

Chapter 301: A Bloodbath for the Opponent

Looking at the numbers on the scoreboard, the students in the fifth class were silent.

Such tragic numbers made them all speechless.

Half time had now passed, but the score had stretched to the point where they could never recover.

Moreover, they also realized that Xia Xibei did not change too much after a long and strenuous run, still so calm and collected.

Was she a monster?!

At the beginning, Xia Xibei's performance had shocked them all, but they consoled themselves by thinking that even if Xia Xibei was that good, she was no match for the boys in terms of physical strength.

When she became tired, she would be worthless.

But to their surprise, after half-time, while everyone else was exhausted and panting, but she was still effortless.

If it wasn't for her sweating, people would think she was a robot and never got tired!

Looking at the girl who moved like wind on the court, everyone had mixed feelings. The students from third class were no exception.

Xia Xibei had scored at least 30 of those 40 points, and that was in her relaxed state!

As long as the ball was in her hands, there could only be one result.

No one could stop her, let alone take the ball from her hands.

And, shockingly, she was also very good at three-point shooting! This was ridiculous!

She relaxed a lot after scoring a dozen points with her strong attack at the start of the game.

Also, because of the toughness she had displayed earlier, the other team dispatched a couple of people to keep an eye on her.

It was pointless, however.

Although other players in the third class were far less powerful than Xia Xibei, they were still evenly matched to the fifth class.

Now that their opponents had gone to defend against Xia Xibei, it would be strange if they still couldn't get points.

So the difference in score grew larger and larger.

It wasn't yet the last moment, but the players from the fifth class had lost their confidence.

They were not professional players; they were the amateurs of amateurs, not to mention their mental capacity.

They couldn't stay strong after this bloodbath.

Toward the end of the game, never mind rallying, they could not even score a few more points.

Their lack of fighting spirit affected the others, with even their cheerleaders remaining silent.

When the referee's whistle sounded, they were relieved—finally!

As for the 62:16 score, they didn't have time to care.

“Sister Bei! Sister Bei! Sister Bei!”

“Third class! Third class! Third class!”

The students in the third class were going crazy with excitement. It was awesome!

Xia Xibei was too fierce!

Meng Xuelei and several other players rushed towards Xia Xibei and tried to lift her up, but she quickly slipped away.

Xia Xibei wasn't interested in things like this.

Meng Xuelei and the others watched her fleeing back with dumbfounded expressions. How did she have any energy left?!

At the end of the game, the fifth class had no fighting spirit left, but they still ran the whole course.

They were about to become useless, but she still ran so fast?

Was she even human? Or did she take some kind of stimulant?!

Xia Xibei avoided the siege of people, but she could not avoid a hug from Song Jiaren.

"Beibei, you're amazing! You're my idol!" she screamed while squeezing Xia Xibei.

Xia Xibei shuddered at her voice and pushed her head away, "I know you worship me, but don't get so excited."

Tang Luo also came over, unable to hide the excitement on his face as he exclaimed, "You're too good!"

Xia Xibei raised her eyebrows at him, "How about it? Your older sister didn't lie to you, right?"

Tang Luo snickered, "You're a year younger than me."

"So what? I'll always be your older sister!"

Chapter 302: Not Reproducible

After Song Jiaren's excitement died down, she finally noticed Yu Ziqi next to her. Pulling him over, she asked, "So? Did you get the shot?"

They shared their work. She was responsible for cheering and screaming, while Yu Ziqi was responsible for taking pictures.

Yu Ziqi's photography skills were very good. He took out his cell phone and camera, confirming, "Got the shots!"

They wanted to record Xia Xibei's best moments!

Xia Xibei would be a big star in the future. When she became famous and they put these old photos up, it would certainly amaze everyone.

Yu Ziqi clicked on the video and fast-forwarded to Xia Xibei's shot.

On camera, Xia Xibei was so heroic that the others all became her accompaniment.

She was so fabulous, especially when she scored!

Yu Ziqi was talking excitedly, "You were really amazing just now! If I had your strength, it would be so great!"

Song Jiaren wrinkled her nose, looked him up and down, then shook her head in disgust. "You? Better forget it!"

"You are looking down on me?!" Yu Ziqi asked in annoyance.

"Yeah," Song Jiaren nodded nonchalantly, "Your height... It is not enough! Besides, can anyone match Beibei?"

These words made Yu Ziqi fall silent.

He really couldn't say that he was as good as Xia Xibei.

“You can start practicing now!” Xia Xibei reassured him. “Work hard for a few years...”

“And I will be as strong as you?” Yu Ziqi instantly asked.

Xia Xibei blinked, her face unchanging. “Anything is possible!”

With these words, Yu Ziqi immediately perked up, “Okay, I’ll work on it starting tomorrow!”

They looked at each other and fell silent.

Even Song Jiaren did not say anything to contradict him. Could a sorceress like Xia Xibei be easily replicated by anyone else?

Yu Ziqi was chubby, not very tall, and did not exercise much. It would be really difficult for him to catch up with Xia Xibei, but no one attacked his confidence.

As Xia Xibei had said, anything was possible!

As the game had ended, everyone began to leave.

Meng Xuelei and several others came over.

“Sister Bei, do you want to eat together?”

After today’s game, their relationship with Xia Xibei was instantly better.

Previously, they felt that Xia Xibei was unattainable, but today there were no such thoughts at all.

Of course, their romantic intentions had also disappeared.

Previously, they had felt that Xia Xibei was soft and weak, needing their care and pity.

Now they understood reality—they were the ones who needed care and pity!

Xia Xibei was an Amazon goddess!

Although she seemed skinny and her thin waist looked ready to break, they all knew that this was just an illusion!

Her monster-like strength and stamina were especially enviable and frightening.

She was not a girl they could navigate, so they very gladly called her “Sister Bei.”

“No, I have plans.”

“OK. We’re off. We’re starving.”

They didn’t insist, waving goodbye instead.

Xia Xibei changed back into her own clothes and walked out while saying to Tang Luo, “I’ll take the uniform back and return it to you after washing it.”

“No, you keep it. I didn’t wear it anyway,” Tang Luo shook his head and chuckled, “Besides, you have competitions coming up.”

Xia Xibei did not refuse, “Okay, then. I’ll keep wearing it.”

They were talking while walking out of the school entrance.

“Miss Xia, over here!”

Hearing Uncle Chen’s voice, Xia Xibei turned to look in his direction, then froze.

Chapter 303: What is This?

Qiao Yanjue was right next to Uncle Chen.

At the sight of Qiao Yanjue, Xia Xibei couldn't help but freeze.

Her past memories flooded back, almost making her jump.

Luckily, she managed to control herself and take care of her emotions.

Qiao Yanjue walked over, his eyes sweeping over Xia Xibei's flushed face with a natural expression.

"Finished playing ball?"

"Just finished."

Xia Xibei did not ask him how he knew that she had played, seeing as Uncle Chen was next to him.

When she was driven over this morning, Uncle Chen insisted on getting her phone number so that she could be picked up in the evening.

Seeing that Uncle Chen was desperate, she could only nod and accept his offer of transportation.

In order to keep him from waiting, she told him about the game in advance.

Since Uncle Chen was Qiao Yanjue's driver, of course he would tell Qiao too.

However, looking at Qiao Yanjue's natural demeanor, as if what had happened before had never happened, the remaining bit of embarrassment in her heart disappeared.

It wasn't a big deal, so there was no need to hold onto it.

"You won, right?" Qiao Yanjue asked confidently.

"Of course we won!" Before Xia Xibei could say anything, Song Jiaren immediately perked up and danced around, "Beibei is awesome! It was like a bloodbath! The other team was about to cry!"

"So impressive! Should we celebrate?"

"We wanted to celebrate, but Beibei already had an appointment," Song Jiaren said, a little disappointed.

"With Old Huo?"

Xia Xibei looked up at Qiao Yanjue, puzzled.

“I tried to ask him to dinner this morning, but he said he had a date with you, so I came over. We can all have dinner together. It just so happens that I have something I need to see him about.”

Qiao Yanjue’s face did not change, as if things were really as simple as he said.

Xia Xibei frowned and looked at him suspiciously, feeling that he was hiding something from her.

“It’s about time, let’s go.” Qiao Yanjue looked unmoved and pulled open the car door, “Right now’s the perfect time to go there.”

Then he looked to the others, “Do you want to come along?”

The other three immediately shook their heads, “No, we’re going home for dinner.”

“Want a ride?” Qiao Yanjue asked again politely.

“No, we can go back by ourselves,” the three said in unison.

Song Jiaren even waved her hand, “There are several of us. We won’t fit in your car.”

“Alright then, take care,” Qiao Yanjue said to them, then pulled on Xia Xibei, who was clearly lost in thought. “Let’s go.”

