keep him thousands of miles away, given the way the two of them confronted each other.

Thinking of this, he was even more grateful. Fortunately, Jiang Yuran's advice hadn't hurt him this time.

He brought the plate closer to him, picking up a juicy shrimp and beginning to peel it.

"Eat. It won't taste good when it's cold," he insisted, moving the shrimp over.

Xia Xibei stretched out her hand to half-cover her bowl and refused, "You don't need to peel it for me. You can eat it too."



“I like peeling shrimp, but I don’t like eating it.” Qiao Yanjue didn’t change his expression. “Do you think my hands are dirty?”

The corners of Xia Xibei’s mouth twitched. Qiao Yanjue had wiped his hands with a hot towel several times just now; his hands couldn’t have been unclean.

But who had a hobby like this?!

### **Chapter 243: A Unique Hobby**

The peeled shrimp was not placed in Xia Xibei’s bowl. Qiao Yanjue was not in a hurry, putting it in a clean bowl and continuing to peel the next shrimp.

As he worked, he said, “I’m not lying. I really do like peeling shrimp.”

This hobby of his had recently appeared and would last for a while.

He was used to being served by others, never taking care of someone else.

However, watching Xia Xibei eat all that shrimp he had peeled gave him a strange sense of satisfaction.

“Have you peeled shrimp for other people?” Xia Xibei asked.

“No!” Qiao Yanjue blurted out.

After saying so, he saw Xia Xibei’s contemptuous gaze. He didn’t worry about it, explaining slowly, “I don’t like to peel shrimp for them.”

Who could ask him to work but his parents?

But his parents didn’t ask him to do this either.

Xia Xibei was about to chuckle. How could he say such amazing words without changing his expression?

“Then why do you like to peel them for me?”

“Sister Hong asked me to take care of you, so of course I will do it.” Qiao Yanjue’s facial expression remained the same. “Besides, I’m in a good mood.”

“In a good mood?” Xia Xibei was perplexed. “When you are in a good mood, you like to peel shrimp?”

What a unique way of putting things.

“Yes,” Qiao Yanjue nodded. “I found that after peeling shrimp, my mood improves!”

“Then should I buy you a few catties of shrimp to make you feel better?”

“Sure,” he nodded, “But you have to eat them after I peel them.”

“You can give them to Sister Hong.”

“She doesn’t like shrimp.”

Xia Xibei’s mouth twitched. She couldn’t keep talking about this anymore.

Qiao Yanjue chuckled lightly and pushed the bowl full of peeled shrimp in front of Xia Xibei.

“Eat. Don’t let my time go to waste.”

Looking at the shrimp in the bowl, Xia Xibe hesitated. She took a sip of water and picked up her chopsticks.

“Fine, let me help you out.”

“So should I thank you?” Qiao Yanjue smiled.

“You’re welcome.”

Seeing Xia Xibei eat shrimp bite after bite, Qiao Yanjue’s mood improved. Could feeding someone be addictive?

“Were there any issues at the company?” he asked.

“Issues?” Xia Xibei asked, looking up. “No issues.”

“Is your company pretty good?”

“It’s not bad, otherwise I wouldn’t have signed with them. I’m not stupid.”

Although Xia Qinghan and Bai Meixue were there with her, the company was big and they did not control everything.

There could be some problems later, but she was prepared, not very worried that they would hurt her.

But she didn’t need to tell Qiao Yanjue all these things.

“Great.” Qiao Yanjue didn’t ask her any more questions. “If there’s any issues, come find me.”

“Find you?” Xia Xibei raised her brows. She was about to refuse but nodded after a beat. “OK.”

While she had said yes, Qiao Yanjue could see that she didn’t take the statement seriously. If she really encountered problems in the future, she wouldn’t ask him for help.

This girl gave him so many headaches.

He had better ask people to keep an eye on her, or she would be bullied.

The two of them continued to eat quietly, talking occasionally. The mood was harmonious.

When they were almost done, Xia Xibei’s phone rang.

“Tang Luo?”

On the other end of the line came Tang Luo’s weak voice whispered, “Xibei, help...”

#### **Chapter 244: We Have Made an Appointment**

Xia Xibei was shocked and stood up abruptly, asking in alarm, “What happened?!”

Did something happen to Tang Luo?

On the other side of the phone, Tang Luo spoke pitifully, "I'm going to be tortured to death! You have to save me!"

Hearing that there was nothing wrong with him, Xia Xibei was relieved, no longer so panicky.

"What happened?"

Tang Luo sighed and said in a low voice, "Call me later and say we have arranged to meet in the afternoon, okay?"

Xia Xibei frowned, "That's it?"

"Yes. I'll tell you more later. I have to go!"

"OK."

After hanging up, Xia Xibei looked at the phone suspiciously.

"Did Tang Luo call you?"

As soon as the phone rang, Qiao Yanjue's movements stopped. He had quietly been listening to Xia Xibei's call.

When he found out it was Tang Luo calling, his face began to look unhappy.

"Yes," Xia Xibei nodded.

"What did he want?"

"Nothing. He was just confirming an appointment time with me." Xia Xibei didn't change her expression.

Although she didn't know what was going on with Tang Luo, she knew that she couldn't expose it this casually.

Qiao Yanjue frowned, doubting the truth of this statement.

If it was just a simple confirmation, did Xia Xibei need to look so surprised?

Moreover, she hasn't mentioned this meet-up since sitting down. Wasn't this a new plan?

"You made an appointment?"

“Right,” Xia Xibei nodded. “We’ve already made an appointment.”

Qiao Yanjue’s eyes were deep, even more suspicious of this statement.

The two had met only last night, and when they parted ways, there was no sign of another meeting.

But he couldn’t question her any further.

“What are you planning to do?”

Xia Xibei glanced at him, “Why are you asking so many questions?”

“You are not feeling well at the moment. You should rest,” Qiao Yanjue said sincerely.

“Don’t worry, I know myself,” Xia Xibei waved her hand, wiping her mouth with a napkin. “I’m full.”

Then, she picked up the phone.

“I’m going to make a call.”

Qiao Yanjue watched her slip out with her phone.



Xia Xibei walked to a quiet place with no one around and began to call Tang Luo.

The phone rang twice before the call was picked up. Tang Luo's voice, a little excited, came from the other end.

"Oh, it's you, Xibei! I almost forgot that we had an appointment this afternoon! Sorry, I'll go over now!"

Moments later, a deep voice came from the other end.

"Hello. You're Xia Xibei?"

Xia Xibei was taken aback for a moment, quickly replying, "Yes, I am."

"You and Little Luo have an appointment to meet in the afternoon?"

"Yes, we have something to take care of."

"Well then, I'll take him there. Where were you going to meet?"

Xia Xibei casually gave an address and got a low-pitched answer, then the call ended.

Looking at the phone, Xia Xibei blinked blankly. It seemed as if something had happened!

On the other end, Tang Luo had a clever expression as he insisted, “Brother Bonan, you don’t need to take me there, I can just go by myself.”

Mo Bonan frowned while looking at Tang Luo’s pale face.

They had been exercising the whole morning. Why was his face not ruddy, but paler instead? Even his lip color had faded a lot.

He really did lack exercise!

However, since Tang Luo and Xia Xibei had already made an appointment, there was no way to continue.

“I will take you there,” Mo Bonan said decisively. “Go change.”

Tang Luo’s mouth moved, but in the end, he didn’t say anything. Instead, he obediently went to change his clothes.

## **Chapter 245: Been Searching for Months**

In the car, Tang Luo and Mo Bonan were sitting in the backseats.

Mo Bonan shot a glance at Tang Luo and couldn't help but scowl.

"Why are you sitting so far away from me? Am I that frightening?"

Tang Luo's heart missed a beat and he nearly jumped. Swiftly, he turned to look at Mo Bonan, his expression rather awkward, "Of course not! It's just that I enjoy leaning against the window and looking at the scenery."

