

Chapter 321: Tang Luo's Story

“Illegitimate son?!”

Xia Xibei was surprised and looked at Tang Luo incredulously, almost spitting out the drink in her mouth.

“Yes, I’m a ‘bastard.’” Tang Luo had a sarcastic smile on the corner of his mouth.

He found that after talking about it, he felt better all of a sudden. So he really did need to talk about it...

Xia Xibei was full of questions, asking, “What is going on here?”

At this point, the basketball game between the two classes had been finished.

Although the boys in the eighth class were a little stronger, they were not good enough for Xia Xibei, and ended up with a score of 47:30.

Everyone was amazed by Xia Xibei’s strength and impressed by her stamina—what kind of freak was she?!

It could have been an accident before, but repeated, no one would dare to think so.

She could be on the national women's team with her strength!

She wasn't very tall, but she had enough power!

The other players in the third class were elated. Sister Bei was amazing! With Sister Bei leading them, they could beat any class!

After the game, the crowd all dispersed, either excited, disappointed, or sad.

Xia Xibei had wanted to find an opportunity to probe the relationship between Tang Luo and the girl, but to her surprise, Tang Luo was even more frank than she thought, telling her directly.

"My mother's name is Tang Zhen. She was an orphan. When she was in college, she met and got together with Zhang Kaiwei—my biological father."

Tang Luo's tone was calm, as if these things could no longer stir any emotions in his heart.

Tang Zhen and Zhang Kaiwei met when they were in college, living together for years afterwards.

However, Cinderella and the prince's happy ending did not happen to them.

Three years after graduating from college, Tang Zhen found out she was pregnant and wanted to get married.

But at this time, she found out that Zhang Kaiwei had already married a rich young lady, arranged for him by his family. The young lady was already pregnant, and their baby was about to be born!

In other words, Zhang Kaiwei had lied to her, and she had somehow become a mistress!

“How ridiculous! She and Zhang Kaiwei had been together for several years, yet she was suddenly the mistress!” The sarcasm at the corner of Tang Luo’s mouth deepened as he continued, “She didn’t realize that when Zhang Kaiwei said he was on a business trip, he had actually gone home to get married!”

At this part of the story, Xia Xibei felt disgusted. Zhang Kaiwei was such a creep!

“It was more than 10 years ago, so the internet was not developed, and the two provinces were far away. My mother did not know what Zhang Kaiwei had done until she was approached by his wife; only then did she know that she had become a mistress!”

Tang Luo’s face was expressionless, but his eyes were dark and cold.

“Then what happened?” asked Xia Xibei.

“After that, she left. Originally, she wanted to have an abortion, but her health did not allow it, so she gave birth to me.” Tang Luo continued, “Because of these things, she became depressed, and she was working very hard too. When I was 15 years old, she died from cancer.”

When he said this, Tang Luo's face did not show too much grief, but rather some numbness.

"She found her old friends—that is, Brother Bonan's parents—and entrusted me to them."

Tang Zhen met Mo Bonan's parents in college. She saved the two seniors during a trip in her freshman year.

It was a life-saving favor.

Therefore, after Tang Luo was entrusted to the Mo family, the two treated him very well, even better than their own son.

Hearing Tang Luo tell his story in a flat tone, Xia Xibei couldn't help but hug him in an effort to give him comfort.

Tang Luo did not push her away and continued talking in this position.

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Author's Note: Chapters 321-331 are about Tang Luo. You can skip them if you do not want to read about him.

Chapter 322: Joint Revenge

Initially, Tang Luo did not want to reveal these things. After all, he may not get help, and it could lead to more trouble.

However, after spending some time with the changed Xia Xibei, he found her to be stronger and more reliable than he had imagined.

Today, after seeing Zhang Yiqi again, he knew that he had to make a decision.

He either had to come clean with Xia Xibei or stay away from her and the rest of his friends.

Otherwise, they would get hurt.

But it was the first time in so many years that he met such a good friend. How could he let her go and force her to stay away?

Deep in his heart, he was also hoping that Xia Xibei would not let him down.

Of course, if Xia Xibei's reaction disappointed him, then it wouldn't be a bad thing to stay away and go his own way.

Fortunately, Xia Xibei's reaction did not disappoint him.

“The girl with Xia Qinghan is named Zhang Yiqi. She is Zhang Kaiwei’s eldest daughter. She’s a few months older than me and a senior at Meihua High School.”

Meihua High School, like Qing Ye High School, was a well-known key high school in G City with a similarly high promotion rate.

“Zhang Yiqi looks ladylike and gentle, but in fact, she is brutal and willful, acts vicious, and likes to use underhanded tricks very frequently.”

Because Zhang Yiqi liked to use vicious methods, Tang Luo was scared that Xia Xibei and the others would get hurt. He had to tell them what happened and remind them to be careful.

Xia Xibei let go of Tang Luo. Looking at his serious expression, she could not help but wonder: how much Tang Luo had suffered?

At this time in her previous life, Xia Xibei herself was living a pretty miserable life and had no time or energy to pay attention to other people’s affairs, so she did not know what Zhang Yiqi did to Tang Luo.

But one thing was for sure—Zhang Yiqi was not a decent person.

“In fact, it’s not only Zhang Yiqi that acts like this. The rest of the Zhang family are the same way,” Tang Luo said seriously. “They may deploy a lot of tricks, so you must be careful! You can remind Jiajia and others later.”

“Don’t worry, I’ll be careful,” Xia Xibei nodded, then grunted, “Of course those who play so well with Xia Qinghan are no good.”

Xia Qinghan looked gentle, but in fact, she was very vicious on the inside. If one was not careful, one would be bitten.

“Don’t worry, Sis will avenge you!”

“No need,” Tang Luo shook his head, “I can do it on my own.”

He could avenge himself without bothering others.

“Don’t be silly! Since our enemies are in the same gang, we should join hands to fight them!” Xia Xibei patted his shoulder, raising her eyebrows. “Why do you want to fight alone?”

Tang Luo froze for a moment, then smiled. “Yes, you’re right!”

If their enemies could fight together, why couldn’t they?

Wasn’t it silly to scatter forces to deal with the opponent?

After Tang Luo shared these secrets, he felt totally relaxed. Sure enough, it felt good to have someone to share secrets with!

“If you have any more secrets, you can tell me too.” Xia Xibei smiled at him mysteriously, “Don’t worry, I will definitely keep them safe.”

These words made Tang Luo freeze for a moment, jerking his head up to look at her, his eyes shocked.

“Ha, ha, ha! Don’t be nervous!” Xia Xibei laughed. “I was just kidding.”

Tang Luo relaxed his tense body once again and shook his head helplessly.

However, the two of them smiled at each other, everything unspoken.

Chapter 323: The Encounter

Xia Xibei knew what to do after hearing Tang Luo’s story.

After talking, the two of them finished their meal and got up to leave.

Just as they reached the entrance of the restaurant, the two of them stopped in their tracks.

A few people came from the other side, attracting everyone’s attention.

The man in the lead was tall, handsome, and had a powerful aura.

He was accompanied by a young woman who was very close to him, a shy smile on her pretty face.

However, she didn't dare to get too close, lest the man be displeased.