Xia Xibei nodded, “Okay.”

The two of them got into the car and waved goodbye.

“We’ll go first then.”

“Ok, bye...”

Uncle Chen’s driving skills were very good, and the car was very stable.

Inside the car, Qiao Yanjue had a natural attitude and talked about today’s game as if it were a casual affair.

“How come I didn’t hear you say you were going to play basketball before?”

Xia Xibei smiled, “I was fortunate to have been appointed in a crisis and not fail.”

“You like to play basketball?”

“It’s okay,” Xia Xibei nodded, “I play when I get the chance.”

“Then we can play together in the future.”

“Grea- Oh!”

The car suddenly stopped and the two of them were shocked, the bag Xia Xibei was holding falling down.

“Sorry, someone popped up in front of me,” Uncle Chen hurriedly apologized, then complained, “These people don’t even look at the road!”

“Be careful,” Qiao Yanjue said with a frown, then paused in his gaze.

“What is this?” He picked up the bag that Xia Xibei dropped on the floor. Inside was a red basketball uniform.

Chapter 304: Wearing Another Guy’s Clothes

Qiao Yanjue picked up the clothes on the ground, a little puzzled. The uniform didn’t look like that of a woman’s.

Xia Xibei replied, “This was my basketball uniform for today’s game.”

“Isn’t this... For men?”

Xia Xibei nodded, “Yeah, Tang Luo gave it to me. It was so last-minute today, so I didn’t have a uniform.”

“Tang Luo gave it to you?” Qiao Yanjue’s face turned grim as he asked, “You wore another guy’s clothes?”

Xia Xibei shrugged, “It’s okay, he didn’t wear it.”

It wasn’t okay even if he didn’t wear it!

Qiao Yanjue gritted his teeth and held back those words.

“You could have asked Uncle Chen to bring you clothes.” The corners of his mouth tugged stiffly.

“No need, Tang Luo had one, and he was not on the court, so I wore his for the game.”

“But wouldn’t you feel out of place in guys’ clothes?” As he spoke, he felt that his tone was not quite right and hastened to add, “If the sports uniform doesn’t fit, it affects your playing ability.”

“Nah,” Xia Xibei shook her head, “It’s fine, it doesn’t affect anything.”

Qiao Yanjue's face truly dimmed.

Who wouldn't be depressed if the person they liked was wearing other guy's clothes?

Of course, what really depressed him was that Xia Xibei was still young and not yet enlightened about these things, so she did not care about such matters.

If he were to talk about this matter in the open, the consequences would be unthinkable.

Therefore, he could only take a few deep breaths to suppress the frustration in his chest.

He couldn't play hard ball, he had to play smart.

With that thought, he finally showed a trace of a smile.

Xia Xibei had no idea what was going through Qiao Yanjue's head, her mind focused on what was to come.

Soon, the car arrived at the place they had arranged.

The two of them got out of the car and headed inside.

Xia Xibei didn't know that Qiao Yanjue had sent some instructions to Uncle Chen with his cell phone.

Uncle Chen was startled when he saw Qiao Yanjue's message.

When he read the contents, the corners of his mouth twitched.

He... He really wanted to do this? Their boss was too strange!

Looking at the clothes placed in the back seat, Uncle Chen took a deep breath and finally walked out as if he were facing a firing squad.

Blissfully ignorant, Xia Xibei walked inside with Qiao Yanjue and soon arrived at the private room they had reserved.

"Little Xia... Big Qiao?"

Huo Zijun was surprised to see that this guy really came!

This morning, he had received a call from Qiao Yanjue.

Qiao Yanjue asked him when he was going to talk to Xia Xibei about their collaboration.

He was unsure, and groggily blurted out that they had arranged to meet tonight.

Then the guy had hung up!

Huo Zijun was dumbfounded.

Qiao Yanjue called him to ask this? What was he doing?! He actually followed Xia Xibei here!

“What are you doing here?”

Thinking about being woken up at five in the morning, Huo Zijun didn't have a good attitude towards Qiao Yanjue. He was very close to throwing him out, in fact.

Huo Zijun and Qiao Yanjue's relationship was very solid. The two of them had grown up together, so they could give each other looks with impunity.

“I needed to talk to you about something.”

Facing Huo Zijun's long face, Qiao Yanjue put on an innocent expression, “It just so happened that Xibei was coming over, so I came with her.”

In his head, Huo Zijun thought, “Who is he fooling?!”

How come he never knew that Qiao Yanjue was so thick-skinned?

“Well, let’s sit down. Xibei is hungry, so we should order food first.”

Qiao Yanjue ignored Huo Zijun’s grim face, sat down, picked up the menu, and began to order.

The more he listened, the uglier Huo Zijun’s face became. Finally, he couldn’t help it, demanding, “Do you dare to order a dish I like?!”

Chapter 305: How Bros Get Along

Huo Zijun almost wanted to flip the table over!

Qiao Yanjue had ordered five to six dishes by now.

Huo Zijun knew that Qiao Yanjue had to practice martial arts on a daily basis. His strength was far greater than they had imagined, and neither was he as feeble as he appeared.

Thus, it was reasonable that he ate a lot to keep up with his energy consumption.

However, Huo Zijun couldn't tolerate the fact that none of those dishes matched his preferences.

This brat was so shameless!

Faced with Huo Zijun's anger, all Qiao Yanjue did was raise his head for a second and shoot him a glance, his face as calm as always.

"What are you fussing over? I'm not done ordering yet."

Huo Zijun shot him a glare, "Are you even sure we can finish that much?"

Qiao Yanjue ate a lot, but they didn't!

"Why can't we?" Qiao Yanjue shot him a puzzled look, "Don't judge our appetite with your tiny little stomach. Besides, you've eaten with us before, haven't you?"

Huo Zijun's lips twitched, finally recalling what had happened the last time.

They had indeed dined together a couple of days ago.

That time, however, all of his attention was focused on the medicines that Xia Xibei was talking about he didn't even notice how much they had eaten.

Now that he really thought about it, it seemed like they had eaten a lot indeed.

Qiao Yanjue didn't need to be mentioned. He practiced martial arts after all, so his energy consumption would naturally be greater than those of others.

But how was Xia Xibei's appetite as good as his though? She looked so skinny and weak!

However, as he thought about how Xia Xibei had rescued Qiao Yanjue twice, Huo Zijun finally came to realize that something wasn't quite right.

How could an ordinary girl like her possibly be able to rescue Qiao Yanjue? She would be good enough to not become his burden.

Furthermore, would an ordinary girl even be able to present him with such magical medicines?

Could she possibly be the heir of some secretive, prestigious family?

The more he thought about it, the more in awe he became. Huo Zijun began to look at Xia Xibei with deep bemusement.

"What are you looking at?" Qiao Yanjue gave him a pat, "I'm ordering dishes for you now, aren't I?"

Huo Zijun looked down at the menu and couldn't help but say sarcastically, "These are your favorites, aren't they?"

He really couldn't count on this guy.

Huo Zijun snatched over the ordering tablet, "Enough, I'll be ordering the rest."

Qiao Yanjue shrugged and said nothing.

He had ordered what he wanted anyway.

Xia Xibei felt envy as she watched the duo fighting and bickering playfully.

Others might think Qiao Yanjue was a snobby, aloof man who was unapproachable.

Although Huo Zijun was polite and elegant, he was still the child of a prestigious, wealthy family. No matter how close he was with someone, there would always be some kind of barrier between him and others.

No one would have expected that this was how the two of them acted in private.

This was how good friends or good bros should get along. Having no regards for personal image, or whether the other person would be offended, just casually bickering and mocking at each other.

After ordering two dishes that he liked, Huo Zijun pressed “confirm.” Now all they had to do was wait for the food to be served.

After ordering dishes, the core topic of the day was brought up.

“Have you finished manufacturing the medicine already?” Huo Zijun asked.

“No,” Xia Xibei shook her head.

“Not yet?” Huo Zijun was rather disappointed, he thought Xia Xibei might have the actual product ready by now.

“I have some new thoughts on it,” Xia Xibei said in a serious tone.

“What kind of thoughts?”

“I’d like to add some other things on the basis that we’ve agreed upon.”

Both Huo Zijun and Qiao Yanjue looked at her in bewilderment, waiting for her to continue.

“Apart from the medicines that we discussed earlier, I’d like to produce some skincare products.”

Huo Zijun was surprised, questioning, “Skincare products?”

“Yes,” Xia Xibei nodded, “I have a few formulas here, which are very effective.”

“But the nature of the products will be different in that case.”

“I know. That’s why I’m thinking of setting up a company with you.”

“Setting up a company?!”

Chapter 306: I’m Joining Too

Huo Zijun was very surprised.