Before Mo Bonan could speak again, he added, "By the way, when are Auntie and Uncle coming back?"

Mo Bonan's attention was diverted, replying, "I don't know, perhaps in two weeks' time."

His answer put a dejected look on Tang Luo's tiny face.

"Do you miss them that much?"

"Yes," Tang Luo nodded, a sincere look on his face. "I haven't seen them in a long while, and I miss them a lot."

Mo Bonan scrutinized him with a profound look in his eyes, "They'll be very pleased if they know you miss them that much."

Tang Luo flashed a bashful smile, then hung his head low in silence.

Mo Bonan did not speak anymore either, silence present throughout the car.

Out of nowhere, the ringing of a phone broke the silence in the car.

“Hello,” Mo Bonan answered the call. The caller on the other end said something, and his face soon sank in dismay.

“Keep searching! How can you not find anything, even after all these months? Did I hire you just to waste my money?!”

Tang Luo’s body went stiff upon hearing his words, pricking up his ears discreetly.

“You’d gotten hold of the surveillance clip a long time ago, and you’re only telling me that it can’t be recovered just now?”

Mo Bonan became angrier the more he talked, the air around him growing cold as well.

Gingerly, Tang Luo moved further sideways and held his breath, trying his best to make himself invisible.

However, his face became paler and paler as he listened to what Mo Bonan was saying.

“How could a big living person vanish just like that? Keep searching!”

Mo Bonan hung up the call with an awful look on his face, the air around him freezing yet turbulent at the same time, making people afraid of going near him.

He had only asked them to search for one person but hadn't heard any progress from them until today.

They had clearly obtained the surveillance clip, but it couldn't seem to be recovered.

They even told him that the person was very skilled, and that they couldn't handle the situation.

How dare they call themselves experts with such lousy skills?!

As he thought of what happened several months ago, Mo Bonan's face turned dark.

He had managed to get rid of the fire of exasperation within him by exercising this morning, but it had now returned. He felt a ball of flames burning inside him, unable to cool it down.

He had lived for more than two decades now, and this was the very first time someone had to toy with him like that!

If he managed to find that woman, he would make sure she knew the consequences!

In the car, the air had become so thin, it almost felt suffocating.

Although he never directed his anger towards him, Tang Luo sat completely still to avoid drawing Mo Bonan's anger

Luckily, the car soon arrived at its destination.

"Brother Bonan, thanks for sending me here, and sorry for disturbing you! Oh, by the way, I will get home a little late tonight. There's no need to prepare my dinner."

He reached into his pocket with one hand and pressed a button on his phone, after which it started ringing right away.

He fumbled to get the phone out with an anxious look on his face, exclaiming, "They're hurrying me already, I have to go! Goodbye!"

Right after he finished talking, he took off running before Mo Bonan could even respond.

Mo Bonan's expression turned even more awful, watching his back as he left in a hurry.

Could this brat really be in a relationship? Only young couples who had just gotten together would behave so eagerly.

However, Mo Bonan shook his head as he thought of how much Qiao Yanjue cared about Xia Xibei.

Even if Tang Luo had feelings for Xia Xibei, there was no way he would be able to surpass Qiao Yanjue.

“Let’s go,” he told the driver, still shaking his head.

### **Chapter 246: A Total Nutjob**

Xia Xibei was shocked when she met Tang Luo because his face was unusually ashen.

She stepped forward to get a closer look at him, asking, “What happened to you?”

“Nothing,” Tang Luo waved his hand listlessly, quickly finding a place to sit down.

However, his appearance wasn’t convincing in the least.

“Let me have a look.”

Xia Xibei grasped his wrist without a second thought, the look on her face changing.

“I really am fine,” Tang Luo insisted, his heart skipping a beat as he instantly withdrew his hand.

Xia Xibei did not insist further but looked at him up and down with a subtle expression, a look of realization filling her eyes.

“You’ve been exercising too much,” she said.

“How did you know?” Tang Luo asked, raising his gaze in surprise.

“Haven’t I told you already? I know medicine, I’m a magical healer!”

Tang Luo was even more surprised now, exclaiming, “I thought you were joking!”

Xia Xibei laughed, “I don’t like joking. You’re exhausted because all that exercise has consumed too much of your energy.”

Tang Luo still felt a lingering fear as he thought of it, sighing, “Brother Bonan is totally insane!”

This morning at 6 o’clock, he had appeared downstairs, taking him for a morning run.

Mo Bonan had a tough physical capacity; the distance of his morning runs never less than 4 kilometers.



Although Tang Luo usually exercised too, his stamina was nothing compared to Mo Bonan's. Towards the end, he was almost crawling back home.

And that wasn't even the most unbearable part!

Mo Bonan thought that he was too weak and that his physique was feeble, so he took him to do other activities too.

After half a day spent like this, he felt as though he was crippled.

That was why he had called Xia Xibei for help. Otherwise, he honestly believed that Mo Bonan would force him to keep going!

"I'm dying..." Tang Luo was sprawled on the table, a look of despair on his face. "He even said that I have to run with him every day..."

As the thought occurred to him, Tang Luo fought the urge to burst into tears. This was going to kill him!

Xia Xibei shook her head in pity as she looked at Tang Luo's pathetic state. If what he said was true, then he would be finished.

"You could just tell him that you're busy with homework," she suggested. "You're still a student. If you spend all your time on sports, how will you have time for your studies?"

Tang Luo looked up abruptly, his previously dull eyes shimmering now, "Yes! That is it!"

He had almost forgotten the fact that he was just a student! Students had to prioritize their studies!

He wasn't aiming for the Olympics anyway, so why should he expend so much energy on sports?

"I could tell him that I have a lot of schoolwork to do, and that I'm aiming for the best college!" Tang Luo's eyes gleamed, his despair from moments ago nowhere to be seen.

The more he talked about it, the more energetic he became.

"Let's go buy some materials! I've completed most of the materials that I bought earlier, so it's time to get new ones."

Xia Xibei was speechless, questioning, "Are you serious about buying materials? Do you still remember our collaboration?"

It took a lot of effort before one could set up a live-streaming platform.

Tang Luo was working on his own at the moment, which meant that he couldn't be fast with his progress. How could he manage it if he was preoccupied with the materials?

"Of course I remember! But if I don't get those materials, I won't even have time for other things!"

Mo Bonan was a complete nutjob!

However, Tang Luo felt somewhat culpable when he thought of certain reasons that made him a nutjob.

“Alright then, let’s go. I’ll risk my life for you,” Xia Xibei shook her head helplessly.

The duo soon arrived at a bookstore.

However, before they even entered, Tang Luo’s face fell and he pulled Xia Xibei away, veering in the opposite direction.

#### **Chapter 247: Anger Must Be Vented**

“What’s wrong?” Xia Xibei asked in bewilderment.

“I saw someone I despise,” Tang Luo answered, not bothering to conceal the disgust on his face.

“Someone you despise?”

Xia Xibei turned around and saw a girl sitting by the window of the bookstore.

The girl was probably about their age and looked like a high school student. She had a pretty face, and was wearing a rose-red dress, exquisite makeup and long fake lashes completing the look.

There was a book placed in front of her, and beside that was a cup of coffee.

Her chin was cupped with her left hand and she was stirring the coffee with her right hand, her gaze pinned on the book.

She appeared completely focused, giving off an artsy vibe.

This was a beautiful view that drew many visitors into the bookstore.

However, the girl did not seem to be bothered by this at all. She was still enjoying her book, looking at it leisurely.

“You have a feud with her?” Xia Xibei asked.

“We are sworn enemies!” Tang Luo informed her through gritted teeth.

Xia Xibei raised her brows in surprise. She never would have thought of Tang Luo as a person with his own stories.