The man was handsome, and the woman was beautiful, making them very eye-catching. Even if the relationship between them did not look too intimate, it still made people wonder.

In addition to these two, there was another young man and two middle-aged men.

The young man had good features, slightly shorter but also handsome. However, his slightly sycophantic smile made him much less handsome.

The other two middle-aged men were likely executives of some company. Both had the same ingratiating look for the tall man in the middle.

Tang Luo's face instantly fell upon seeing this group of people.

Xia Xibei looked over there and then at Tang Luo, instinctively holding his hand and giving him comfort.

She didn't expect that they would see Zhang Yiqi right after talking about her. It was really a coincidence!

Of course, the bigger coincidence was that Mo Bonan was here too.

Needless to say, they could all see what Zhang Yiqi was thinking about Mo Bonan.

Xia Xibei understood it now. No wonder Zhang Yiqi left halfway through the game; she left for Mo Bonan.

Tang Luo looked at them indifferently, various thoughts churning through his mind.

Still, he pulled Xia Xibei backwards.

No need to confront them.

Xia Xibei nodded and stepped back with him.

It was just that the two of them already stood out with their superb looks. When they moved, the eyes of the people around them followed them.

Then, Mo Bonan and his group also looked over.

After meeting Mo Bonan's eyes, Tang Luo immediately lowered his eyes and avoided his gaze.

Mo Bonan froze for a moment, and when he saw Tang Luo and Xia Xibei holding hands, a nameless fire flared up in his heart.

He said he was playing basketball at school, but he was actually on a date!

Were all kids these days so rebellious?

He marched over, exuding a powerful aura.

When Zhang Yiqi saw Tang Luo from the back, her expression suddenly changed, and her face appeared ugly.

Looking at Mo Bonan's movements, she couldn't help but bite her lip, her eyes flashing with a hint of resentment.

"Why are you guys here?" Mo Bonan walked up to the two of them, his tall figure adding a heart-stopping pressure.

"For dinner," Tang Luo said, lowering his eyes and not meeting his gaze.

"Dinner?" Mo Bonan's voice was even colder, his eyes lingering on their clasped hands. "Are you sure?"

"Or what?"

A resentment welled up in Tang Luo's heart, and all the hatred and resentment present almost exploded at this moment.

However, he held back and held Xia Xibei's hand forcefully.

Sensing his change of mood, Xia Xibei's eyes flashed and her hand also gripped his cold hand with extreme force.

Looking at such intimate actions coming from the beautiful teenage couple in front of him, Mo Bonan's face suddenly sank.

They were treating him like he didn't exist! They hadn't even let go of their hands!

"When you said you were going to try to get into college, is this what you meant?" His eyes narrowed slightly as he stared at the two sarcastically.

"I will work hard."

Tang Luo's expression was indifferent.

His cold expression almost made Mo Bonan, who had always been emotionally stable, explode.

"Brother Mo, these two are...?" Zhang Yiqi's voice rang out at just the right time.

Chapter 324: Fighting Over Tang Luo

Zhang Yiqi walked next to Mo Bonan, a smile on her face.

“Brother Mo, these two are...?”

She acted like she didn’t know the two of them and posed as if she was familiar with Mo Bonan. Tang Luo and Xia Xibei couldn’t help but chuckle to themselves.

Before Tang Luo and Mo Bonan could say anything, Xia Xibei laughed.

“Brother Mo, this is your girlfriend, right? You two are a really good-looking couple!”

These words shocked the people across from them.

Zhang Yiqi blushed, shyly peeking at Mo Bonan, and had a much better impression of Xia Xibei.

She didn’t expect Xia Xibei to say such a thing, but it spoke to her heart.

Mo Bonan’s face dimmed.

His girlfriend?!

“You’re mistaken, she’s not my girlfriend.”

He didn’t take it easy on Zhang Yiqi, outright denying the relationship.

Zhang Yiqi’s face suddenly turned white. She was ashamed now, a sudden change from the earlier shyness and joy.

She did not expect Mo Bonan to deny the relationship between them so bluntly.

Looking at Zhang Yiqi’s miserable pale face and hurt expression, Xia Xibei and Tang Luo laughed madly in their hearts.

“Oh, Brother Mo, don’t deny it!” Xia Xibei waved her hand, “We understand. Right, Ah Luo?”

Ah Luo?

This intimate title made Mo Bonan’s face turn even more unpleasant.

When did these two get this close?

In Mo Bonan's opinion, Tang Luo was just a kid. How could he suddenly be so close to the opposite sex?

Tang Luo, however, nodded, a bright smile appearing on his previously cold face. "Yeah, Brother Bonan, don't deny it. We all understand."

Mo Bonan only felt a puff of air block in his chest; he was almost not breathing.

They understood? What did they understand?

Zhang Yiqi's mood also returned to shyness from her earlier shame, and her impression of Tang Luo was much better than before.

At least he had some sense. She would be merciful to him, seeing that he was so sensible.

"Well, Beibei and I will leave you guys alone." Tang Luo's smile was overwhelmingly bright. "You guys take your time and talk."

After saying that, he pulled Xia Xibei and prepared to walk outside.

"Stop!" Mo Bonan stepped up and reached out to pull Tang Luo's other hand.

Mo Bonan had great strength, and Xia Xibei's strength was not so little either.

“Ah!”

Tang Luo felt like a rag doll being fought over by two people, and it hurt so much that he cried out in pain.

Hearing his scream, Xia Xibei and Mo Bonan’s hearts jumped and they both let go at the same time.

However, because they both let go at the same time, Tang Luo had no time to react. He stumbled for a few steps, tripped over himself, and fell to the ground.

“Ow!”

His knee hit the ground, and the pain brought tears to his eyes.

“Ah Luo!”

“Little Luo!”

Xia Xibei and Mo Bonan were both startled, rushing forward.

“Are you alright?”

Xia Xibei moved a little faster than Mo Bonan. She squatted down and pulled Tang Luo's pants up, the pale skin bruised and some blood present.

Tang Luo jerked backwards at her movement, hissing in pain.

"I'll take you to the hospital!"

Mo Bonan's action was more direct. He picked Tang Luo off the ground in one motion.

His face showed anxiety and a hint of regret. He didn't think that he would hurt Tang Luo.

"President Mo?"

Zhang Yibin couldn't resist coming over. They still had business to discuss, after all.

"Sorry, I have something I need to do. We'll talk about it next time."

After he spoke, Mo Bonan held Tang Luo, whose face was bright red, and quickly walked outside, leaving the others behind.

Chapter 325: Not Happy with You

“What are you here for?”

After putting Tang Luo in the car, Mo Bonan turned around with a dismal look on his face.

“To check on Luo, of course!” Xia Xibei sounded righteous and even a little disgruntled. “If it weren’t for you, Luo wouldn’t have been hurt.”

Mo Bonan’s face turned even darker at this point, but he was at a loss for words.

If he hadn’t decided to use force, Tang Luo wouldn’t have been so unlucky.

Once she was done grumbling, Xia Xibei pushed him out of the way and got into the car, seating herself next to Tang Luo.

Xia Xibei’s actions greatly angered Mo Bonan.

How could a girl be so bold and unreserved?! Besides, shouldn’t she be afraid of him?