Previously, they were planning to collaborate and produce medicine.

Since there was only one type of medicine, however, there was no need to set up a company. All they needed to do was attach it under the Huo family’s company.

But Xia Xibei was talking about setting up a company now?

That was something of an entirely different nature.

“You wanna set up a company?” Huo Zijun’s expression was rather solemn.

“Yes,” Xia Xibei nodded, looking equally solemn. “I’ve thought it through. I have quite a number of formulas at hand, so it’ll be more suitable to set up a company.”

Besides, her status would be different if she had a company.

Huo Zijun scowled, “How many formulas do you have?”

Xia Xibei started counting with her fingers, “Facial products, eye products, body products...”

Huo Zijun became more amazed as he listened to her speak and couldn’t help but have more speculations about Xia Xibei.

How could an ordinary girl possibly have so many miraculous medicinal formulas?

Huo Zijun felt as though he had just discovered some kind of secret.

“After producing them, we can sell and use them in services through Sister Hong’s salon. Once the production scale goes up, we can start selling them on the market,” Xia Xibei stated her plans.

She wasn't familiar with business and commerce, so all she could say was just some rough ideas that she had. Most importantly, however, she owned the formulas.

With the formulas in hand, the world was hers to conquer.

Huo Zijun had a deep frown on his face, and he did not agree with her immediately.

"If the effects of the medicines are fine, setting up a company is no big deal."

All the commercial activities and development were based upon the effects yielded by the medicines.

If these things really were as great as Xia Xibei had claimed, then it wasn't a problem at all.

There were so many pharmaceutical companies out there, all of them investing large amounts of time and effort in producing better medicines and enhancing their effects.

"You don't have to worry about the effects," Xia Xibei said confidently, "I'll be able to show you the effects tomorrow."

Huo Zijun raised his brows, "Alright. If it goes well, then we'll have no problem setting up a company."

They were probably the only ones who could talk about opening a pharmaceutical company so casually, as if it was just a part of their normal routine.

However, one of them had wealth and an extensive network, and the other had formulas. Perhaps setting up a company really was as simple as that.

“I’m joining too,” Qiao Yanjue spoke out of nowhere from the side.

The two of them were taken aback for a moment.

“You’re joining too?”

“Yes,” Qiao Yanjue nodded, his expression serious. “I’m very interested in what you’re doing, and I think that your company has great prospects!”

Huo Zijun’s lips twitched, shooting him a look of disdain.

Qiao Yanjue remained unruffled, and turned to look solemnly at Xia Xibei, “Besides, I believe in your capacity. Your formulas surely are perfect!”

Huo Zijun was speechless.

What an exaggerated flatter!

Xia Xibei was surprised, “But it seems like you have no experience in this field, do you?”

The reason she chose to collaborate with the Huo family was c because they had good connections and a great deal of experience in this field, which would make them more efficient in dealing with the products.

The Qiao family, however, was different. Wouldn't it be a reckless move for them to join without a justifiable purpose?

Qiao Yanjue laughed, "Indeed, we haven't dealt with this area before, but that's exactly why I want to join. We have to get some exposure in order to explore more possibilities, don't we? It's time for me to find some new ventures as well."

Xia Xibei couldn't help but nod.

The Qiao family was a complicated one. Now that Qiao Yanjue hadn't taken complete control of the Qiao's, he had to develop his own forces indeed.

"Rest assured, I won't be a burden to you guys," Qiao Yanjue guaranteed.

Xia Xibei wasn't worried that he would be a burden.

In fact, Qiao Yanjue's joining could actually be a protective shield instead.

"Alright then," she nodded, then turned to look at Huo Zijun. "Brother Huo, what do you think?"

Chapter 307: A Personality Collapse

“Of course there’s no problem,” Huo Zijun lifted the corners of his mouth and nodded with a fake smile.

What could he say? He could only nod and agree!

Huo Zijun knew that while Qiao Yanjue looked decent, he was actually not someone to be messed with.

Qiao Yanjue would use his cold and arrogant personality to turn people away in front of others, but in the presence of his approved friends, his bad character was revealed.

Huo Zijun didn’t even know whether he should be happy that he had a good relationship with Qiao Yanjue and was able to see his nasty side, or whether he should regret that he knew him.

However, when the food was served, Huo Zijun realized that his knowledge of Qiao Yanjue was still very limited!

Last time, Qiao Yanjue had already shocked Huo Zijun when he had peeled shrimp shells for Xia Xibei.

But this time, Qiao Yanjue’s level of attentiveness had skyrocketed!

Xia Xibei didn't even have to use her chopsticks, she just glanced and his chopsticks immediately came over.

He knew which dish Xia Xibei wanted to eat while peeling the shrimp shells! And his peeling skills had improved astronomically!

Xia Xibei's eating speed could not catch up with his peeling speed. Instantly, a shrimp was peeled and placed in front of her.

What the-?

Huo Zijun shouted in his heart, this was simply too shocking! Was Qiao Yanjue crazy?!

Even Xia Xibei was a bit overwhelmed.

"I'll just do it myself. You should eat too."

Qiao Yanjue's expression was natural as he replied, "It's okay, it's good to exercise."

How shameless! This was exercise?! Who exercised like this?! Finger exercises?! What a great insight!

Huo Zijun couldn't hold back any longer and stood up, speaking to Qiao Yanjue, "Big Qiao, come with me."

“What for?” Qiao Yanjue asked, still shelling shrimp. He gave him a glance, “Can’t you see I’m busy?”

Huo Zijun was stunned.

“To the bathroom, together,” he said through clenched teeth.

Now, not only Qiao Yanjue, but Xia Xibei was shocked too.

They were 20-some-years old, and they still needed to go to the bathroom together?

Huo Zijun’s teeth hurt a little at their uniform expressions of shock.

The corners of his mouth twitched as he stepped forward and pulled Qiao Yanjue up by his hand.

“C’mon, let’s go together!”

Qiao Yanjue had no choice but to go with him.

Once outside, Huo Zijun dragged Qiao Yanjue to an unoccupied corner before releasing his hand.

“What’s wrong with you?” He looked Qiao Yanjue up and down, suspicious. “What drugs are you on?”

The old Qiao Yanjue was cold, arrogant, and a clean freak; even his friends could not get too close to him, never mind having him take the initiative to serve others.

“Can’t you tell?” Qiao Yanjue raised an eyebrow, “I thought I was showing it clearly.”

Huo Zijun froze for a moment, then fiercely stared at him. “You! You’re not for real, are you?!”

He had found it odd earlier, but Qiao Yanjue was still quite restrained before. Except for peeling shrimp, there was not too much action.

But this time, Qiao Yanjue was simply shameless!

His coldness, arrogance, dominance... All of it was gone!

Simply put—it was a personality collapse!

If others were to see this scene, they would definitely suspect they were hallucinating!

This cold and aloof male god to the capital city’s socialites... How could he be so attentive?

“I’m not playing,” Qiao Yanjue raised his eyes, very serious. “I’m for real.”

“Are you crazy?!” Huo Zijun’s face changed drastically, “You and her are impossible!”

With these words, Qiao Yanjue’s face instantly went cold.

Chapter 308: I Will Protect Her

Huo Zijun looked at Qiao Yanjue’s dark face and couldn’t help but feel shaky in his heart. However, because of their friendship, he still spoke his mind.

“I know Little Xia is a good girl, but you should also think about who you are!”

Qiao Yanjue was the appointed heir of the Qiao family, and his status and position were not something that ordinary girls could match.

Even if Qiao Yanjue liked her, so what? The Qiao family would not acknowledge Xia Xibei.

“Little Xia is such a nice girl, could you bear to let her be bullied by your family?” Huo Zijun spoke bitterly, “It’s not like you don’t know what those people are like! You wouldn’t give up your family for her, would you?”

It would be truly stupid if Qiao Yanjue really made that choice.

Qiao Yanjue was unmoved by his best friend's persuasion, insisting, "I will protect her."

His expression was proud and resolute.

"I won't give her up. The Qiao family is mine, and I won't give it up either."

Of course, Qiao Yanjue wasn't stupid.

The Qiao family was his, so why should he give it up?

Moreover, if he gave up the Qiao family, it would only make others smugger. Those people did not have any sibling love for him; instead, they may destroy him.

He wanted to protect Xia Xibei and certainly could not let the Qiao family fall into the hands of others.

Huo Zijun looked at Qiao Yanjue's confident face, helpless and anxious. "But do you think that you can really protect her? Did you forget that you almost died before!"

If it wasn't for Xia Xibei, Qiao Yanjue's life would have been in jeopardy.

“That was before.” Qiao Yanjue grimaced, his eyes deep and cold, “I’ve learned from my mistake. I’m not that stupid.”

The main reason he got hurt that time was because he underestimated their ruthlessness.