Before she could speak, she caught sight of another familiar figure.

Xia Qinghan?

Xia Qinghan walked towards the girl with a smile on her face, the girl standing up before she got near the table.

People in the surroundings couldn't help but admire the two gorgeous girls embracing each other.

At this point, Xia Xibei couldn't help but roll her eyes.

Anyone who hung out with Xia Qinghan couldn't be a good person.

"Well? Are we still going inside?" Xia Xibei asked.

"No," Tang Luo shook his head, "I never fight wars that I have no confidence in winning."

With his current ability, his chances of winning were slim if he confronted the family.

All that awaited him would be humiliation.

Also, pure bickering was rather pointless.

"Alright then, we'll go to another bookstore."

Xia Xibei understood how Tang Luo felt, so she voiced her agreement immediately.

Moments later, however, it seemed like Tang Luo couldn't quite hold it in anymore.

"Give me a moment."

Then he fumbled to take out his phone. With his back leaning against the wall, he hung his head low and started typing.

A few minutes later, he stood up and stuffed his phone back into his pocket, a faint smile on his face.

"Alright, let's go."

Xia Xibei watched his actions with some puzzlement but did not question him.

Very soon however, she realized what Tang Luo had been doing.

A group of girls passed them by, chattering unhappily.

"That bookstore is just disgusting! Do they really think we can't tell the price?"

“You’re right! If I didn’t look closer, they would have taken a few yuan more from me!”

“Yours was just a few yuan, I heard someone beside me say that they gave twenty yuan more!”

“The amount doesn’t matter. That was simply wrong and disgusting! I won’t visit the shop anymore!”

“They even had the guts to say that it was the computer’s problem! Haha! Who the hell would believe that?!”

Those weren’t big sums of money as far as the girls were concerned, but paying even a single cent above what they should have would be enough to infuriate them! That was fraud, wasn’t it?!

A realization hit Xia Xibei as she listened to their conversation.

It was Tang Luo who did this, wasn’t it?

Although all he did was create a little disturbance, it would be enough of a headache for them.

“The shop belongs to that girl?” Xia Xibei asked.

Tang Luo had no intention of hiding it from her, “Yes, it is hers.”

With her brows raised, Xia Xibei patted him on the shoulder, "Pretty great. If you have anger within, it must always be vented!"

They never took the initiative to cause trouble. However, if someone purposely stepped on their toes, they had to teach them a lesson.

Tang Luo cast her a look at her with profound eyes, beaming.

"Yes, anger must be vented!"

#### **Chapter 248: Dodged a Bullet**

Shortly after, the two of them went to another bookstore.

Tang Luo finally smiled as he looked down at the stack of study materials he had bought.

If Mo Bonan ever forced him to exercise again, he would turn him down with these materials.

He was still a student, so his most important commitment should no doubt be his studies!



After getting into college, he would move out of Mo's house, and the two of them would no longer have anything to do with each other.

As this thought occurred to him, Tang Luo heaved a silent sigh of relief.

At around ten o'clock at night, Tang Luo went back to Mo's house.

Just as expected, Mo Bonan came looking for him once again, asking him to go for some more exercise the next morning.

Tang Luo put up an innocent front, apologizing, "Brother Bonan, I don't think I can make it. Tomorrow's a Monday, and I have to go to school."

"You go to school at 7am, so we can just wake up at 6 for exercise," Mo Bonan said.

"But I'll doze off in class if I wake up that early," he replied in a serious manner. "It'll be very unpleasant."

Mo Bonan stared at him for a moment, finally nodding before Tang Luo's front crumbled, "Alright then, we won't exercise in the morning."

Tang Luo was secretly delighted, but before he could truly rejoice, Mo Bonan continued, "We'll change the time of exercise to nighttime."

His words made Tang Luo's eyes widen.

Mo Bonan commanded him, "Every night after dinner, exercise for at least an hour."

"But I have a lot of homework to do!" Tang Luo shook his head immediately and pointed at the books on the table, "Look, I have to complete all of them!"

Mo Bonan's expression became unusually stiff when he saw the books on Tang Luo's table, piled like small hills.

There were two stacks of study materials about half a meter in height each, with around twenty to thirty books altogether!

Mo Bonan used to be a top student, but he had never seen such an insane amount of reference materials at once.

Was he trying to take his own life?

Tang Luo added with a serious face, "My current goal is to get into a good college! Once I'm in college, I'll have to exercise!"

Before Mo Bonan could speak, he went on, "Don't worry, I exercise at school as well. We have morning stretches and physical education classes, which gives me enough time for exercise every day! Also, I'll eat more and exercise more. I won't let you down!"

He changed his tone of voice, continuing, "You're busy enough with your work, so don't waste time on me. I'm a grown-up now, and I can take care of myself!"

After listening to his string of promises, Mo Bonan's expression changed.

He looked Tang Luo up and down with a measured glance, finally laughing, "It seems like you know what you're doing, huh?"

"That's for sure!" Tang Luo almost swore an oath, "When auntie and uncle return, I'll show them my improvement!"

Now that he had brought up his parents, what more could Mo Bonan say? He had no choice but to nod along, "Alright then, you may exercise on your own on weekdays, and we'll make further arrangements for the weekends."

Tang Luo's breath caught in his lungs. He wanted to refuse again but managed to hold himself back just in time.

He could find other excuses for the weekends, so that could wait.

"Sure."

Mo Bonan was finally satisfied when he saw Tang Luo nod, "Rest early then."

“Alright, you rest early too.”

By the time he was lying in bed, Tang Luo still felt glad that he had managed to escape that disaster.

The next morning, Tang Luo grabbed his bag and fled to school before Mo Bonan could return from his morning exercise.

Right as he arrived, he ran into Song Jiaren and Xia Xibei, both of them looking jubilant, dancing and chatting away merrily.

Just as the three of them gathered, Yu Ziqi came too.

Before anyone could speak, Song Jiaren snorted all of a sudden.

### **Chapter 249: We Are Not of High Quality**

Business had been going really well at the milk tea shop lately.

After the shop had gained a reputation, more customers came.

With a milk tea that tasted this good and did not make one gain weight, of course business would be booming!

Moreover, because of Song Jiaren's before and after photos, the milk tea became even more credible, leading to more customers than ever on Sunday.

In addition to individual customers, several large companies had placed orders too.

Even with a buy-one-get-one-free promotion going on, there was still a large profit being made.

Song Jiaren almost laughed like a maniac looking at the numbers.

However, when she saw Zheng Xiaowen, she didn't have a good attitude.

Although Zheng Xiaowen's spectacle attracted everyone's attention and had made the milk tea shop even more famous and profitable, Song Jiaren still hated her.

Therefore, when she saw Zheng Xiaowen approaching, she snorted disdainfully and stretched her arm around Yu Ziqi's neck, saying, "I'm telling you, when you get back, you better change seats quickly!"

She said this in a very loud voice, and of course Zheng Xiaowen, who was walking nearby, heard it, her face suddenly becoming pale.

Out of the corner of her eye, Song Jiaren saw her reaction, snorting coldly to herself.

I will make you mad!

Yu Ziqi's face turned red and he wanted to pull her hand off of him.

"Can you please speak in a lady-like way?"

"I am talking lady-like right now!" Song Jiaren didn't let go, increasing her grip around his neck instead, and pinching his chin. "Let me tell you, some people may look good on the surface, but who knows what they're really like on the inside."

"Meaning they appear to be gold on the outside but are decaying on the inside," Xia Xibei added solemnly.

Yu Ziqi was speechless.

Of course he understood this!

"So, when you see this kind of person, quickly get away! Otherwise, you will be scammed to death!"

Zheng Xiaowen's footsteps suddenly stopped, her face becoming even more ugly.

However, no matter how ugly her expression was, Song Jiaren wouldn't stop.