Mo Bonan knew that people wouldn’t usually get near him. Even the chief executives at his company behaved tentatively around him.

But Xia Xibei was way too dauntless, wasn't she?! How dare she just shoved him out of her way like that!

Mo Bonan's face was dark and ashen as he fought the urge to throw Xia Xibei out of the car.

Before he could act, however, Xia Xibei had started instructing the driver.

"Sir, please drive fast."

She then looked towards Mo Bonan, "Brother Mo, you may leave first if you're busy. I'll send Tang Luo to the hospital."

All the while, Tang Luo had stayed silent and kept his head low.

He hadn't yet recovered from the "princess carry" that Mo Bonan gave him a while ago!

Mo Bonan's face was extremely dark, and the look in his eyes as he stared at Xia Xibei was almost murderous.

How could this girl not be scared of him at all?

Not only was Xia Xibei unafraid of him, she was also very unsatisfied with him.

From what she could see, Mo Bonan must be very clear about Tang Luo's relationship with the Zhang family, as Tang Luo had been living with the Mo family for a few years now.

Even if he wasn't clear about all the love and hate involved, he should at least have known that the two had an awkward, tense relationship.

In that case, shouldn't Mo Bonan keep his distance from the Zhangs?

Sure enough, Xia Xibei knew that her request was somewhat demanding.

Perhaps as far as Mo Bonan was concerned, Tang Luo was only a pathetic young man who depended upon his family for a living, and that his identity wasn't important because it wouldn't bring any benefit to the Mo family.

Therefore, he chose to collaborate with the Zhangs instead.

That was reasonable, because it was the nature of humans to seek benefits, especially wealthy people like the Mos, who certainly put their interests above all.

Hence, she couldn't stop Mo Bonan from collaborating with the Zhang family. Neither did she have the appropriate status and rights to do so.

However, since Mo Bonan had chosen to work with the Zhang's, he shouldn't pretend to care about Tang Luo.

It was absurd and exhausting!

Xia Xibei was concerned about Tang Luo, so her attitude only got worse when she faced Mo Bonan.

Tang Luo was a good friend, but Mo Bonan meant nothing to her.

“Sir, please begin to drive,” Xia Xibei told the driver.

Mo Bonan was shocked. How dare this little girl?!

However, he didn't continue arguing with Xia Xibei, but strode to the other side of the car, getting ready to get inside.

When he opened the door, however, his face turned even darker.

The passenger seats, which should have accommodated three people, had been fully occupied by the two of them.

He stared at the two for a while, and eventually walked to the co-driver seat with a gloomy face.

“Start driving now!”

He slammed the door shut with a loud bang as he gave his command in a cold voice.

The driver shuddered a little and started driving right away.

In the back seats, Xia Xibei snorted softly and pulled a face at the back of Mo Bonan's head, looking extremely disdainful.

Then she comforted Tang Luo, "Don't worry, this is no big deal."

This was just some simple abrasion. In fact, they didn't have to go to the hospital because she could take care of it.

Since Mo Bonan was so "helpful" however, they wouldn't turn down his offer.

It was better to be at the hospital than to look at Zhang Yiqi's face.

Chapter 326: Complaining to a Parent

Tang Luo's injury wasn't serious at all. In fact, it didn't require any medical attention.

At the hospital, the doctor's lips twitched when he saw Tang Luo's wound.

He had thought there was some serious injury from the way they barged in, seemingly in such a hurry!

Eventually, he prescribed some ointments for Tang Luo's wound and asked them to leave the room.

That was a waste of resources, wasn't it?! It was only a tiny little wound; couldn't they just find some ointments to apply on it?

After taking the medication, Xia Xibei seated herself next to Tang Luo. "Let me help you apply this."

Mo Bonan reached out with a hand, "I'll do it."

Xia Xibei raised her head and shot him a glance.

"Brother Mo, why are you still here?"

Mo Bonan didn't know what to say. What did this little girl mean?!

"I've been here the whole time, okay?"

He couldn't help but grit his teeth.

This little girl was abominable! How could a good-looking girl speak in such an offensive way all the time?

“Oh, sorry, I thought you went back,” Xia Xibei replied unapologetically.

How could she behave like this around a big guy like him, as though he was thin air?

Mo Bonan was extremely puzzled. How on earth had he offended Xia Xibei, to the point that she had to talk to him in such a peculiar, insulting manner?

They had gotten along well enough the last time they met.

Could she have resorted to this hostility because she knew that he didn't like her?

The more he thought about it, the more suspicious he became.

How was Xia Xibei to know what Mo Bonan was thinking? She rolled up Tang Luo's pants without further ado, requesting, “Bear with it for a second, it'll be a little painful.”

In fact, if she was given enough time, she would be able to produce a better ointment which wasn't just painless but would also yield greater effects.

However, she didn't have time at the moment.

As he saw Xia Xibei almost putting her hand on Tang Luo's knee, Mo Bonan spoke up once again, "Let me do it."

He reached out for the ointment but realized that Xia Xibei's hand moved away instantly.

Then she avoided his hand entirely!

Mo Bonan's eyes went completely still.

Xia Xibei flashed him a humorless smile, "Brother Mo, I'll take care of it. I believe that girls are gentler than you."

When she finished speaking, she helped Tang Luo disinfect the wound without even looking at Mo Bonan's sharp gaze.

Despite her smooth, skilled actions, Tang Luo still drew a sharp gasp due to the pain.

"Ouch..."

Tang Luo shuddered and grimaced.

“Be gentle!” Mo Bonan couldn’t help but interfere.

Xia Xibei looked up and shot him a meaningful glance. She then explained, “This is the antiseptic’s problem, not mine. It’ll still happen even if you do it.”

Mo Bonan fumed, wondering what the heck was wrong with this little girl. He could clearly feel Xia Xibei’s displeasure towards him, and she didn’t even bother to conceal it!

How had he offended her?

“It’s alright, it hurt a little at the beginning, so I couldn’t manage to hold it in, but I’m fine now,” Tang Luo finally spoke. Without bothering Mo Bonan, he told Xia Xibei with a smile, “Carry on.”

“Sure,” Xia Xibei nodded, and continued applying the ointment in a skillful manner.

Mo Bonan didn’t feel good as he watched the youthful pair be so close and intimate with each other.

After a moment of thought, he fumbled to get out his phone.

“Mr. Qiao.”

Xia Xibei looked up abruptly and stared at Mo Bonan in surprise as he spoke on the phone.

“Oh, I’m at the hospital now. Your sister is here as well...”

Mo Bonan only hung up the call after providing the details. He then flashed a smile at Xia Xibei, looking rather wicked. “Your brother is coming over.”

Xia Xibei was speechless. Why did it sound like he was making a complaint to her parents?

It turned out that this brat was so childish?!

However, he was mistaken. Was Qiao Yanjue even her parent?

Chapter 327: Who are You to Speak?

Qiao Yanjue was somewhat baffled when he received Mo Bonan’s call.

He became so terrified, he almost stormed out the moment he heard that Xia Xibei was at the hospital.

Fortunately, Xia Xibei called shortly after to tell him that she wasn’t injured, it was in fact Tang Luo who got hurt. He was alright now, and they would be heading back in a while.