He had thought that since they were brothers, they would not be heartless enough to kill him.

That proved that he was still too young and kind.

So, he set up a trap afterwards to find the mole around him and then viciously retaliated.

Because of this incident, he regained the upper hand and was able to go to G City to preside over development matters.

“Also, you are really underestimating her.”

Thinking of Xia Xibei’s toughness and strength, Qiao Yanjue smiled with pride, “She’s stronger than you think. Others can’t bully her.”

To be honest, he didn’t know enough about Xia Xibei, but what he did know was enough to put him at ease with her.

Smart, tough, forceful... She could bully others, not the other way around.

Besides, she had him!

Looking at the smile that formed at the corners of Qiao Yanjue's mouth, Huo Zijun's mouth twitched and he held his forehead, unable to look away.

He was the domineering CEO feared by all, so why did he have to show such a silly smile? It was too much for the eyes!

Love really made one crazy!

However, it was clear that Qiao Yanjue had fallen really hard.

Once a person as stubborn as Qiao Yanjue had fallen, even ten oxen couldn't pull him back.

Though Huo Zijun did not see a good future for this relationship, he couldn't convince Qiao Yanjue otherwise.

But...

"You like her, but does she like you?"

The smile on Qiao Yanjue's mouth froze at hearing these words.

Seeing this, Huo Zijun totally understood and could not help but laugh, “it’s unrequited love!”

Karma! It was karma!

So many girls had liked him, only to be rejected—actually, they were downright refused. Now it was his turn to be rejected!

Huo Zijun wished he could advertise this moment on TV and tell the whole world!

Chapter 309: Don’t Want to Scare Her Away

In front of others, Huo Zijun had always been a mild-mannered gentleman. He rarely spoke loudly, much less cursed.

But now, he almost laughed himself to death when seeing Qiao Yanjue like this!

“I thought this was already a done deal—that you two were fighting together! I never even considered it would be unrequited love!”

Huo Zijun slapped his leg and laughed without any care for his image.

Qiao Yanjue's face dimmed as he said quietly, "I advise you to be calm."

Calm?

It was so rare to encounter such things, how could he be calm?

Huo Zijun laughed for a while longer. He only pinched his thigh and held back his laughter when he saw that Qiao Yanjue was about to have an outburst.

Qiao Yanjue was on the verge of fury, and he couldn't keep on testing him.

Huo Zijun wiped away the tears of laughter from the corners of his eyes, cleared his throat, and took a few deep breaths before suppressing the laughter in his heart.

The temperature around Qiao Yanjue had dropped to zero degrees, and his face was even more dangerous looking than before.

Huo Zijun's heart skipped. He quickly stopped his mocking, put on a serious face, and before Qiao Yanjue exploded, asked seriously, "Then what are you going to do? I see that she doesn't seem to care much for you."

Speaking of which, Huo Zijun almost laughed once again.

This was amazing!

In the past, there were many people who liked Qiao Yanjue, those young ladies trying very hard to capture his attention.

But no matter what kind of girls they were, he simply drove them away.

Now, it was finally his turn to be rejected.

Thinking about Qiao Yanjue's previous attentive attitude, Huo Zijun couldn't help but admire Xia Xibei.

She was a master at conquering him! How did she do it?

"If she's not into me now, she will be eventually." Qiao Yanjue took a few deep breaths and didn't argue with Huo Zijun. Then he glanced at Huo Zijun, "Besides, she's still young, only seventeen. I don't want to scare her away."

Huo Zijun's mouth twitched while he thought to himself.

You also know that she is only 17 years old and not a grown-up? You're a 24-year-old "old man" coveting a teenage girl! How monstrous!

Moreover, Huo Zijun doubted Qiao Yanjue's claim that he "didn't want to scare Xia Xibei away."

He felt that Qiao Yanjue simply didn't dare to say anything!

Qiao Yanjue saw his expression and shot him a warning look.

Thinking of Qiao Yanjue's ferocity, Huo Zijun hurriedly displayed an innocent smile.

He was unlucky to be Qiao Yanjue's brother, so what else could he do? He could only shut up and try to maintain Qiao Yanjue's brilliant image!

"Just don't say anything," Qiao Yanjue reminded him.

"I got it."

Huo Zijun made a motion of zipping up his mouth, looking very innocuous. On the inside, however, he chuckled to himself.

Even if they really talked this out, Xia Xibei would not believe it, right?

Xia Xibei didn't seem to have any interest in Qiao Yanjue at all!

In Huo Zijun's opinion, Xia Xibei was an independent girl who did not want to rely on others at all.

Most importantly, she had strength!

Even if the Qiao family was a prestigious family, and Qiao Yanjue was worth tens of billions, Xia Xibei would not necessarily be interested in him.

So, it really wasn't easy for Qiao Yanjue to pursue her!

As he thought of this, Huo Zijun couldn't help but cry tears of sympathy for Qiao Yanjue.

Predictably, his road to love would be difficult!

"Okay, let's go back." Qiao Yanjue patted Huo Zijun's clothes and warned, "You know what to say and what not to say, right?"

"I understand..." Huo Zijun nodded his head.

Suddenly, he smelled something fishy, and instantly became angry.

"Bastard! How dare you use my clothes to wipe your hands?!"

Chapter 310: The Clothes Fell into the Food

Huo Zijun smelled the fishy scent coming from his clothes and almost died of anger.

Damn Qiao Yanjue, he really was too petty!

So he just laughed at him a little bit... Did he need to be so childish and get revenge?

After wiping his hands on Huo Zijun's clothes, Qiao Yanjue appeared pure and innocent, as if he had only just realized that he hadn't washed his hands after peeling the shrimp.

"Oh, I'm sorry. I was in such a hurry that I forgot to wash my hands," he said without the slightest hint of apology, then stepped away and headed for the bathroom.

Huo Zijun gritted his teeth but could only follow him.

Xia Xibei ate by herself in the room and waited for a while before the two men returned.

Xia Xibei was puzzled upon seeing Huo Zijun's grim face and his clothes still a bit wet.

"What's wrong?" she asked.

"It's nothing." Qiao Yanjue sat down and explained, "His stomach felt weird, so he doesn't look too good."

Huo Zijun remained silent.

Xia Xibei was a little worried, "What if I took a look?"

"No, I'm fine," Huo Zijun refused through clenched teeth.

"Okay then." Xia Xibei didn't insist upon it. Huo Zijun was a doctor, so he knew how to take care of himself.

"Eat more."

After sitting down, Qiao Yanjue continued to offer Xia Xibei food.

Huo Zijun watched coldly from the side, his mouth moving but saying nothing.

Since Qiao Yanjue had already made his decision, he could only support him.

However, he still felt that Qiao Yanjue's attentive appearance was horrific.

Xia Xibei had no idea that so much had happened in the time they had been out, and she once again refused Qiao Yanjue's service.

“Don’t give me more food, I’m almost full.”

Seeing that Xia Xibei was almost done eating, Qiao Yanjue did not force her and began to eat himself.

He was fast. In just a few minutes, he had stopped eating as he was full.

Being led by him, Huo Zijun’s movements also sped up a lot.

Finally, they were finished eating, and Huo Zijun did not want to stay any longer.

He was afraid he would lose his composure if he stayed.

“Then I’ll go first. Little Xia, when you have news, contact me.”

After saying that, Huo Zijun took off in a hurry.

He had to go back and talk to others about this matter. He couldn’t be shocked by himself!

Qiao Yanjue’s expression did not change as he looked at Huo Zijun’s departing back.

He knew that Huo Zijun would definitely go back and talk to his other two best friends about this.

He didn't stop him either, because he was sure that they would have the right sense.

"Alright, let's go," Qiao Yanjue said.

"Ok," Xia Xibei nodded.

The two of them walked together to the garage. When they reached the car, they saw Uncle Chen standing in front of the car with a bitter face. He was even on the verge of tears when he saw them coming.

Xia Xibei was immediately concerned seeing such a pitiful look on an elder, asking, "What's wrong, Uncle Chen?"

"I'm sorry, Miss Xia!"

Uncle Chen immediately gave her a 90-degree bow, which scared her.

"What is it?"

Old Chen straightened up with an apologetic face, "I was careless just now and spilled food on those clothes of yours."

"What?" Xia Xibei's eyes widened. "Clothes?"

Uncle Chen nodded and took out a bag from behind him.

After opening it, the corners of Xia Xibei's mouth spasmed.

This was not a matter of spilling food on the clothes, but the clothes falling into a pile of food!

The previously red-colored uniform was covered with grease and various food stains; it was a complete mess!

"I'm sorry!" Uncle Chen exclaimed, ready to bow and apologize again.

"No, no, no!" Xia Xibei immediately reached out and pulled him up, comforting him. "It's okay, it's just clothes."