They had clashing auras and they could never be friends, so they might as well be up front about it.

“I get it, now let go of me!” Yu Ziqi struggled in Song Jiaren’s arm, finally breaking free.

Turning around, he saw Zheng Xiaowen behind him, instantly becoming embarrassed.

The most embarrassing thing ever was to be caught on the spot while speaking ill about others.

When Zheng Xiaowen met his eyes, her face appeared pale and tears were rushing out of her eyes. She soon ran away crying while covering her mouth.

“Hey...”

Yu Ziqi stretched out his hands in vain but did not dare to catch up with her.

He turned his head and glared at them, a little annoyed.

Even if they wanted him to switch tables, there was no need to overdo it!

They may not share a desk anymore, but they were still classmates! It’d be mortifying to see each other in the future!

Tang Luo stepped forward and spoke with a serious face, "In fact, this matter is easy to solve. You can tell her this, 'My friends are very low in quality and overdoing things! So, for the good of everyone, let's sit apart. When I have educated my friends, we will be at the same table again!'"

Jia Song stomped her feet, "What the- Who is low quality?!"

Who would ever insult themselves like that?

"That'll work," Xia Xibei nodded in agreement. "We are being self-deprecating, so she can't be mad. Moreover, we can continue to be low quality in the future."

Song Jiaren had a realization, then nodded as well. "This is a good idea!"

As for Yu Ziqi, after some silence, he had to accept this explanation too.

## **Chapter 250: Replenish Qi and Blood**

After sending off Yu Ziqi and Song Jiaren, Xia Xibei and Tang Luo returned to their classroom.

Xia Xibei took out a bottle when they got to their seats, telling him, "For you."

"What is it?" Tang Luo asked in confusion, taking the small porcelain bottle.



He could smell a fragrant scent as soon as he opened the bottle.

“It’s good stuff,” Xia Xibei smiled, “It replenishes the qi and blood.”

Tang Luo’s pupils suddenly shrank, his expression changing.

“Replenish the qi and blood?”

“That’s right.” Xia Xibei didn’t seem to notice his change. “Blood and qi are important to both men and women, and they have to be replenished.”

She couldn’t help but smile at Tang Luo’s surprised gaze, teasing him, “You didn’t think that only girls needed to replenish qi and blood, did you?”

Tang Luo looked away in embarrassment, stuttering, “I- I don’t know much about this.”

“It’s okay... As long as I understand it!” Xia Xibei smiled brightly. “Don’t worry, my medicine is guaranteed to work. You will have an immediate effect after taking it!”

“Are there... Any do’s and don’ts?” Tang Luo hesitantly asked.

“There is nothing to be wary of,” Xia Xibei shook her head. “Anyone can take it, both men and women. Of course, children and the elderly are the only exceptions.”

“Anything I can’t eat while taking this?”

“Nope. You can eat normally. Just take one pill a day after breakfast.”

Tang Luo held the small bottle and smelled it’s scent, his expression a bit complicated.

Finally, he nodded, “How much money do I owe you?”

“Money? What money?” Xia Xibei looked at him in surprise. “This is between us. We don’t need to involve money. Of course, for future cooperation, we will be clear about money, but this is nothing.”

Of course, Xia Xibei would have sold this bottle of medicine for a few hundred yuan if it had been an outsider. After all, the effect was powerful.

Although the medicinal materials used weren’t high-end, after she worked on them, their effect and strength were different. Even if she charged 1,000 yuan per bottle, someone would definitely buy it.

However, her relationship with Tang Luo was different, so she wouldn’t charge him.

“Okay, tell me when you have finished taking this. Then, you just need to work hard to create the platform.”

“Ok,” Tang Luo pursed his lips, his gaze mixed.

“You can take a pill now,” Xia Xibei told him.

Tang Luo nodded and shook out a brown pill.

The pill was the size of a soybean, not very strong in flavor and smelling like dates.

After looking at it, Tang Luo stuffed the pill into his mouth, took a sip of water, and swallowed the pill. Then, he took out his books.

Soon, he could feel the discomfort in his lower abdomen quickly fading away.

His body, which had previously felt tired and weak, seemed to have gained a lot of strength.

He was extremely surprised, thinking it was his own illusion, but after a small pause, he had to admit that all those aches had really disappeared!

It was amazing! And all of this was because of that pill!

Xia Xibei turned her head, meeting his shocked eyes with a smile, “How do you feel? Is the effect obvious?”

Tang Luo was silent for a while before whispering, “Thank you.”

Xia Xibei chuckled, “No need to thank me. We are at the same table, and we are also partners. It’s good for both of us!”

Tang Luo bit his lip and finally smiled. “Okay! Good luck partner!”

The two looked at each other and smiled, sharing an understanding in their silence.

During class, the English teacher made an announcement.

G City was going to hold an English speech contest for high school students, and all capable students could participate. If they won, they would represent G City in the national competition.

### **Chapter 251: English Competition**

Initially, every school would organize its own competition and the winners would then participate in the town-level competition.

The competition was divided into two components: a written test and public speaking. The winners had to pass both to qualify for the final prizes.

Right as the class ended, the class rep for English language came over, asking, "Xia Xibei, Tang Luo, do you guys wanna sign up?"

Their results were the best in their school; it would be a waste if they didn't take part in the competition.

Tang Luo shook his head, "Forget about me, I have a lot of things to do."

Xia Xibei gave it a moment of thought and nodded, "Sure, I want to sign up!"

She didn't have much interest in it at first. With how proficient she was, it would be like bullying little children if she took part, and that would make her seem ungracious!

However, Xia Qinghan would certainly take part!

Moreover, the scale of this competition was rather impressive. They would even be on TV at some point!

If that was the case, how could Xia Xibei miss out on this opportunity?

Furthermore, now that she had chosen to become part of the entertainment industry, she had to get used to being the center of attention.

“Alright then, I’ll go submit your name!”

On the other side, Xia Qinghan was told about Xia Xibei’s participation.

She nearly jumped in shock. Was Xia Xibei insane?!

Beside her, Liu Zhijing and Tao Yueying were initially shocked, which quickly turned to disdain.

“Xia Xibei is too full of herself, isn’t she? Who gave her the confidence to join this competition?”

If it was just a simple written test, it wouldn’t be much of a problem given Xia Xibei’s results.

But there was an oral test after that!

Many students were used to learning “mute English.” They did fairly well on written tests but crumbled when it came to speaking.

“There aren’t many people who can speak English as fluently as Qinghan. Xia Xibei has clearly overestimated herself!”

“Qinghan, sign up now! Let her know the disparity between the two of you!”

The duo chirped like noisy birds beside Xia Qinghan, wishing desperately for Xia Xibei to embarrass herself at that moment.

Xia Qinghan nodded, "I will sign up."

They were right. Xia Xibei might be equally matched with her in the written test, but when they actually started speaking, how would Xia Xibei be able to beat someone like her, who went overseas often?

By then, she would show Xia Xibei that their disparity was one that she would never be able to make up for!

The school acted fast, the competition beginning the next day.

Although it was only a school-level preliminary selection and there wasn't much time to prepare, the competition wasn't perfunctory at all.

Outstanding students were selected from the initial written test to take part in the speaking section.

The time constraint didn't make much of a difference for the students. After all, it took consistent practice to hone these skills, so last-minute work wouldn't help them much.

Xia Qinghan caught sight of Xia Xibei immediately upon entering the room, realizing that Xia Xibei was continuing to transform day by day.

In her previous photos, she was dressed in simple clothes with a weak, timid look on her face, rendering her good looks useless.

Now, however, she was a whole different person.

Her clothes were expensive and glamorous, and she was looking more gorgeous than ever.

She was the first person whom everyone would see, even in a room full of people.

Although her presence had been noted, no one tore their gaze off of Xia Xibei to look at her.

Xia Qinghan's mood turned sour right away.