Eventually, Xia Xibei asked him not to come to the hospital, and just wait for her at home instead.

Qiao Yanjue was wearing a solemn look as he stared at the screen after the call ended.

What was going on right now?

If Xia Xibei hadn't insisted, he would have headed over there by now.

On the other end, Xia Xibei flashed a humorless smile at Mo Bonan after ending the call.

"Brother Mo, thanks for your concern, but I'll get home just fine by myself. There's no need to bother Brother Qiao."

Mo Bonan remained expressionless but was deeply surprised inside.

He had thought that Qiao Yanjue played the dominant role in the interaction between him and Xia Xibei. After all, Qiao Yanjue's status wasn't one which she could compare to.

However, that didn't seem to be true. Xia Xibei's tone of voice and attitude were much more domineering.

Mo Bonan had heard that Qiao Yanjue's aunt had taken Xia Xibei in as a foster child, which made the two of them "cousins."

Before that, Xia Xibei was almost akin to an orphan, without both parents.

An orphan would certainly experience a change of mentality when she became part of a rich family out of nowhere.

Unexpectedly, it turned out completely different from what he had assumed.

“Bei, sorry for the trouble,” Tang Luo told Xia Xibei in a soft voice, “Don’t worry about me. I’ll take care of myself.”

“Alright,” Xia Xibei nodded, “Just tell me anytime if you don’t feel well.”

“I know,” Tang Luo nodded, looking full of trust.

As he watched the scene, Mo Bonan’s heart sank and he couldn’t help but interrupt them.

“You’re still students, you should focus on your studies. Forget everything else and get into college.”

His tone of voice was stern and harsh. Tang Luo’s face paled a little, as if he had just heard something awful.

Tang Luo’s reaction put a gloomy look on Xia Xibei’s face.

She tugged her lips at Mo Bonan, giving him a totally indifferent smile, “We know that for sure. Besides, our grades are awesome! Both Luo and I are among the top five in our cohort! I suppose it won’t be a problem for us to apply for any colleges at all.”

She sounded firm and confident, as if all the schools out there were hers to choose from.

“But there’s one thing I would have to correct you about.” Her smile widened as she continued, “Luo is eighteen already, he’s an adult now. And I believe that he is both mentally and psychologically mature enough to take responsibility for his own actions.”

Her short speech made the air around Mo Bonan freeze drastically.

His chest heaved, and he laughed out of anger, “So you’re saying that...”

“I’m saying that you don’t have to worry so much about us, Brother Mo.”

Mo Bonan snorted coldly, his face dark and overcast. “My question is, who are you to speak to me in that way?”

They had only met a few times and hadn’t even spent much time together. However, Mo Bonan felt that it would be too polite of him to hold back his temper after the words Xia Xibei had just wantonly spoken to him!

“Who am I to speak?” Xia Xibei looked at him in surprise, “A good friend, of course!”

“Just a good friend?” Mo Bonan’s eyes turned even colder.

“Of course!” Xia Xibei nodded.

“Are you aware that I’m his brother?”

At that point, Xia Xibei’s smile became even more sarcastic.

“So what?”

Chapter 328: Xia Xibei Crossing the Line

As he sensed the animosity between the two of them quickly rising, Tang Luo grabbed Xia Xibei’s arm anxiously.

“Enough, Bei, stop arguing. It’s too late now, we should head back. We have classes tomorrow.”

Xia Xibei’s heart thudded the moment Tang Luo grabbed her arm, realizing that Tang Luo’s hand was extremely cold.

Then she saw the pallor on his face, and his wary expression as he tried to stop their fight. Xia Xibei had no choice but to take a deep breath to suppress the anger within her.

In fact, she knew that she wasn't being reasonable with Mo Bonan; she was just venting her anger on him.

From an outsider's perspective, her behavior would seem completely unreasonable. She might even have crossed a line that she shouldn't have.

After all, Tang Luo had been living with the Mo family for a few years now, and his relationship with Mo Bonan must be somewhat special.

Also, she had been good friends with Tang Luo for just a short while, and yet she was accusing Mo Bonan as if she was special to Tang Luo. Who gave her the right to do so?

Even if they were good friends, she should have left it at that.

However, her mood had been affected by the story that Tang Luo had shared with her.

What Xia Xibei had been through was surely different from what Tang Luo had, but they had both suffered immensely before.

Therefore, she had a lot of empathy for Tang Luo.

The reason she hated Qiao Yanjue in the past was primarily because he was related to Qiao Haoming and Xia Qinghan.

The family and friends of an enemy were also her enemies as far as she was concerned.

If Qiao Yanjue hadn't put himself lowly enough in front of her, she would never have allowed his presence around her at all.

Tang Luo reminded her of her past self.

Of that time when she had to face the endless insults and oppression from her enemies all by herself, without any help from friends and family.

That helplessness and vulnerability she had felt at that time was the worst feeling in the world!

Despite having lived with the Mo family for a few years, Mo Bonan didn't even have the slightest idea of how much misery Tang Luo had been put through!

Since he had never bothered to care about Tang Luo before, he shouldn't be acting like the boss at this moment!

Mo Bonan reminded Xia Xibei of her so-called family, who helped her enemies in tormenting her while calling themselves her "family!"

As these thoughts flooded through her mind, the look in Xia Xibei's eyes only became more hostile as she looked at Mo Bonan.

Mo Bonan was startled by the ferocity in Xia Xibei's eyes. When he finally came to his senses, however, he couldn't help but despise himself.

She was nothing but a little girl, what was there to be afraid of?

Mo Bonan quickly regained his composure. He stared right at Xia Xibei, and asked in a cold voice, "It seems like you have quite some distaste for me?"

"How dare I..." Xia Xibei tugged her lips at him, "I just feel that you haven't really gotten to know Tang Luo, even though you guys have been living together for so many years."

If he really cared about Tang Luo and was trusted by Tang Luo, then he couldn't be this clueless about Tang Luo's past.

"Bei!" Tang Luo's heart missed a beat, and his expression changed a little.

Mo Bonan's face fell too, and he even appeared a little battered and defeated.

However, when he really thought about it, it seemed like he didn't know much about Tang Luo.

He only started paying attention to Tang Luo a couple of months ago. His parents made him take care of Tang Luo before they went on a vacation. Only then had he started checking on this little brother, who had never drawn his attention before.

How could he not be anxious when he saw his little brother getting into a relationship at such a young age?

However, he really had no idea what had happened to Tang Luo before.

His reaction made Xia Xibei laugh, "It seems like my guess is right." Her smile deepened, "Since you don't know him well enough, don't force him to do things against his will, all in the name of his well-being."

One of the reasons Xia Xibei didn't hold back her displeasure was because Mo Bonan had put himself too highly. Tang Luo was like a mouse in front of him, constantly looking for somewhere to hide so he could be away from him.

Her heart couldn't help but reach out to the distressed Tang Luo.

Since Tang Luo didn't have the courage to be honest with him, she would do it for him!

Right as the three were caught up in a stalemate, a voice sounded, "You guys are here too?"

Chapter 329: What a Coincidence

The three of them turned to look, all stunned.

Zhang Yibin helped Zhang Yiqi walk over, looking surprised as well. "You are at this hospital too?"