Chapter 311: Buy Another Set

Although Xia Xibei was curious about how exactly Uncle Chen had got these clothes like this, it was just an ordinary piece of clothing, and he apologized so sincerely, so she couldn't blame him.

"Miss Xia, I'm really sorry! I was so careless!" Uncle Chen was full of apologies, "How about this? I'll pay you back for a set of clothes!"

“No need,” Xia Xibei refused, “It’s okay.”

This set of clothes was at most 15 dollars. After all, when Tang Luo bought it before, he did not care too much.

“This won’t do!” Uncle Chen still insisted. “I ruined it, so I have to pay for it.”

“It’s really fine,” Xia Xibei still refused.

“I-”

“All right,” Qiao Yanjue interrupted their conversation, “No need to argue, just buy another one.” He had a righteous expression as he continued, “Isn’t it just a uniform? Buy another set.”

“Boss, I-”

Qiao Yanjue raised his hand to stop his words, “Alright. Since I’m your boss, listen to me.”

“This-”

Xia Xibei wanted to say something, but she was interrupted too.

“Uncle Chen is my employee. He did something wrong, so of course I should be responsible for it.” He had a serious face as he spoke, “Well, it’s not a big deal. Don’t make it so complicated.”

As he spoke, he took Xia Xibei to the car.

Xia Xibei was speechless for a moment and could only be led to the car.

“Uncle Chen, drive. Let’s go to a nearby mall.”

“Ok,” Uncle Chen nodded and breathed a sigh of relief.

Luckily, the mission was done! As for the uniform, it had just been thrown into the trash.

He wondered how long it would take to wash it after it was ruined by so much food.

Even if it was washed, it couldn’t be worn again.

In the car, Xia Xibei was once again puzzled, wondering how Uncle Chen had gotten involved with the uniform.

Obviously, the uniform was in the back seat! Even if he wanted to eat, he didn't have to eat in the back seat, did he?

However, she didn't have time to ask any more questions before Qiao Yanjue spoke up.

"Just the red jerseys? Do you need the other colors?"

Qiao Yanjue was a bit excited. He seemed to want to have a set of uniforms in every color for Xia Xibei.

"Just red is fine," Xia Xibei answered.

"But don't you have to keep playing? You might clash colors with others! It'd be better to buy all the colors." Qiao Yanjue had a serious look on his face as he voiced his thoughts.

"No need!" Xia Xibei immediately shook her head, "If we do have the same color, we will consider it as a team then."

With that said, when they reached the store, the situation was out of her control.

"This color is quite nice," Qiao Yanjue said while standing in front of a row of women's uniforms.

By the look on his face, you would think he was giving orders!

“Sir, you have great taste. This is our new style, and the colors are all very nice. As this young lady is so pretty and has a good figure, it would definitely look good on her!”

Just now, when Qiao Yanjue and Xia Xibei came in, the salespeople in the store were all shocked.

The guy was gorgeous! The girl was beautiful! What a stunning couple!

Moreover, from the two people’s clothing and temperament, it seemed that they were definitely rich!

The salespeople immediately perked up.

Ignoring the number of items they could sell, just being able to get close to these gorgeous people was enough to make them happy for the day.

Such beautiful men and women were not often seen in their stores.

“This color is great.”

Qiao Yanjue took a set of clothes, walked toward Xia Xibei, and gestured twice, his eyes instantly lighting up.

“It really looks good!”

The corners of Xia Xibei's mouth twitched, feeling that the scene was a bit fantastical.

Chapter 312: Buy Everything

Xia Xibei knew that the current Qiao Yanjue was different from the cold, aloof Master Jue she had known in her previous life. Moreover, she had gradually come to accept that Qiao Yanjue was different.

However, looking at Qiao Yanjue, who was holding clothes and gesturing in front of her, Xia Xibei still felt that she knew very little about him!

In her perception, even if Qiao Yanjue bought clothes for himself, he would only have them measured and delivered to his home.

Buying clothes outside like this could not have happened to him, let alone trying on clothes.

Did Qiao Yanjue get the wrong script?!

"This is a nice set, want to try it on?" Qiao Yanjue did not know that Xia Xibei was trolling him madly in her mind.

He looked at the peach-colored sportswear in his hand and was quite pleased. Xia Xibei's fair skin looked good in every color, and red looked even better on her.

“No need.” Xia Xibei pursed the corners of her mouth and tried to refuse.

“You don’t like this color?” Qiao Yanjue’s brow furrowed as if he’d encountered some dilemma and picked up another color. “What about this one?”

“The colors are fine, but-”

“You don’t like the style?”

“No, no, the style is also good. It’s-”

“But you don’t like trying on clothes?” Qiao Yanjue immediately responded.

Yes, trying on clothes could be quite troublesome.

Moreover, there had been so many people in the fitting room and all kinds of smells, it was really not too clean. Anyway, he would not try on clothes outside.

The corners of Xia Xibei’s mouth convulsed, and without waiting for her to speak, Qiao Yanjue nodded to show that he understood, “Well then, there’s no need to try them on.”

Xia Xibei breathed a sigh of relief, thinking that he was finally back to normal, but to her surprise, he turned his head to the salespeople waiting next to him and ordered, “Wrap all these up. One set of each color.”

The salespeople’s hearts jumped, and they immediately beamed with joy as they watched him point out almost all the new women’s styles.

They really were rich!

“Yes sir! We’ll prepare them in the lady’s size. Please wait a moment.”

After that, they quickly stepped forward and took the clothes off the racks.

“Wait, wait, wait!” Xia Xibei was dumbfounded and quickly shouted at them to stop, “Please stop! Brother Qiao! Why are you buying so many clothes?!”

She only came over today to buy a set of red basketball jerseys.

The key point—red basketball jerseys!

But what was happening now?

These clothes, in addition to basketball uniforms, soccer uniforms, tennis uniforms... Oh, and swimsuits!

Qiao Yanjue was very calm as he explained, "These clothes are good and really suit you. And it's better to have them ready for you to use than to buy them when you need them!"

He had to take care of all the possibilities!

If she had all the clothes ready, she wouldn't have to wear other boys' clothes.

Xia Xibei was shocked, speechless, and unable to react.

"Do you think I'm going to be an athlete?" And the all-around kind at that!

"Of course not! It's exhausting to be an athlete!" Qiao Yanjue shook his head, "But it's good to be prepared."

Who knew what competition she was going to enter afterwards? Of course they had to be prepared!

"Oh, do you need shoes?"

Looking at Qiao Yanjue's eyes light up, Xia Xibei suddenly became anxious, "No need! I have plenty of shoes!"

"Protective gear?"

“No!”

“Balls?”

“No!” Xia Xibei looked helpless. “Brother Qiao, what’s wrong with you today?”

Chapter 313: Buy, Buy, Buy

Xia Xibei did not understand what was going on with Qiao Yanjue today at all.

Qiao Yanjue paused in the face of Xia Xibei’s doubt.

What should he say about it? Should he tell her that he didn’t like it when she wore someone else’s clothes?

At that moment, several girls passed by the door, speaking in raised voices as they walked.

“I’m so mad! I’m so mad right now!”

“Chill, chill! Let’s go shopping!”

“Yes, let’s just buy, buy, and buy! Those scumbags can get lost now!”

“Sure! Let’s go on a buying spree!”

Watching as they left, an idea occurred to Qiao Yanjue.

“Haih,” he sighed, looking somewhat distressed.

“What’s wrong?” Xia Xibei got worried right away. “Did something happen?”

With Qiao Yanjue’s status, what could make him so upset?

“Nothing serious, just some discord at work.” Qiao Yanjue’s lips curled into an unnatural smile, “It’ll be alright in a few days, it’s just that I’m not in a good mood today.”

He didn’t elaborate on what had happened, so Xia Xibei didn’t question further.

She couldn’t help him with his work, after all.

“I heard people say that buying stuff could make you feel good, so I was thinking of giving it a try.”

The realization suddenly hit Xia Xibei. So that was what he was up to!

Some people could recover from bad moods by buying a bunch of stuff, especially women.

She just hadn't expected it to be Qiao Yanjue's way of relieving frustration too.

However...

"Then you should just buy things for yourself. Why are you buying things for me?"

Who didn't come shopping for themselves? Was he buying things for others because he had so much money that it bothered him?

"I have everything I want and need," Qiao Yanjue explained with an innocent look, "And I found out that buying things for others feels great indeed."

Xia Xibei was speechless.

She took back what she just said.

Qiao Yanjue was rich indeed, and he was bothered by the fact that he had a lot of money.

That was a whole level that she wasn't able to reach just yet.

"You can buy for Sister Hong then."