However, she became delighted once she imagined how disappointed Xia Xibei would become when the results came out in just a bit.

Moreover, how would people react if they got to know that the reason Xia Xibei turned out to be this great was because she had a sugar daddy?

These thoughts pleased her a lot. In her upbeat state, Xia Qinghan managed to complete the written test quickly and with ease.

After the test, she received a call from Bai Meixue, which only added to her excitement.



She could go for the audition now!

## **Chapter 252: Notice for Audition**

On the other side, Xia Xibei had also received a call from Nie Zehai.

“Audition?”

“Yes,” Nie Zehai said in a low voice. “Your slot is arranged for tomorrow afternoon, so you’d better take a leave.”

Nie Zehai told her the address, and added, “Just be your normal self when you get there, and it shouldn’t be a problem. I’ve gotten in touch with their crew.”

“Alright, thank you,” Xia Xibei replied. An idea occurred to her, and she said with a laugh, “If I pass, I’m gonna have to buy you a great meal!”

“It doesn’t matter,” Nie Zehai countered, “It all depends on your own competence. If you’re not competent, I won’t be of much help to you either.”

“I have to thank you for this opportunity regardless,” Xia Xibei laughed again. “By the way, are you on set right now?”

“Yes, I’m currently working on a new TV series.”

“There must be a lot of beautiful ladies on set.”

“Not just beautiful ladies, there are many handsome guys here as well!” Nie Zehai joked cheerfully.

“A lot of girls must be fond of you, brother Nie, since you’re so good-looking.”

Nie Zehai did not think much of it, still laughing. “You’re wrong. I’m still just an unknown actor, so who’s gonna like me?”

He had only a small number of fans currently, which made him seem rather pathetic.

“Haven’t I told you? Brother Nie, you’re going to be famous very soon! By then, there will certainly be a lot of girls who are fond of you.”

“Hahaha!” Nie Zehai burst out in laughter, “If that comes true, I’m gonna thank you for your kind words!”

“When that happens, you have to beware of those crazy sasaeng fans.”

Nie Zehai couldn't help but burst out in laughter once again, following along, "That's for sure! I'll surely be careful."

Having crazy sasaeng fans basically meant that this particular person had become a sensation. Nie Zehai understood what Xia Xibei meant.

They hung up the call after chatting for a while.

Xia Xibei's expression turned somewhat cold as she thought of the predicament that Nie Zehai would encounter later in life.

However, there was no way she would let those monsters and devils have it their way, not while she was around!

Song Jiaren was overwhelmed with excitement when she heard that Xia Xibei was about to go for an audition.

"Don't lose your calm, I believe you can do it!" She whirled on her spot with extreme delight, "You'll be famous once you pass the audition and star in a film! Oh, right! It's time for me to start a fandom!"

It would be rather tough for an artist to maneuver around without an established fandom to support them.

Especially in this era of technology, without fans to help them with numerical figures on social media, how were they supposed to promote themselves?

Furthermore, they would need fans to charge forth and counter hostile attacks from competitors.

If their fans were hardcore enough, no one would dare throw mud on them.

On the other hand, rudderless, chaotic fans would spoil an artist's reputation.

Having spent enough time on the internet, Song Jiaren understood this very well. Therefore, she had to take the initiative to set up a fandom!

Song Jiaren's words made Xia Xibei laugh.

"No need to rush, I'm still early in the process. If I don't pass the audition, I'll have to wait a while longer before I can debut. It's still too early for you to set up the fandom."

"No way!" Song Jiaren glared at her with her hands on her waist, arguing, "You will definitely pass! It's not early to start preparing for it now!"

Seeing her tenacity, Xia Xibei had no choice but to nod, "Alright then, it's not too early. Anyway, you just have to make sure that you put your studies first. If your grades aren't good, you have to put a stop to everything immediately!"

"No worries, I'll be just fine!" Song Jiaren promised with a pat on her chest, then showed up in front of Tang Luo. "Tang Luo, you're good with computers, right? How about editing Bei's photos afterwards?"

Tang Luo looked at the speechless Xia Xibei, then nodded, "Sure."

### **Chapter 253: Bring an Animal Over**

Song Jiaren immediately started allocating tasks.

"Tang Luo is good at IT, so he'll be in charge of the editing. Yu Ziqi is good at drawing, so he can draw some cute cartoons to attract fans... By the way, how about Ren Juncheng? He seems to be with computers too!"

Song Jiaren was delighted as she thought about it, exclaiming, "That means we'll have two editors!"

Yu Ziqi's lips twitched, "How about you?"

"I'm the coordinator of everything!" Song Jiaren proclaimed, her chin raised, and her chest puffed up.

"Coordinator?" Yu Ziqi was speechless, "Why don't you call yourself the talker."

Song Jiaren's eyes went wide, demanding. "What do you mean I'm the talker? I'm someone with great responsibilities! Just put it all aside and imagine. When haters come attacking, are you the one who's going to fight them?"

Yu Ziqi shrank upon seeing her ferocious look, stammering. "I- I don't like fighting with people."

"What do you mean I like fighting?" Song Jiaren asked with her hands on her waist. "I'm not a barbarian! Besides, I have other things to do apart from fighting off haters! Urgh, forget it! You wouldn't get it!"

At last, she waved him off with contempt.

Yu Ziqi was speechless.

Where was Asura? Bite her!

Xia Xibei and Tang Luo shook their heads and laughed as they watched their friends bicker.

All of a sudden, Xia Xibei's phone rang.

"Brother Nie?" Xia Xibei was slightly puzzled, "Anything else?"

"I've just been informed by the crew that there have been some changes in their plans. When you go for the audition tomorrow, bring a cat or a dog with you."

His words stunned Xia Xibei, who asked, "Bring animals over?"

“Yes,” Nie Zehai pinched his nose on the other end, seeming rather weary. “I think they’re just using this chance to gather the cats and dogs required for the film.”

Animals were a very eye-catching part of films and dramas.

However, animals were also the most difficult to film because they couldn’t understand the human language. It would take a large amount of effort and repeated attempts to make them behave in the desired ways.

This time around, the character was the queen of animals, so interaction with animals was certainly a crucial part of it.

Those large-sized animals could only be found in zoos, and they certainly wouldn’t have many parts. Therefore, the queen of animals could only interact with small animals most of the time, otherwise it would be very awkward.

Small animals like dogs and cats were easy to find at a low cost. However, it still wasn’t easy to make them behave.

The crew’s current plan was to have the actress bring an animal of her own. After all, pets that could catch their eyes sure wouldn’t look bad.

Most importantly, these cats and dogs were sure to get more intimate with humans, which would save them lots of trouble during filming later on. The performers could also prove whether they really were suitable for the role.

Besides, this was also a favor offered by the crew to the auditionees.

They would surely be more familiar with the animals that they brought in themselves, which would allow them to perform better during the audition.

It would be a torment to both the performer and the animal if they were to perform with animals that they had just met, which would make it hard to evaluate their performance.

After a moment of surprise, Xia Xibei was soon filled with delight.

She hadn't expected there to be an interaction with animals during the audition.

If that was the case, wasn't she tailor-made for the role?

There came a question however—which little thing should she bring?

With her ability, it wouldn't even be a problem if she bought a new one right now.

However, her current circumstances didn't allow her to have a pet, so all she could do was borrow one.

Forget about King Chu. Huskies just weren't suitable for filming due to the fear that they might be kidnapped.



That meant that Asura and Honey were the only ones left.

Which one should she take with her?

### **Chapter 254: Which One Should She Take?**

“Of course you’re taking my Honey!” Ren Juncheng jumped to his feet with agitation. “Just look at how adorable my Honey is!”

“Meow!”

Honey leapt off the ground and jumped right into Xia Xibei’s arms. It found a comfortable position to lie in and started meowing in a soft, sugary voice.