As soon as they appeared, Tang Luo's expression immediately changed, and his body tensed up a bit.

His reaction was so obvious, even Mo Bonan noticed it.

Mo Bonan's eyes turned deep; he seemed to have missed a lot of things.

"What are you doing here?" he asked in a deep voice, looking at them suspiciously.

Zhang Yibin smiled sheepishly and explained, "When we were walking just now, a car rushed past us and we fell down while avoiding it. Qiqi's leg was injured as a result."

Zhang Yiqi's face was a little pale, still shocked from the injury, and her left calf was covered with scrapes and blood.

She looked at Mo Bonan, blushing slightly, "I really didn't expect to meet you guys here."

“That’s quite a coincidence,” Xia Xibei interjected with a smile. “G city is so big and we just met less than an hour ago, yet here we are again.”

Zhang Yiqi’s body stiffened for a moment, her eyes showing displeasure when she looked at Xia Xibei. “What do you mean?”

“Nothing, I just think you and Mr. Mo are very close,” Xia Xibei smiled brightly at her.

Mo Bonan’s face was slightly sullen. He could tell the difference from the initial “Brother Mo” and now “Mr. Mo.”

He and Xia Xibei were not close in the first place, and he did not care whether she was close to him or not, but it still felt a bit jarring to hear such a name.

By now, even if he was slow, he could see the problem.

Xia Xibei’s sharp tone all started with the appearance of Zhang Yiqi and the others.

Looking at the silent Tang Luo, who was careful to maintain his distance, Mo Bonan’s thoughts churned.

Seeing Zhang Yiqi, whose expression was uncontrollable and a bit petulant, he couldn’t help but ponder.

Xia Xibei happened to see Mo Bonan looking at Zhang Yiqi and immediately chuckled to herself.

“We were just about to leave, so we won’t disturb you. Ah-Luo, let’s go.”

As she said that, Xia Xibei reached out to help Tang Luo.

“Let me.”

Although Mo Bonan was upset and annoyed, he still extended his hand.

“No, I’ll do it.” Xia Xibei stepped forward, separating him from Tang Luo. Looking at Mo Bonan with a smile, she said, “Miss Zhang was also injured. You can’t just leave; she’d be so sad!”

Mo Bonan was just about to say something when he suddenly paused.

He had realized just now that with Tang Luo’s sudden injury, everything was very rushed, and he hadn’t introduced Zhang Yiqi.

So, how did Xia Xibei know Zhang Yiqi’s identity?

Looking at Tang Luo again, who was resisting and loathing in silence, Mo Bonan found that the situation was not right.

“Brother Mo, I’m fine. You guys go.” Zhang Yiqi smiled weakly, “We are also about to go- Ouch!”

As she was speaking, she suddenly yelped and frowned.

Everyone looked at her and saw that the wound on her leg had started to bleed again.

“Qiqi, are you okay?” Zhang Yibin immediately became nervous.

“Then I won’t delay you,” Mo Bonan spoke up, “Go get checked out while the doctor is still on duty. We’ll go first.”

At that, Zhang Yiqi’s eyes went wide.

This... This was not the right development!

Mo Bonan squeezed himself between Xia Xibei and Tang Luo and picked up Tang Luo in one motion.

“Let’s go!” Then, he frowned again, demanding, “Why are you so light? Haven’t you eaten?”

Tang Luo finally stopped being silent and shouted, “Put me down!”

Chapter 330: Tit for Tat

Just now, when Xia Xibei and Mo Bonan went tit-for-tat, Tang Luo didn't say much.

He didn't want to put everything on Xia Xibei and let her confront Mo Bonan. However, he could not speak up.

He was afraid that if he opened his mouth, what he would say would be terrifying.

When the time came and things were exposed, it would be irreversible.

He was actually very happy listening to Xia Xibei's accusations against Mo Bonan.

It's not funny that he didn't even care about him or his feelings before, but now he suddenly jumps out and points fingers?

Even if he was dating early, what did it have to do with Mo Bonan?

If not for the fear of repeating the same mistake, he would have yelled at him like Xia Xibei.

Too bad he couldn't.

However, Xia Xibei was a strong fighter and left Mo Bonan speechless, making it a pleasure to watch her.

If Mo Bonan stopped taking care of him because of this matter, that would be great!

In that case, he could leave the Mo family.

None of these tragedies would happen.

However, he didn't expect that, after being confronted by Xia Xibei and Zhang Yiqi appearing, Mo Bonan would not leave obediently but actually pick him up!

Was Mo Bonan crazy?!

While Tang Luo was being held, the shock in his heart could not be described.

Mo Bonan didn't know him, but that didn't mean he didn't know Mo Bonan.

Fickle, cold, strong, self-possessed, dictatorial. Once he became determined, he would not listen to other people's opinions or explanations...

Such a strong Mo Bonan would not tolerate others' rebuttals and explanations.

In Tang Luo's mind, after being scolded by Xia Xibei, Mo Bonan would definitely be angry, alienating him.

But what was happening now?!

Being held in Mo Bonan's arms, Tang Luo was ashamed, flustered, angry, and annoyed, struggling desperately.

"Don't move!" Mo Bonan sulked and held him hard, "Or you'll fall on the floor."

"Put me down! I can walk by myself!" Tang Luo shouted.

"Mr. Mo!" Xia Xibei came over, her face equally grim. "Please put Ah Luo down, he can walk by himself."

Besides, even if he couldn't walk, he didn't need to be carried like a princess. He could be carried on the back instead.

Although Zhang Yiqi's expression was fun to see, this would breed more hatred than necessary. They already had a big grudge as it was.

Mo Bonan looked at Xia Xibei in a condescending manner, asking her, "Don't you know that he is injured?"

"Of course I know that!" she grimaced, "But he's not so hurt that he can't walk. Besides, can't you see he doesn't want to be carried?"

“Put me down, I can walk by myself!” Tang Luo struggled a bit. His body was a little stiff, and he didn’t dare to show his feelings.

Xia Xibei blocked Mo Bonan, the two individuals’ equally harsh gazes like an electric fire, a fight imminent.

Next to them, Zhang Yiqi and Zhang Yibin were stunned.

They knew that Mo Bonan was strong, but they didn’t expect the soft-looking Xia Xibei to also be so tough, even daring to confront him!

Was she crazy?!

Mo Bonan looked at Xia Xibei for a while before he finally put Tang Luo down.

“Then you can walk by yourself.”

“OK!”

As soon as Tang Luo hit the ground, he stumbled to Xia Xibei’s side, ignoring the pain in his leg.

This scene made Mo Bonan’s eyes turn even darker.

Things were quite obvious; he was not a fool.

“Then we’ll leave first.”

Mo Bonan nodded to Zhang Yiqi and her brother before turning his head and striding away.

Looking at their departing backs, Zhang Yiqi’s teeth gnashed together.

Chapter 331: Learning

When Mo Bonan came out, he heard Xia Xibei say to Tang Luo, “If you are not comfortable, you can find me. I will help you find a place, and we can still be neighbors.”

These words almost made his face fall.

Seeing Mo Bonan come over, Xia Xibei just gave him a glance, while continuing to tell Tang Luo, “It’s okay, if anything upsets you, just talk back. I’m right behind you!”