"She doesn't let me buy her stuff." Qiao Yanjue shrugged, looking completely innocent. "I remember buying things for her before, but she asked me not to do so again. She said it deprived her of all the fun in shopping."

Xia Xibei's lips twitched. It really did sound like something that Sister Hong would say.

She had loads of money and free time at hand, so it was normal for her to kill time by shopping and spending money.

"How about Brother Huo?"

"Count him out," Qiao Yanjue snorted scornfully. "He despises me for buying him stuff for no reason; I don't have time for such fruitless efforts again."

Xia Xibei was speechless. What he said sounded reasonable though! Besides, Qiao Yanjue seemed totally sincere.

"Can't you just give me the chance?"

Xia Xibei was rather hesitant. She had accepted lots of benefits from Qiao Yanjue already, it didn't seem like a good idea to take more advantage of him.

"Alright, enough hesitation, just give me the chance!" Qiao Yanjue suggested, "If you feel bad for taking things from me, you can buy me stuff too!"

Xia Xibei was shocked. What kind of logic was that?

After stating his reasons, Qiao Yanjue turned to talk to the saleswomen not far away, "Alright, please wrap those up for me!"

The saleswomen blushed upon seeing the gentle smile on his face.

Goodness, he was so handsome! And the way he smiled when he talked to the girl beside him was so cute!

Jeez, why couldn't they ever come across a man like him, who was handsome and rich and treated his girlfriend well too?

This time, Xia Xibei did not stop Qiao Yanjue.

However, she couldn't help but fall silent upon seeing the numerous bags filled with clothes.

After getting into the car, she finally spoke up.

“How about you let me give you a massage!”

Screech!

Chapter 314: Give You a Massage

“Sorry! I’m so sorry!”

Old Chen was so startled by what Xia Xibei said that he stepped on the brake all of a sudden.

Fortunately, they were still in the parking lot and there weren’t any other cars in sight. Otherwise, just imagine what could have happened with that sudden braking!

“Be careful!” Qiao Yanjue bellowed with an icy look on his face. Then he turned to look at Xia Xibei and asked in a rather stern voice, “What did you just say?”

Xia Xibei was frightened by their reaction, thinking that she must have said something that she shouldn’t have.

“I just thought that you didn’t look so good, so perhaps I could help you relax with a head massage.”

“Head massage?” Qiao Yanjue repeated with a frown.

“Yes,” Xia Xibei nodded. “My skills are not bad.”

However, when she saw the look of disapproval that Qiao Yanjue was wearing, she added, “Of course, if you don’t like it, then just forget it.”

“No way!” Qiao Yanjue’s face was grim. “How can I just forget it?”

He pinched his thigh and softened his tone of voice when he saw Xia Xibei’s confused little face, “I can’t just turn down your kindness like that, can I?”

Xia Xibei was quiet, thinking in her head, ‘I don’t mind if you turn it down though!’

Qiao Yanjue flashed her a small smile, “I trust your skills, and I also happen to feel a little unwell these few days.”

“Don’t worry, I’ll give you a massage when we get home!” Xia Xibei said right away.

She was relieved that Qiao Yanjue agreed upon it.

This was a decision that she made after careful contemplation.

She had to repay his kindness, for Qiao Yanjue had always been nothing but good to her.

In terms of material wealth, she didn't have anything that Qiao Yanjue didn't already own. Therefore, she had to consider other aspects.

She happened to notice the dark circles under Qiao Yanjue's eyes and thought of how he said he didn't feel quite well these few days, so she decided to give him a massage.

She believed that his sleep quality would improve a lot after the massage.

It seemed like they could even develop medicines that would help with sleep!

After stepping on the accelerator, Old Chen dared not let his mind wander again, neither did he listen in on the conversation going on in the passenger seats. He was completely focused on driving now.

The two of them got out of the car upon arriving at their area.

"Let me get those." Qiao Yanjue took over the huge bags, and told Xia Xibei with a smile, "I'm really feeling better after spending some money."

Xia Xibei nodded, "It's good that you've found a suitable way to relieve stress indeed."

Qiao Yanjue said nothing, simply continuing to smile.

Very soon, Xia Xibei went to Qiao Yanjue's home after putting down her things.

The layout of the two houses was the same, and the designs were similar as well. Apart from some minor differences, the other aspects looked alike.

"What should I do? Should I wash my hair first?"

Qiao Yanjue was behaving normally apart from the slight redness at the tips of his ears, which gave him away.

Xia Xibei laughed, "No need for that."

But then another thought occurred to her, "But it's kinda late already, I think it'll be better if you take a shower first. It'll be nice to go to bed right after the massage."

One would be relaxed after massage, and sleepiness would strike.

"Alright then," Qiao Yanjue nodded, "Make yourself at home first. I'll be ready in a minute."

Xia Xibei nodded, and took the TV remote. "Go, I'll watch TV first."

Qiao Yanjue felt even more delighted as he saw how casual and relaxed Xia Xibei was in his house.

However, he soon scowled. For a girl to visit a man's home by herself, wouldn't it be disastrous if the man had ill intentions?

But then he thought about it again. Xia Xibei wasn't a damsel in distress who didn't have the strength to fight back, so no one could actually inflict harm upon her.

Most importantly, of course—he would never leave her alone with another man!

Chapter 315: Nie Zehai's New Drama Started Airing

There was no way Xia Xibei was a fool, so how would she just let herself be in danger without doing anything?

As far as she could tell, Qiao Yanjue posed no threat to her.

Besides, if Qiao Yanjue really dared to do anything to her... Haha! It was hard to tell who would suffer most in the end.

So when Qiao Yanjue went to take a shower, she took the remote and turned on the TV in a casual manner.

She stopped changing channels when she got to a particular one.

It was Pomelo TV. The national coverage and ratings of this channel were pretty great, with both the variety shows and the dramas that it aired being fairly popular.

Sure enough, all the big channels nowadays had their own trump cards. Dramas and variety shows were burgeoning like flowers in spring, and it wasn't easy to gain fame.

"Legend of Qinghe," which was airing at the moment, was one that Nie Zehai had starred in. The second male lead that Nie Zehai played in it happened to be the reason he became popular.

"Legend of Qinghe" was a historical drama, based upon the story of a girl named Qinghe.

Qinghe was the real princess who had been swapped with a fake one, and she was only found after becoming an adult.

Even after her return, however, her life wasn't quite smooth sailing because of what she had been through.

Having grown up in the rural areas, she seemed like a boorish, uneducated, ignorant peasant to others.

However, she was bright, energetic, and compassionate in nature, and there was a fresh air of vitality about her that the big urban house never had.

She grew up fighting and bickering with the cocky male lead, helping and complementing each other along the way.

They pulled through all sorts of hardships and hurdles until they finally became mature, getting together in the end.

Meanwhile, the second male lead of the story, Qi Chen, who was played by Nie Zehai, had also been of great help to her.

That was also how Qi Chen became a male character who was adored by many. Lots of viewers spoke up for him due to the unfair treatment that he received in the drama.

Why couldn't the female lead ever see him, despite how handsome and gentle and amazing he was? Why would she even fall for the annoying, domineering, and unreasonable male lead?

Xia Xibei watched the drama quietly for a while, finally understanding the cause of the audience's displeasure.

The actor who played the male lead was the idol Xu Hening, who became super popular last year. He was a young, handsome celebrity with a large number of fans.

This drama could be said to have been filmed because of him, as he had a strong fan base.

If it turned out good, it would take his career to a new height.

However, it was a huge pity that despite his popularity, his acting was bad!

Furthermore, he had always been on the rush for job after job ever since he became famous, leaving him with no time to hone his acting skills.

It was especially obvious when he appeared in the same scene as Nie Zehai, who always went the extra mile to improve his acting and treated his work seriously. Anyone could see the stark contrast between their acting skills.

His character should have been a cocky but adorable cutie who didn't know how to express his feelings, but the way he portrayed him made the character seem like a mean person with a vicious mouth and a terrible attitude.

Moreover, his facial expressions were exaggerated too. He opened his eyes wide most of the time and frowned unnecessarily, as though there was no other way to bring out the character's domineering and cocky nature.

Now take a look at Nie Zehai, and see how he expressed affection and fortitude. His character never begged requital for his love, and he had no regrets nor grudges...

It was all clear and obvious in every little expression that he made and the look in his eyes.

The disparity between their acting was insane when the two of them stood next to each other!

The female lead acted fairly well, although she put in a little too much effort at times. Nie Zehai, however, always looked at her with an affectionate smile in his eyes, which made people swoon at first sight.

Therefore, it wasn't unexpected that Xu Hening got critiqued terribly and Nie Zehai became popular overnight.

It was just the way in which things would unfold next that was rather unexpected.

As she thought of what happened to Nie Zehai in her past life, Xia Xibei gazed at the floor in silence, a solemn look in her eyes.