“Of course you’re taking Asura!” Yu Ziqi refused to admit defeat, standing up and fighting for his doggie’s rights.

It was filming that they were talking about! Although selection wasn’t guaranteed, it was a valuable opportunity! Just imagine how delightful it would be to see your dog on TV!

The thought of his pet dog becoming a celebrity filled Yu Ziqi with excitement.

“Whoof!”

Asura barked when it heard its name, but its envious eyes were glued on Honey, who was snuggled up in Xia Xibei’s arms.

It wanted to be cuddled by Xia Xibei like that too, but it was so much bigger than Honey, so Xia Xibei would need to lift it up instead of cuddling with it.

“My Honey is gorgeous!” Ren Juncheng wouldn’t yield. His Honey was the prettiest and cutest cat in the world! “If you take Honey, you’ll win by default!”

“What a joke!” Yu Ziqi snorted. “My Asura is such a brilliant dog, it’ll definitely be a big star!”

The experienced cat’s slave countered, “My Honey is brilliant too! Kitties are so lovely, who wouldn’t like them?”

The experienced dog’s slave sneered in return, “My Asura is handsome and clever. It can roll on the floor, play dead, and understand all commands! They would love to film a dog as smart as Asura!”

“Honey is so adorable that it doesn’t even have to do anything, It can melt anyone’s heart just by lying there!”

“Asura is handsome, it’s a great honor to take it outside!”

“My Honey...”

“My Asura...”

“Meow!”

“Whoof!”

Xia Xibei’s lips twitched as she listened to their argument before yelling, “Shut up!” She simply couldn’t stand it anymore.

Both the animals and the humans went quiet.

“Enough, stop quarreling!” Xia Xibei rubbed her temples to sooth the pain in her head, continuing, “You guys are both right...”

“Of course I’m right! Look at how handsome Asura is!”

“My Honey is absolutely adorable!”

Xia Xibei was speechless for a few seconds before shouting once again, “Shut up!” She pulled a long face and shot them a fierce glare.

The two of them quickly mimed zipping their mouths.

“Honey and Asura are both pretty and cute and clever. However, I’m only allowed to take one of them with me at this time.”

“Take...”

“Stop!” Xia Xibei rolled her eyes at them, “I have my own plans!”

If she had known this would happen, she wouldn’t have told them about it.

But who would have expected Ren Juncheng to come visit them with Honey right at this moment? Since he happened to be around, this predicament was unavoidable.

“Meow!”

Honey jumped down from Xia Xibei’s arms and landed on the floor.

With all eyes pinned on it, Honey sauntered towards Asura and stopped in front of it.

“Whoof!” Recalling the time it got punched, Asura nervously took a step back.

Yu Ziqi became nervous as well. His dog was quite a capable one, but it wasn't his fault that it had a gentle personality.

It wouldn't necessarily win if its opponent was this ferocious little cat!

Ren Juncheng was all ready to offer rescue.

Xia Xibei couldn't help but scowl too.

However, with everyone staring at it, Honey walked towards Asura, squatted down on its hind legs, and straightened out its body like a human.

Then it put its front paws together and started shaking them.

## **Chapter 255: It's Really Enchanted**

Honey joined its two front paws together and shook them twice.

It was clearly begging for mercy!

Everyone was shocked. Honey was begging Asura for mercy?!

Wait, not begging for mercy... Asking for a favor!

“Meow!” Honey yelped again with a soft voice. It was if it was really saying, “Please, please.”

Yu Ziqi couldn't help but cover his mouth, feeling as if he was going to have a nosebleed.

It was so cute! He had always liked dogs, but why was this cat so cute?!

Asura was also dumbfounded by Honey's movements.

It stared at Honey with wide eyes, a little wary.

After Honey shook its paws twice and saw no reaction, it tilted its head and stepped forward.

“Bark?” Asura couldn't help but back up as Honey approached, step by step.

Honey came closer to Asura and then, sticking out its tongue, licked Asura's fur!

Everyone was stunned!

Generally speaking, cats would only lick and clean other cats' fur.

Very few people had seen a cat licking a dog's fur!

Seeing Honey's flattering demeanor and thinking of its earlier actions, everyone was shocked.

It was trying to kiss-up to Asura!

"What the- My honey!" Ren Juncheng didn't know whether to feel distressed or angry.

Ren Juncheng knew how arrogant his own cat was. But now it was actually trying to please Asura?! Just to go on an audition with Xia Xibei?! Was it enchanted?!

Asura also felt Honey's intention and became a little flustered, immediately walking back two steps to avoid Honey.

It had never experienced anything like this before.

Cats had a "I'm number one" temperament; they don't even care about pleasing their owners, let alone others!

"Meow!" Honey cried softly and leaned closer.

This scared Asura into backing up further.

One ran, one chased. For a while, the cat and dog duo were running in circles.

After being chased for a while, Asura finally stopped.

“Bark!”

Fine, it would admit defeat. This was too terrifying!

Seeing Asura’s capitulation, Honey was finally happy.

“Meow!”

Then, it raised its head again and arrogantly walked back to Xia Xibei.

It looked up and yelped proudly, “Meow!”

Xia Xibei was also perplexed at hearing the pride in Honey’s voice.



She knew that Honey was smart, but not this smart!

Its efforts frightened Asura so much, the dog didn't even fight with it.

Xia Xibei bent over, picked it up, and reluctantly tapped the tip of Honey's nose, "Fine, I'll take you there."

"Meow, meow!"

Honey was so happy.

Yu Ziqi and Ren Juncheng were left speechless at the scene. Amazing!

Yu Ziqi looked at Asura, then at Honey, and finally at Ren Juncheng. "Now, tell me honestly, how did you teach Honey to do that? How can your Honey be so enchanted?!"

Ren Juncheng swallowed, stating, "I want to know too!"

Although all pet owners thought that their pets were the cutest and smartest ones in the world, Ren Juncheng had never seen such a smart side to Honey!

Honey's demonstration of this side was not because of him at all!

Ren Juncheng almost cried at this thought.

Yu Ziqi walked up to Asura and stroked its head, "It's okay, we will have other chances!"

While Asura had given in, it was still a little disappointed.

Xia Xibei came over and touched its head. "The next time I have an opportunity, I will take you there with me."

These words immediately revived Asura!

### **Chapter 256: Come Over for Dinner**

After being touched by Xia Xibei, Asura immediately became energized, even its fur appearing to have a lot more luster.

It happily rubbed Xia Xibei's calf, its tongue darting out cheerfully and its tail wobbling vivaciously.

Yu Ziqi was unable to speak.

Guess his worries were for nothing!

While everyone was hanging out, Xia Xibei's phone rang.

"Time for dinner," a voice said from the other end.

"Okay, I know. I will go back," Xia Xibei nodded. She hung up the phone, turned to everyone, saying, "You guys should go back."

Xia Xibei checked the time. It was almost seven o'clock and time for dinner.

As soon as she had returned to the neighborhood today, Ren Juncheng came over with Honey, and Yu Ziqi also took the opportunity to take his dog for a walk.

By now, everyone should be hungry.

"Okay. Honey, let's go home." Ren Juncheng reached out for Honey.

Honey lay in Xia Xibei's arms and flicked her tail at him, refusing to come down.

"If you don't come down, I will tell her to not play with you tomorrow!" Ren Juncheng threatened, his face becoming serious.

“Meow!” Honey understood and bared its teeth at him.

Ren Juncheng’s face became even more grim. This creature was really too much! Was it so sure he would never abandon it?

“Asura, let’s go back.”

Yu Ziqi put a dog leash on Asura, about to leave.

However, Asura circled Xia Xibei, unwilling to go back.

The two long-suffering pet owners exchanged heartbroken looks, then turned to Xia Xibei, silently protesting and urging.

This had been their routine for days.