Mo Bonan was speechless.

She was just a girl, so where did she get such confidence? How on earth did Qiao Yanjue get along with her?

Mo Bonan had enough self-awareness to know that he was tough and sometimes not likable, very similar to Qiao Yanjue in this way.

Because of their background and upbringing, they were used to being strong and in control of the whole situation. They did not like to be contradicted.

When Mo Bonan and Qiao Yanjue were getting along, they were equally hard-headed and tit-for-tat.

Others simply did not dare to fight hard against them.

But Xia Xibei didn't have any powerful background, so how was she so bold?

Thinking about how low Qiao Yanjue had cowered in front of Xia Xibei, Mo Bonan felt as if he understood something.

He couldn't believe Qiao liked such a strong girl!

Mo Bonan snorted while thinking about it, doubting Qiao Yanjue's taste.

If it was him, he would never like this kind of strong girl.

Shouldn't girls be gentle and adorable, submissive and obedient?

A girl as domineering and tough as Xia Xibei was a disaster for them.

Even Tang Luo, who had been such an obedient kid before, became a lot tougher after associating with Xia Xibei.

Mo Bonan's mind was churning, and there was a vague feeling that something was out of control.

He shook his head, shaking off the strange thought before walking over.

Xia Xibei continued to ramble, "Good people are bullied. If you don't resist, you will only be treated as weak and vulnerable. Even if the other person is very strong, so what? The worst is breaking apart!"

What kind of inexplicable ideas was she feeding Tang Luo?

But to his surprise, Tang Luo actually nodded, his face firm. "Don't worry, I understand."

Mo Bonan's face turned dark. What the hell did he understand?!

He did not know that Tang Luo had really learned a lot because of this incident today.

Tang Luo's heart was very nervous and scared when looking at Xia Xibei and Mo Bonan going toe to toe, afraid that the two would fight.

However, he could not pull the two apart, becoming anxious.

But what followed stunned him.

After being confronted by Xia Xibei in that manner, Mo Bonan didn't even get angry! Or rather, he was angry, but he did not explode.

It turned out that there was a different result after tough resistance!

At that moment, it was as if he became enlightened and his mind was clear!

Tang Luo had grown up to be withdrawn and introverted because of his single parent and his health, and he did not have many friends.

After arriving at the Mo family, he became even more timid. After all, he was a foster child, so he had been afraid to voice his opinion.

When faced with a strong man like Mo Bonan, he was even more afraid to say anything, and definitely did not dare to take a chance in front of him.

If not for some misadventures afterwards, the two would not have had any in-depth interactions at all.

Because of these changes, he was so weak-minded in front of Mo Bonan.

But now, Xia Xibei had told him—if you're not happy, just fight!

Yeah, he'd already experienced the worst outcome anyway, so what was there to be afraid of?

Thinking of this, Tang Luo's mood finally lightened up.

Chapter 332: Self-Doubt

Although Mo Bonan's expression was unpleasant, he still let Xia Xibei get into the car.

He remained sitting on the passenger side, listening to the whispers behind him in a bad mood.

When Xia Xibei finally got out of the car, he felt a lot better.

Back home, as soon as the car had stopped, Tang Luo opened the car door and got out.

Mo Bonan walked up to him, "Do you want me to help you up?"

"No need," Tang Luo shook his head with a firm attitude. "I can do it myself, it's not a big deal. You go rest."

Then he turned to leave.

Hearing no sound behind him and knowing Mo Bonan was not following, Tang Luo breathed a sigh of relief and felt refreshed.

After watching Tang Luo, who moved a bit oddly, leave, Mo Bonan's tightly locked brows relaxed. His eyes darkened and he turned around to go back to his study.

He called his parents, who were off somewhere.

"Dad, you know the Zhang family?"

"The Zhang family?" On the other end, Mo's father froze for a moment, then his voice went cold, "Zhang Kaiwei's Zhang family?"

Mo Bonan knew something was wrong as soon as he heard his father's tone.

“Yes. Is there anything wrong with them?”

“Zhang Kaiwei is Little Luo’s father,” Father Mo said directly, not hiding the fact.

“Father?!”

Mo Bonan was taken aback and lost his cool in a rare moment.

At this moment, he finally understood why Tang Luo and Xia Xibei were so upset with him and had an attitude. So this was the reason!

“Little Luo seems to be a little younger than Miss Zhang...”

Previously he heard Zhang Yibin mention that Zhang Yiqi was now a senior, but Tang Luo was only a junior.

Could it be that Tang Luo was the illegitimate son of Zhang Kaiwei?

“Zhang Kaiwei?”

The voice on the other end changed; it was Mo’s mother’s now.

Mo's mother could not help but curse when speaking of this matter, "It's all because of that bastard! If it wasn't for him, Zhen Zhen wouldn't have died so young!"

Back then, if it wasn't for Tang Zhen, the couple would have died, so they were very grateful to Tang Zhen.

What was hateful was that bastard Zhang Kaiwei hurting Tang Zhen like that!

Mo's mother was also upset that Tang Zhen did not come to them earlier, hiding instead! She wouldn't have come at all if she didn't have much time left!

Thinking of this, the anger in Mo's mother's heart flared up once again, wanting to kill that scum Zhang Kaiwei!

"Mom, tell me, what happened."

After waiting for his mother to finish speaking, Mo Bonan finally asked in a deep voice.

"Let me say it."

Mo's father took the phone and slowly told Tang Luo about the events.

After listening to the story, Mo Bonan's face was gloomy and indecipherable.

“Why didn’t you guys tell me about the Zhangs’ past before?”

“Zhen Zhen only asked us to help her take care of Little Luo and wouldn’t let us interfere in any other matters. Moreover, the Zhang family was just a small family before, and they didn’t have many dealings with us,” Father Mo explained. “But now it seems that their family seems to be developing well after the marriage, haven’t they?”

Otherwise, Mo Bonan would not have mentioned the Zhang family.

“I understand...”

After hanging up the phone, Mo Bonan’s face didn’t look so good.

After learning the backstory, he was embarrassed and self-conscious.

He knew nothing, yet he was so tough on Tang Luo, causing him new trauma. No wonder Tang Luo had such an attitude towards him.

But why didn’t Tang Luo say anything? Was he that untrustworthy?

At this moment, Mo Bonan began to have a rare bout of self-doubt.

Chapter 333: Gift from Zhang Yiqi

The next day, as Xia Xibei arrived at school, Tang Luo also got out of the car.

“Ah Luo, was everything okay last night? Is your knee okay?” Xia Xibei asked with concern.

“It’s fine, everything is fine, and my knee doesn’t hurt anymore,” Tang Luo shook his head and laughed.

“That’s good.” Xia Xibei breathed a sigh of relief, then apologized, “I want to say sorry to you.”

“Sorry?” Tang Luo froze. “Why?”

“Actually, I shouldn’t interfere with your life.”

Xia Xibei was a little embarrassed. This was originally between Tang Luo and Mo Bonan, and she, an outsider, shouldn’t have said so much. She had crossed a line.

Instead, Tang Luo smiled with serious gratitude.

“No, I should thank you. If it wasn’t for you, I’d probably still be as useless as before!”