"I'm done showering," Qiao Yanjue said from behind her.

Xia Xibei turned around to look and couldn't help but be taken aback.

Chapter 316: Quite a Good Big Brother

Qiao Yanjue was wearing a casual set of pajamas, which was neither skin-tight nor revealing, but his broad-shouldered, long-legged, impressive body shape simply couldn't be hidden.

His hair was damp, and his slightly long fringe was loose in front of his forehead. His cheeks were somewhat rosy from the steam, which made him look a few years younger, like a supple, innocent youth.

Xia Xibei raised her brows.

She had always known that Qiao Yanjue was good-looking, but this was the very first time she saw this young, harmless side to Qiao Yanjue. It felt kind of special.

Qiao Yanjue walked up to her, and smiled, "I'm done showering."

Looking at his wet hair, Xia Xibei shook her head, "Wipe your hair dry first."

"Sure," Qiao Yanjue nodded, going to get himself a towel.

Xia Xibei's focus was returned to the TV once again.

"Is this show good?" Qiao Yanjue asked while wiping his hair.

He could tell that this was the kind of drama that targeted little girls. Was she really interested in dramas like that?

"It's alright."

"These two are the main leads? It looks like... There's a huge gap between their acting skills."

Xia Xibei laughed.

The scene happened to be showing the parts between Qi Chen and Qinghe, and the contrast was striking indeed.

“It’s the female lead and the second male lead,” Xia Xibei explained, “Oh, by the way, this is the guy who got me the chance to audition before. He’s Nie Zehai.”

Qiao Yanjue, in the middle of wiping his hair, went abruptly still and the look in his eyes turned somewhat dangerous.

“He’s the one?”

“Yea.” Xia Xibei didn’t seem to notice his reaction, continuing to talk with a smile, “He’s Yu Ziqi’s cousin; he’s quite a great guy.”

Quite a great guy...

Qiao Yanjue’s face turned even darker.

As he saw how Xia Xibei’s eyes were glued on Nie Zehai, Qiao Yanjue gasped out of nowhere, “Ahh!”

Xia Xibei turned around to check on him instantly, "What's wrong?"

Qiao Yanjue scowled and clutched at his chest with a hand, informing her, "It suddenly hurt just now."

"Hurt?"

Xia Xibei leaned towards him right away and grabbed his wrist.

However, her frown loosened after checking his pulse. "There's nothing wrong with you though."

Qiao Yanjue laughed, "Perhaps it's just some fleeting discomfort. It shouldn't be a problem." Then he quickly wiped his hair dry, and said, "We can start now."

"Alright."

"How about turning off the TV first?" he suggested in a serious manner.

"Sure," Xia Xibei said, not minding at all.

This was Qiao Yanjue's house, he definitely called the shots.

Besides, one should concentrate during a massage, and not be distracted by all these noises.

Qiao Yanjue heaved a sigh of relief after the TV was turned off, and Nie Zehai's face could no longer be seen.

"You should lie down. It's more comfortable that way," Xia Xibei suggested.

Qiao Yanjue nodded, and obediently layed down on the sofa.

Xia Xibei then placed her hands on his head. Starting from the temples, her hands traveled along the plexuses of the head towards the top of his head.

Qiao Yanjue had been having some other thoughts at the beginning, but as Xia Xibei began massaging, all those thoughts disappeared from his mind.

The force she applied was just right, and she was precise in identifying the plexuses. As she carried on, he felt as if all his stress had vanished and he could relax his body completely.

Xia Xibei's hands traveled back and forth in Qiao Yanjue's freshly washed hair, and all she could smell was the light fragrance of his shampoo.

She felt like swooning a little bit. She had never pictured a scene as cozy and harmonious as this before.

A good ten minutes later, she withdrew her hands.

“Brother Qiao, it’s done.”

However, Qiao Yanjue was fast asleep.

“Brother Qiao?”

Although she didn’t want to wake him up, it wasn’t quite appropriate for him to be sleeping here.

She reached out her hand to tug at his arm, but a pulling force assaulted her the next second, and she couldn’t help but fall forward.

Chapter 317: Dream or Reality

Xia Xibei just wanted to wake Qiao Yanjue up and send him back to his room rather than let him sleep uncomfortably here.

But to her surprise, she was suddenly grabbed by Qiao Yanjue’s wrist and yanked into his arms.

This series of actions flustered her.

When she came back to her senses, she realized that she was being held tightly by Qiao Yanjue!

“Brother Qiao?!”

She looked up in shock, then met Qiao Yanjue’s half-asleep eyes.

Qiao Yanjue’s eyes were a little out of focus. He blinked blankly, still wondering if the situation in front of him was real or a dream.

“Let go of me!” Xia Xibei struggled in his arms.

But the next moment, the strength in Qiao Yanjue’s hands increased, once again forcing her into his arms and rubbing her on the neck, before closing his eyes and revealing an unconscious smile.

The motion made it seem as if he was caressing a doll.

Xia Xibei blushed and decisively pinched his waist.

“Ow!” Qiao Yanjue yelled, finally letting her go.

Xia Xibei broke out of his arms and stood up.

Qiao Yanjue opened his eyes and the blinding light made him squint, a bit puzzled as he asked, "What's wrong?"

Looking at his innocent expression, the blushing Xia Xibei couldn't get angry with him in spite of herself.

And she realized Qiao Yanjue really didn't mean to do it!

"You were falling asleep earlier, so I wanted to wake you up."

"I was asleep?" Qiao Yanjue sat up and shook his head, a little surprised at the sensation. "It's really comfortable. No wonder I slept through it."

"Comfortable is good." Xia Xibei's expression was subtle as she huffed and said, "Then go back to your place and rest. I have to go back and rest too."

"Good." Qiao Yanjue didn't hold her back. "It's late, you should go back and rest. Good night."

"Ok. Good night."

Qiao Yanjue saw Xia Xibei out and closed the door before his previously innocent expression began to change.

When he pulled Xia Xibei into his arms, it really was not on purpose; he did not want to take advantage of her like that.

In fact, it took him a little while to fully wake-up when he slept, so when he was woken up just now, he was still a little disoriented and confused, simply pulling Xia Xibei over.

He really thought he was dreaming! What didn't he dare to do in a dream?

He came to his senses afterwards, when he was pinched by Xia Xibei.

But after waking up, he found the scene very awkward.

If he admitted what he had just done, the two of them would have been even more embarrassed!

Yesterday's incident was not completely over, and if it happened again today, Xia Xibei would stay far, far away from him, right?

He didn't want to fail before he began, rejected and pushed away.

So he made a quick decision and pretended that he didn't know anything, muddling through it.

Luckily, he was a good actor and Xia Xibei didn't suspect him.

Qiao Yanjue patted himself on the head, telling himself to stop being stupid next time.

Xia Xibei was still young. He couldn't be a monster!

Meanwhile, back at home, Xia Xibei didn't think too much into it.

She knew that Qiao Yanjue must have been dreaming, to do such a thing. Otherwise, there was no need for him to act in such a way.

This situation was a bit awkward, but since one party was unaware of it, there was no need for the other party to hold a grudge.

As a result, Xia Xibei quickly put these matters aside.

After taking a shower, she turned on her computer and logged into Penguin, a message soon popping up.

A message from "Million Dollar Wisdom and Courage"?

Chapter 318: Top School Beauty

It'd been more than a month since the first round of "Million Dollar Wisdom and Courage."

If she hadn't seen this message, Xia Xibei would have almost forgotten about it.

She clicked on the message, noting that it said the second round would take place in two days and that it would be done online.

If she passed this round, she would be able to go to the TV station for the next round.

Xia Xibei quirked her brow at the notification, then closed the message.

For her, two days was a lot of time.

Before this, she had already spent a lot of time learning about various subjects. Even if she started the competition now, it would not be difficult.

Then, she routinely clicked on the microblog to see what had happened today.

First, she checked the hot searches. One search item was trending, which startled her.

Cheerleading goddess. Top school beauty.

These keywords caught Xia Xibei's attention, so she clicked on it.

Looking at the photo on the page, Xia Xibei froze for a moment, then showed an "of course it is" smile.

The photo showed Xia Qinghan.

She wore a beautiful and youthful cheerleading outfit, cheering with pom poms that were held in her long, slender limbs, showing a bright smile.

The blog poster said, "I went to a basketball game today, but I didn't expect to find a beautiful girl! Isn't she the most beautiful school beauty?"

The comments which followed were also equally effusive.

"So gorgeous! Really a top school beauty!"

"Her body, her face! So jealous!"

"It would be awesome if I had this kind of classmate!"

"The contrast between her and everyone around her is heartbreaking!"