If Xia Xibei didn’t try to get the animals to leave, they would never go home.

Today was actually okay, since King Chu was not here. Otherwise, the situation would have been even more chaotic.

“Alright, you have to go back.” Xia Xibei bent her waist and put Honey down.

Honey reluctantly dropped to the ground while looking pitiful, her big eyes slightly moist and shiny, her wispy voice capable of melting people's hearts.

However, Xia Xibei stayed firm.

"Okay, I'm hungry. I have to go eat dinner."

She patted Honey and Asura on the head, urging them, "Go home!"

Since she had spoken, though they were reluctant to do so, they could only leave, constantly looking back at her.

After sending away the two small creatures, Xia Xibei went home.

As soon as she got to the door, the nearby door opened and Qiao Yanjue walked out.

"Come over for dinner."

"OK."

The housekeeping auntie Qiao Yanjue had found was already working there. She had excellent cooking skills and Xia Xibei liked the food very much.

At Qiao Yanjue's insistence, she had been eating at his place for the last few evenings and she had gotten used to it.

It didn't seem to be too bad with someone sharing the meal.

Xia Xibei followed Qiao Yanjue in, then saw an unexpected figure.

"Brother Huo? What are you doing here?"

Huo Zijun stood up in the living room, smiling, "If Big Qiao hadn't told me, I wouldn't have known you had moved here!"

"I never thought that I would move here either. It's all fate," Xia Xibei said with a smile. "Would you like to visit my place?"

"Of course!" Huo Zijun nodded with a smile.

"Ahem..." Qiao Yanjue coughed slightly, interrupting their conversation. "Let's eat first. We can talk while eating."

"Great!" Huo Zijun agreed.

He walked to the dining table and was just about to get Xia Xibei to come over when he saw Qiao Yanjue pulling the chair beside him and Xia Xibei sit down next to him.

## **Chapter 257: No Boyfriend**

Huo Zijun's eyes widened as he saw how Qiao Yanjue moved the chair skillfully and Xia Xibei sat down naturally.

What the...?!

How long had it been since he had last seen them? Why did it feel like a lot had happened since then?

"Let's eat," Qiao Yanjue said after they sat down.

Huo Zijun looked down and saw that there were several dishes on the table, the portions were quite large.

"There's only three of us here. Why do we need so many dishes?"

Even though they had money, they shouldn't be wasteful. There was enough food for at least five or six people here; how could they finish it all?

He knew Qiao Yanjue had a big appetite, but this was still too much food...

“It’s fine, we can finish it,” Qiao Yanjue shook his head, then began peeling shrimp.

Huo Zijun was taken aback for a moment, wondering, “Since when do you like to eat shrimp?”

“I don’t like eating shrimp.”

“If you don’t-”

Huo Zijun’s words stopped abruptly, seeing that the peeled shrimp had fallen into Xia Xibei’s bowl.

He took a deep breath, staring at the scene in amazement.

Was he hallucinating?! Qiao Yanjue would not even eat shrimp peeled by others, let alone take the initiative to help others!

Under his horrified gaze, Xia Xibei ate the shrimp in a casual manner, showing a satisfied smile.

“Aren’t you hungry?” Qiao Yanjue asked him. “Eat more.”

Huo Zijun’s expression was a little stiff. When he lowered his head and carefully looked at the food on the table, he couldn’t help but chuckle.



Qiao Yanjue invited him over for dinner today, which was a good thing.

However, after seeing the food on the table, he understood that Qiao Yanjue had ulterior motives!

Out of all the food on this table, only one dish was his favorite. Was this how you treated a guest?!

Looking at Qiao Yanjue's care for Xia Xibei, Huo Zijun's expression froze.

"Brother Huo, what's wrong?" Xia Xibei looked up, finally noticing Huo Zijun's odd reaction.

"I... Nothing." Huo Zijun had wanted to say something, but stopped when he met Qiao Yanjue's warning gaze.

What could he say?

He didn't know cold-hearted Big Qiao had such a side!

"C'mon, let's eat."

Qiao Yanjue wiped his hands and gave a piece of fatty pork to Huo Zijun with the common chopsticks.

Looking at the piece of pork, Huo Zijun's mouth twitched, wanting to throw it at Qiao Yanjue's face.

This was too much! So he had invited him over for dinner today just to show off his relationship?!

At this moment, Huo Zijun was really angry.

He set aside the fatty pork, looking at Xia Xibei as he asked, "Little Xia, do you have a boyfriend?"

As soon as this question came up, Qiao Yanjue froze.

Xia Xibei was oblivious, answering, "No."

Huo Zijun couldn't help but laugh, glancing at Qiao Yanjue contemptuously.

Whoops! He thought that Qiao Yanjue was here to mark his territory, but the girl actually didn't take him seriously!

Thinking of this, he wanted to look up at the sky and laugh.

He deserved it! An older guy should stop coveting younger girls, okay. So despicable!

“That’s good,” Huo Zijun smiled mildly, the perfect gentleman. “You’re only a junior in high school, you shouldn’t date so early.”

“Of course not,” Xia Xibe nodded. “I am not thinking about these things right now, anyway.”

“Oh? What are you thinking about now?” Qiao Yanjue asked calmly.

“Going to school, making money, becoming famous,” Xia Xibe said without hesitation.

Qiao Yanjue’s expression became even more rigid than before.

“That’s right!” Huo Zijun immediately applauded. “This is how women in this new era should think!”

Qiao Yanjue’s pupils shrunk suddenly, giving him a fierce look.

## **Chapter 258: Medicine That Prevented Weight-Gain**

Huo Zijun completely ignored Qiao Yanjue’s death stare, continuing to chat with Xia Xibe.

“You are working hard right now. After just a few years, you will be able to live comfortably!” he said with emotion. “Those who want to date at a young age will suffer later. If you don’t keep up with your studies, and then the relationship is gone too... Isn’t that just a big waste of time?”

Xia Xibei nodded in understanding, "Yes, exactly!"

In her first life, because of various issues, she had dropped out of high school without waiting for the college entrance examinations.

After that, although she entered the entertainment industry and made a lot of money, she was still attacked due to her lack of education.

Although she no longer needed a degree at that point in time, it became a sore point for her.

Therefore, she was now a trainee while still staying in school.

As for romance, it was even more useless to her.

"I knew it! Little Xia, you're on a different level!" Huo Zijun applauded. "You will definitely succeed!"

Qiao Yanjue, who was sitting on the side, almost ground his teeth into tiny bits.

He was now realizing that asking Huo Zijun over for dinner today was a big mistake!

"Let's eat!"

He stuffed Huo Zijun's mouth with a piece of pork, not smiling. "Aren't you hungry?"

Huo Zijun was almost choked to death due to the bite of meat.

He slapped Qiao Yanjue's hand away, his face turning grim.

Xia Xibei didn't pay attention to the fight occurring between the two men. After Huo Zijun calmed down, she asked, "Brother Huo, do you have any medicine that can make people eat whatever they want without getting fat?"

"Huh?" Huo Zijun was stunned. "What medicine?"

"A medicine that can make people eat whatever they want without gaining weight."

Huo Zijun sneered, "How could there be such a medicine?"

If this kind of medicine existed, many people would go crazy for it, right?

There were so many fat people now. Who could resist so much delicious food? However, looking at their figures, they could only hold in their tears.

Who wouldn't want a magical pill like this?

Never mind other people, those in the entertainment industry would be the first to buy it!

In order to maintain their figures, they only dared to eat vegetables all day long, their faces almost green.

After joining the industry, many of them had not had a decent meal in years.

This kind of medicine would make them go crazy!

"If I could make this type of medicine, what would you think?"

Huo Zijun almost spat out the soup he was drinking.

"Watch out!" Qiao Yanjue stretched out a hand to cover Xia Xibei, giving him a disgusted look.