If it wasn't for what Xia Xibei had said, he probably wouldn't have found that he was still as weak-minded and short of breath as before when facing Mo Bonan.

Even though he was much tougher when facing others, he was still very much a wimp when facing Mo Bonan.

He was always afraid that the original tragedy would happen again, but he forgot that these things had passed. Everything was starting over, and he had more options now!

Even if things ended up back at the original intersection, he could make other changes!

If Xia Xibei didn't wake him up, he might have continued to struggle to hold back!

Xia Xibei was right. The worst was breaking apart!

"It's good that you don't blame me," Xia Xibei laughed. "I was afraid you'd think I was meddling."

"Of course not, you're helping me," Tang Luo shook his head and laughed.

"Great!"

The two of them were talking as they walked towards the classroom.

When they reached their seats, both of them froze.

On Tang Luo's table were two pieces of bread and two bottles of milk.

The price tag on the bread showed it cost more than 20 yuan, and the milk was also a famous brand.

"What's this?" Xia Xibei picked up the bread and looked at it. "Whose is it? Did someone misplace it?"

However, Tang Luo's expression surprised her.

When he saw the food, Tang Luo's face switched from sunny to cloudy, with many thoughts reeling behind his gaze.

"Do you know who put this here?" Xia Xibei asked.

"Hmm," Tang Luo revealed a cold smile. "If I guessed correctly, it was Zhang Yiqi who left it."

"Huh?" Xia Xibei was surprised, "She left it? What do you mean? Is she planning to poison you?"

This was of course a joke. Zhang Yiqi would not use such simple and crude means.

Tang Luo crooked the corner of his mouth, "You'll know in a few days."

Xia Xibei stared at him suspiciously for a while, but could only shrug her shoulders, choosing not to pursue the question.

"Let's eat. It was delivered to the door; we might as well enjoy it." Tang Luo gave one to Xia Xibei, "These two breads are from expensive stores, but they're really delicious."

"Zhang Yiqi is really polite. She even sent two of these over! But why did she have to buy them at two stores, and not one?" Xia Xibei asked while opening the packaging.

Tang Luo laughed, "Because they're from two people."

Xia Xibei raised her eyebrows, "It sounds like there's a story here..."

"We'll know when the time comes."

Tang Luo mysteriously smiled without saying anything.

In the afternoon, Xia Xibei once again slayed in the game, crushing the whole court, Sister Bei's name resounding throughout the school once more.

After the game, Xia Xibei received a call from Qiao Yanjue.

“You finished the game, right? Old Huo asked us to come over. The things are ready.”

Chapter 334: Not Going the Same Way

Qiao Yanjue stopped the car and looked at Tang Luo standing next to Xia Xibei, squeezing out an odd smile. “Tang Luo, we aren’t going the same way as you, so we won’t give you a ride.”

When he met the eyes that seemed to carry killing intent, Tang Luo couldn’t help but take a step back, “No, no need. I’ll just go back by myself.”

He had a feeling that if he dared to get into that car, the result would be very tragic.

Xia Xibei didn’t notice the sparks between the two and said to Tang Luo, “Is it okay for you to go back by yourself?”

“Of course there’s no problem,” Tang Luo smiled. “I’m not a child. You guys go.”

“Okay then, we’ll go first.”

Xia Xibei got in the front passenger seat, strapped in her seat belt and waved to him, “See you next week.”

“Goodbye...” Tang Luo was just raising his hand when the car sped away.

He looked at the car’s retreating back and silently put his hand down.

In the car, Xia Xibei was also speechless. “Was it necessary to be so anxious?” she questioned.

Qiao Yanjue had a serious expression as he countered, “Old Huo is rushing us, I can’t help it.”

“Okay, then we’ll hurry over.”

Seeing that Xia Xibei did not pursue the question, Qiao Yanjue was relieved.

However, he was very depressed thinking about last night.

It was eleven o’clock at night when Xia Xibei got home.

The two of them had just said hello before Xia Xibei went back to rest, which turned his face grim.

Therefore, he was already very restrained, not exploding after seeing Tang Luo.

“How is it going with Brother Huo?” Xia Xibei asked obliviously.

“He said the company’s paperwork is done, and he’s just waiting for you,” Qiao Yanjue said as he drove.

“That fast?” It was only a few days and Huo Zijun’s side was done. It really was different.

“Fast is good,” Qiao Yanjue smiled.

The two of them talked, soon arriving at Huo Zijun’s pharmacy.

When they arrived at Huo Zijun’s office, he was already waiting.

“The paperwork is completed. Did you bring the medicine?” Huo Zijun was upfront.

Xia Xibei blinked and asked rhetorically, “You have the herbs, right?”

She should have gotten the things ready yesterday, but with all that happened last night, she didn’t have time to deal with it.

“Sure,” Huo Zijun nodded. Their store had all kinds of herbs.

“Is there a pharmacy?”

“Of course.”

“Then take me there.”

Huo Zijun looked at her suspiciously, “You’re not ready yet, are you?”

She had said that she would bring the samples today.

Xia Xibei’s face did not change, “Of course I am ready. I’m trying to give you a personal demonstration here.”

“You...”

“Come on, don’t talk nonsense.” Qiao Yanjue interrupted him and urged, “It’s not like she’s going to lie to you.”

Huo Zijun was speechless.

What the- He was really valuing girls over friends?!

He just asked a few questions and Qiao Yanjue was being protective like this. It was too much!

However, no matter how much Huo Zijun complained in his heart, he still obediently took them over.

He mumbled while walking, "The company's procedures are done, we just need the prescription. Once the prescription and herbs are in place, you can start..."

"Noisy," Qiao Yanjue glanced at him from the side, his expression disgusted.

Huo Zijun's eyes widened.

"Do you want to fight...?"

Xia Xibei was speechless and separated the two, "Okay, don't fight."

She rubbed her eyebrows. Why were these two people so childish? Couldn't they keep their initial coolness and elegance?

Fortunately, the pharmacy was right in front, or the two would probably fight.

Chapter 335: Making Ointment on the Spot

The pharmacy had, in addition to a variety of herbs, various instruments that were necessary for handling herbs.

After entering a room, Huo Zijun walked to the table and pointed to the instruments on it, saying, "You know what these are for, right? This one is--"

"I know," Xia Xibei interrupted him, "I know them all."

Huo Zijun and Qiao Yanjue were quite surprised, but also felt that it was expected.

Xia Xibei's medical skills were so good, she was certainly no stranger to these things.

"There are quite a few medicinal herbs in the inner room." Huo Zijun hesitated for a moment, but still said, "If you want, you can go in and get them."

Xia Xibei was not overly courteous, "Good."

After saying that, she actually went over.

She hadn't even gotten in yet, and Huo Zijun was already feeling miserly.

The herbs there were premium herbs. Regardless of their value, it took him a long time to collect them!

No one else could enter this room at all, let alone touch the herbs inside.

He just hoped that Xia Xibei really had the real deal and would not waste these herbs.

Seeing him in such pain, Qiao Yanjue glanced at him and snickered, “Do you need to be so stingy? I’ll pay you back.”

Huo Zijun glared at him, “Shut up if you don’t understand! They’re all treasures! You can’t even buy them with money!”