"We're all human, so why are we so different?! (crying emoji)"

"Now this is a top school beauty! She could be an actor with these kinds of looks!"

“Isn’t this Qing Ye High School? The national-level top school in G City. What the- She’s also good at school?!”

“Beautiful face, good figure, and a top scholar! How are we ordinary people supposed to live?”

...

Everything posted below was compliments.

Plus reposts, comments, likes... There were at least 10 thousand reactions.

Of course, if you paid attention, you’d notice that some of these reposting accounts were zombie accounts.

Although this hot search ranked after the top 30 and was far below celebrity items, for a regular person, these numbers were very good.

And this was only the beginning. More tactics would follow.

If she was made famous too fast, it would be seen as a PR stunt and attract lots of criticism.

Xia Qinghan still had to work in the entertainment industry, so of course she had to move very steadily.

Looking at the comments below, Xia Xibei showed a smile.

Xia Qinghan wouldn't admit defeat so easily. However, just because she had an idea didn't mean it would really come true!

Thinking about it, Xia Xibei smiled, but her gaze was deep and the smile did not reach her eyes.

She returned to the page for hot searches.

Then she saw the hot search for "Legend of Qinghe."

If the female MC doesn't want Qi Chen, I want him!

She had to chuckle once she clicked on the search term.

There were a lot of Qi Chen gifs here, every smile and move of his was showcased, gaining a passionate following.

"My Qi Chen! Is the heroine blind? Why do you want to hurt my love Qi Chen like this? Let go of Qi Chen! Let me have him!"

“Look at his eyes! Look at his passion! It’s amazing! I’m drowning in Qi Chen’s eyes!”

“Let go of Qi Chen, I want him!”

This search term was still gaining popularity.

Xia Xibei knew that Nie Zehai was going to be famous.

Chapter 319: The Tortoise and the Hare

The next morning, Xia Xibei had just arrived at school when Song Jiaren rushed over.

“I saw Xia Qinghan online yesterday!” Song Jiaren’s grim face showed contempt as she complained, “She is being called the most beautiful school beauty! Please! What a joke!”

Yesterday she also saw that post on her home page, almost dying of anger.

Top school beauty? How dare she?!

“She must be doing a PR stunt!” Song Jiaren said indignantly. “You were much more amazing than her yesterday!”

Xia Qinghan was just a cheerleader, so how could she be better than Xia Xibei? She had conquered fifth class on her own! No one could ignore Xia Xibei, not unless they were blind.

“Of course it’s a PR campaign,” Xia Xibei nodded, “But it’s her choice.”

Song Jiaren’s eyes widened, “How can you not care?!” She was about to die of anger. “If she’s the most beautiful school beauty, then what about you?”

“Me? I’m prettier than her,” Xia Xibei said with a simple shrug of her shoulders.

“But- When the time comes, she’ll be more popular than you!” Song Jiaren almost lost her temper with Xia Xibei.

How could she be so calm?! She was super upset watching Xia Qinghan’s popularity grow.

“All right,” Xia Xibei patted her shoulder and reassured her. “Have you heard about the tortoise and the hare?”

Song Jiaren froze for a moment, “The tortoise and the hare?”

“The hare ran faster than the tortoise, but fell asleep in the middle, so the tortoise won in the end.”

“You don’t need to explain it to me, I understand,” Song Jiaren glowered. Her grades might not be as good as theirs, but they weren’t so bad that she hadn’t heard of all this.

“Xia Qinghan may be a tortoise, but I’m definitely not the sleeping hare,” Xia Xibei explained with a smile. “You don’t have to worry; I have my own plans.”

Although Song Jiaren didn’t know what Xia Xibei had planned, Xia Xibei’s calmness and composure also calmed her down.

“All right then.” She exhaled, “I’ll do as you say.”

When she saw the hot search about Xia Qinghan last night, she almost threw up in disgust.

She wanted to put Xia Xibei’s picture up so she could tell those people online who the real most beautiful school beauty was, but she resisted in the end.

She knew that if she took the liberty to put the photo up, Xia Xibei would not be happy. Now, it seemed that Xia Xibei did indeed have plans of her own.

“Well, class is starting,” Xia Xibei said, “We also have a game this afternoon.”

They had just won one game yesterday, but there were more games coming up.

“Good,” Song Jiaren nodded, getting excited again. “I have the horn for cheering this time, don’t worry!”

The corners of Xia Xibei's mouth twitched, "Horn?"

"Yeah!" Song Jiaren nodded her head forcefully, very excited. "I even picked the loudest speaker! I promise you that it will definitely motivate the whole audience!"

Xia Xibei's expression was mixed.

"Do we need to be so over the top?" she asked.

Besides, Song Jiaren's voice was loud enough. Did they really need a speaker?

And...

"Today we are playing against your class, the eighth class, right?"

Song Jiaren was startled for a moment, "Competing with my class?"

"Yeah."

Song Jiaren blinked, then finally made a decision, "It's okay. No matter which class you compete against, I'm cheering for you!"

Xia Xibei was left speechless. Her class would disown Song Jiaren right?

When the afternoon game came, Xia Xibei found that Song Jiaren had really joined the crowd for the third class.

But the eighth class had Xia Qinghan and several others.

In addition, there was a girl who was not a stranger to her either.

Chapter 320: Illegitimate Son

When she saw Xia Qinghan, Xia Xibei froze for a moment, not expecting her to come and watch the game.

The game was between the third class and eighth class, and Xia Qinghan had come over from the fifth class, which was really puzzling. Did she like watching basketball games that much?

Of course, what puzzled Xia Xibei even more was the girl next to Xia Qinghan.

She had seen this girl before, the same girl who had met with Xia Qinghan last time.

Thinking of this, Xia Xibei turned her head to look at Tang Luo, who was next to her.

As expected, Tang Luo's face was expressionless, and his eyes were deep.

Tang Luo also did not think that Zhang Yiqi, who was studying in another school, would show up here.

Looking at Zhang Yiqi's familiar yet unfamiliar face, his previously good mood instantly deteriorated.

"What do we do?" Xia Xibei asked him.

"What do you mean?" Tang Luo asked in confusion.

"Are you okay?" Xia Xibei was a little worried.

"What could be wrong with me?" Tang Luo smiled. "I'm fine."

Xia Xibei looked him over and found that there was indeed nothing wrong with him, so she breathed a sigh of relief. "That's good. If there's any problem, remember to tell me. Sis will help you."

"Whose sister are you?" Tang Luo rolled his eyes at her in irritation, "Play your game, and don't mess up!"

“Mess up?” Xia Xibei snorted, her tone full of pride, “I’ll show you my strength!”

She also arrogantly rubbed her thumb across her nose and said to the others, “All right, let’s get started!”

“Ok, Sister Bei!”

“Let them see our Sister Bei’s strength!”

Everyone aggressively walked toward the center of the court, the team of five looking like a military formation. Tang Luo could not help but smile as he shook his head.

He could see that Xia Xibei was reassuring him.

However, he didn’t really need to be comforted. Being comforted or being sad would not change anything.

He would live a better life than they could imagine and make them regret it all!

Across the bleachers, Xia Qinghan looked at Xia Xibei in the center of the court, her expression not very pleasant.

“You are talking about this girl?” Zhang Yiqi looked at Xia Xibei below, her expression also a bit grave. She really was a strong enemy.

“Right.” Xia Qinghan nodded and whispered, “I feel as if the two of us have a grudge. Every time we meet, we clash!”

The most annoying thing was that she was the one who got defeated each time.

However, this was something she could not say to others, even if Zhang Yiqi was her good friend.

“You’ve been losing?”

However, Zhang Yiqi instantly guessed what she was trying to hide.

Xia Qinghan’s face instantly darkened.

“Do you want me to get someone to teach her a lesson?” Zhang Yiqi looked at Xia Xibei with an unkind look, then turned to Tang Luo in the audience.

When talking about the lesson, her tone was a bit creepy, not making it clear if it was directed at Xia Xibei or Tang Luo.

Xia Qinghan astutely noticed the difference and followed her gaze. “What’s wrong?” she asked.

Zhang Yiqi sneered, "I see the bitch."

"Huh?" Xia Qinghan was puzzled, "What do you mean? What is he to you?"

"Him? An illegitimate son who can't be seen!" Zhang Yiqi's eyes narrowed slightly, her expression hard.

"Illegitimate son?!" Xia Qinghan shrieked.

Fortunately, the attention of the surrounding crowd was focused on the players on the court, and not many people noticed her reaction.

Xia Qinghan hurriedly covered her mouth and lowered her voice, "Tang Luo is your father's illegitimate son?"

Zhang Yiqi snickered, "What else?"

She didn't have time to be hostile to someone else's illegitimate children.

Xia Qinghan was stunned. She didn't think there was such a relationship here!