Huo Zijun did not have time to pay attention to Qiao Yanjue's attitude, instead looking at Xia Xibei in surprise. "Are you serious?"

If it was someone else, Huo Zijun would only think they were bragging.

However, Xia Xibei wasn't.

After seeing Xia Xibei's medical skills before, Huo Zijun knew that this girl had secrets!

Of course, he didn't care about the secrets.

Xia Xibei definitely had talent, so Huo Zijun took her words seriously.

"Of course it's true," Xia Xibei also nodded earnestly.

She had this idea earlier.

These artists in the entertainment industry would be her best customers, very wealthy and generous.

If they could eat freely without worrying about getting fat, they would go crazy!

There was a huge room for profit.

"Actually, we could collaborate," she said.

Qiao Yanjue became upset upon hearing that, rushing to ask, "Why do you want to collaborate with him?"

## Chapter 259: A Sharp Contrast

Xia Xibei glanced at him with a weird expression. "You are not in this business."

The Qiao family was involved in many industries, but the pharmaceutical industry wasn't one of them.

Huo's family was the leader of the pharmaceutical industry, so it was certainly best to collaborate with him.

Hearing this, a smug smile appeared at the corner of Huo Zijun's mouth. He ignored Qiao Yanjue and looked at Xia Xibei, "Is there an actual product? Or is this just an idea?"

Xia Xibei made it sound as if there was an actual product.

"There is a product." Xia Xibei nodded, "However, I don't have the right medicinal materials on hand, so I can't produce it at the moment."

Huo Zijun was a little disappointed, thinking that he was going to see this miraculous medicine immediately.

"I will write you a list. Help me get these medicinal materials, and I can make it."



Xia Xibei had this idea before but was delayed by other matters for these past few days, with no time to implement it.

It just so happened that Qiao Yanjue had invited Huo Zijun over.

Of course, she couldn't miss this opportunity. She had to seize this enormous market while she had the chance.

"Great," Huo Zijun nodded. He was very interested in this medicine.

"Give me the list and I will have people bring over the materials now."

Xia Xibei nodded and got up immediately to find pen and paper.

"I'll get it," Qiao Yanjue stopped her instantly.

Seeing Qiao Yanjue's solicitous appearance, Huo Zijun felt even more shocked.

Who would have thought that Master Jue, who was usually so cold and standoffish, had such a side to him?

If the people in the capital city were to know about this, they would be scared to death!

After Qiao Yanjue brought her a pen and some paper, Xia Xibei acted quickly, writing down a list of medicinal materials.

Huo Zijun took the list and looked over the medicinal materials written on it, a bit surprised by what he saw.

“These... These can be mixed?”

Some of the medicinal materials here were slightly toxic.

“You’ll see,” Xia Xibei smiled with confidence.

“Okay, then.” Huo Zijun nodded, took a picture of the list, and sent it to his store employees.

“Okay, let’s eat,” Qiao Yanjue said, scooping some soup into a bowl for Xia Xibei.

“I want some too.” Huo Zijun handed over his bowl.

“Do it yourself.” He turned the soup ladle around.

Huo Zijun was speechless. He was a better boyfriend than a friend!

The corners of his mouth twitched, and he took two deep breaths, then did it himself.

He then looked at Xia Xibei, asking, "Right, when can you give me this product?"

The next step in the collaboration could be discussed only after they saw the properties of the drug.

"In a few days. I have something to do tomorrow afternoon," Xia Xibei replied, taking a sip of her soup.

"Oh? What is it?"

Even Qiao Yanjue perked up to listen.

"I have an audition tomorrow afternoon."

"Audition?!" Huo Zijun was stunned, only reacting after a while. "You're going to act?"

"Yes," Xia Xibei nodded. "This is my first role, so it needs a lot of thought."

"You are going to be filming?" Qiao Yanjue frowned. "Did the company find the job for you?"

Xia Xibei shook her head, “No, a friend referred me.”

“A friend? Who is it?”

“You don’t know him,” Xia Xibei shook her head. “Someone big in the industry.”

Qiao Yanjue’s face turned ashen as he questioned her, “A big bro in the industry? How did you meet? How do you know he doesn’t have bad intentions...”

The series of questions made Huo Zijun speechless.

What the...! These words came from their Big Qiao?! Was he an imposter?!

“Don’t worry, it’s okay.” Xia Xibei was not angry, knowing that Qiao Yanjue cared about her. “It’s Yu Ziqi’s cousin. He’s a very good person.”

Very good person?

Qiao Yanjue’s face fell even more.

**Chapter 260: Praying to Gods and Buddhas**

Xia Xibei didn't know how depressed Qiao Yanjue was, completely focused on the audition tomorrow.

Plus, she had to tell Pan Yan about this matter. After all, he was her agent.

When Pan Yan heard the news, he was shocked.

"You are talking about director Jiang Shenghe?!"

"Yes."

Pan Yan gasped and almost fainted.

Director Jiang Shenghe?! Xia Xibei had too many connections!

Of course Pan Yan had heard of this, but he never thought of fighting for this opportunity!

It wasn't that he didn't want to, but that he knew he couldn't get it.

Director Jiang Shenghe was very famous. Even though it was the early casting stage, not everyone could go.

Moreover, his plan for Xia Xibei was for her to study hard and then look for opportunities to debut as a singer.

Who knew Xia Xibei would be discreetly going to an audition, and for a movie by a major director at that!

“Who referred you?” Pan Yan asked after recovering.

“Nie Zehai.”

“Nie Zehai?” Pan Yan thought for a while, finally remembering who he was. “How do you know him?”

Although Nie Zehai had a good reputation in the industry, the fact that Xia Xibei suddenly got in touch with him made Pan Yan nervous.

“He is the cousin of one of my classmates. We had met before,” Xia Xibei answered.

After confirming that there was no issue with Nie Zehai, Pan Yan breathed a sigh of relief. However, he immediately grew nervous once again.

“The audition is tomorrow?”

“Right.”

“So soon!” He couldn’t help complaining, “Why didn’t you tell me earlier?”

“I only found out just now.”

“If you had told me earlier, I would have arranged classes for you!” Pan Yan was frustrated.

Xia Xibei was very new at this. Even though she got the chance to audition, would she be selected with her untried acting skills?

Jiang Shenghe was a major director, and he demanded a lot.

Although it was good to have the opportunity to go to the audition, it was really difficult to be selected.

“Relax, I’ll be fine,” Xia Xibei comforted him, but Pan Yan obviously was not convinced.

However, it was too late. Was it possible to do last-minute prayers? It was useless!

“Nevermind. I’ll burn more incense for you tomorrow.”

Xia Xibei was startled. “What? Burn what?”

Pan Yan was serious, answering, "Burning incense and begging the Buddha to bless you! Oh yes, I have to go to church too."

That being said, tomorrow would be so busy! And after praying to all the gods and Buddhas, he'd have to take Xia Xibei to the audition too. There wasn't much time!

Thinking of this, Pan Yan decided to get up early tomorrow morning. Otherwise, there wouldn't be enough time.

Xia Xibei was speechless. She really didn't know that Pan Yan had such a side!

"How many gods are you praying to?"

He was going to pray to international gods too... It was incredible!

"As many as I can!" Pan Yan sounded very righteous. "Who knew it would be so rushed! I could only pray for blessings for you!"

Xia Xibei had nothing else to say. Fine, let him find some emotional comfort.

However, she didn't expect that when Pan Yan came to pick her up for the audition the next day, she would be given a protection charm.



“I got this especially for you! When you wear it, you’re sure to ace the audition!”

Looking at Pan Yan, who was in his 20s and still very young, Xia Xibei’s mouth twitched. There was nothing left to say.

How was he so young, yet so superstitious?!

Xia Xibei carefully walked to the side while holding Honey to avoid being corrupted.