Although these herbs were not as good as those from the old house, they were the best quality he could get!

Yes, Qiao Yanjue was rich, but money didn’t always buy what you wanted!

Huo Zijun still wanted to despise him as a tycoon who only spent money, but then he saw Xia Xibei walking out with a plate, holding a number of medicinal herbs.

When he looked at the herbs, Huo Zijun froze.

“This is- Is it?”

These herbs were good quality, but not expensive or rare, and there were even common ingredients like baby chrysanthemums and goji berries!

“Right,” Xia Xibei nodded. “What is used on the face needs to be safe.”

What you ate could generally be used on your face, but what you used on your face couldn't be eaten.

“We just need to use these?”

“Just you wait,” Xia Xibei said with a smirk, then walked behind the table.

“This...”

“All right, when she's done, you'll know.”

Qiao Yanjue grabbed him by the collar and dragged him back.

“Cough, cough...” Huo Zijun almost suffocated due to the motion, throwing off Qiao Yanjue's hand away with one move.

When he turned around, he saw that Xia Xibei had begun.

The more he watched, the more shocked he became.

Xia Xibei's methods... They were too strange.

Huo Zijun watched as Xia Xibei handled the herbs with unfamiliar techniques. She lit the stove, adjusted the temperature, added the herbs in turn, and stirred them bit by bit.

By the time she finally stopped, a light and lingering scent filled the air.

The finished product turned out to be a solid pink substance!

Holy cow! What kind of magic was this?

Huo Zijun and Qiao Yanjue were both stunned.

"This is a face cream," Xia Xibei explained. "It is super effective in getting rid of wrinkles and is not harmful to the skin."

There were also a number of chemistry instruments in the room, so Huo Zijun could immediately test the product.

The test results came out quickly, and it really wasn't toxic! And some of the data was particularly good!

"You should get someone to try it," Xia Xibei said.

Huo Zijun did not hesitate in finding someone to come in.

After the ointment was rubbed on, in just a few moments, Huo Zijun immediately drew in a breath!

Chapter 336: Obvious Effect

The “model” Huo Zijun found was a 40-something female employee, and because she worked in a pharmacy, she was very concerned about health. Her figure was good, but her face had obvious signs of aging.

After applying this ointment, however, the changes in her were visible to the naked eye!

Her original wrinkles had faded a lot and her skin tone had really brightened up, making her look several years younger!

Because he wanted to see the comparison, Huo Zijun had her apply the ointment to only half of her face.

Because of that, the effect was unmistakable!

The female employee was also amazed when she picked up the mirror.

“This... It is too incredible!”

She could feel the change on her face just now, and the half of her face that had been covered with the ointment seemed to feel much lighter.

“What is this?” She touched her face with a shocked expression.

She knew Huo Zijun wouldn't let herself do something dangerous, but she didn't expect that it would be such a good thing!

“This is a wrinkle removal cream,” Xia Xibei explained. “How does it feel?”

“Amazing!” The female employee nodded emphatically, exclaiming, “The effect is really fantastic!”

She had bought many premium skin care products, but she had never experienced this kind of effect.

Some products weren't bad, but compared to this, they were too far behind.

“If you were to buy this, how much would you be willing to pay?” Xia Xibei laughed again.

“If I can get this effect, I'll pay four or five thousand yuan!” The female employee said immediately.

Huo Zijun was stunned by her reaction.

The employees in their store didn't have low incomes but using half a month's salary to buy a jar of face cream was too much!

He could clearly see what herbs Xia Xibei had used. Those herbs added up to a hundred yuan at the most. Something so low cost could be sold at such a high price? Women's money was too easy to earn, right?

"Okay, I see." Xia Xibei smiled and handed her the ointment once again, "Apply it to the other side of your face too."

The female employee nodded. She nervously but excitedly applied the ointment to the other half of her face, then looked in the mirror for a while before reluctantly leaving.

Only after she went out did Xia Xibei look at Huo Zijun, "What do you think?"

"How many days will the effect last?" Huo Zijun recovered from the shock he had just felt, his mind going straight to making money.

"It depends on the formula," Xia Xibei said. "I have several formulas, different proportions have different effects."

Huo Zijun was stunned by Xia Xibei once again.

Who knew there was so much to know here?

“I will write the prescription; you can just follow it.”

Xia Xibei casually picked up the notebook next to him and wrote out the prescription.

Huo Zijun took the prescription, his brain dizzy for a while, before hesitantly asking, “Did you just... You didn’t use the medicine scale?”

The medicine scale was outside, and there was no medicine scale in the room, so exactly how did Xia Xibei know the weight of the herbs?

Different weights had different effects, and a little difference meant a huge error! But Xia Xibei did not use the medicine scale!

Faced with his question, Xia Xibei smiled, “I just weighed them with my hands.”

Huo Zijun’s eyes widened and his jaw dropped to the floor.

“With your hands?!”

No way?! How long did it take to build skills like this? Even elderly doctors didn't necessarily have these skills!

After the shock, Huo Zijun had more confidence in Xia Xibei, but he was also much more curious.

Just who was she?!

Chapter 337: More Punishment

After discussing what to do next with Huo Zijun, Xia Xibei handed the prescription over to him, then brought back the box of face creams she had made.

When she returned, she went to Liu Manhong's home first.

"I'll go see Auntie Hong too."

Qiao Yanjue didn't even have to find a reason. After all, Liu Manhong was his aunt.

King Chu barked with excitement as soon as Liu Manhong opened her door.

"Bark! Bark!"

He really missed Xia Xibei, since she had not visited him for days.

When she saw King Chu, Xia Xibei's face couldn't help but darken.

She glanced carefully at Qiao Yanjue next to her, relieved to see that he appeared normal.

King Chu had no idea of what was going on in Xia Xibei's mind. He was still very enthusiastic towards her, barking and running around her legs.

Seeing that Xia Xibei did not respond, King Chu grunted and lay on the ground, wriggling to reveal his belly, his tongue sticking out in glee.

"Bark!" Please caress me!

Liu Manhong could not bear to look at how her beloved pup was acting.

She had stopped agonizing over King Chu's behavior. As long as Xia Xibei was here, she was invisible.

Obliviously, she brought Xia Xibei and Qiao Yanjue inside, insisting, "Come in."

Xia Xibei went around King Chu, abandoning him behind her.

Although that incident was a few days ago, when she saw King Chu, she still had the urge to discipline him, so it was better to avoid him altogether.

King Chu could not help but be dumbfounded when the imagined caresses didn't come after he twisted on the floor for a while.

When he turned to look, Xia Xibei had already walked over to the sofa.

"Ow?" King Chu was confused and hurt.

Did the pretty girl not like him anymore?

In its aggravation, the dinner plate fell and landed in front of it, accompanied by Qiao Yanjue's question, "Auntie Hong, is he hungry?"

Liu Manhong laughed and scolded, "Don't mind him, he's just pouting!"

Quietly, Qiao Yanjue pushed the plate in front of King Chu.

"Eat more."

King Chu watched Qiao Yanjue for a while, then rolled over and got up from the floor. Ignoring the dog food in front of him, he ran over to Xia Xibei.

If the pretty girl wouldn't caress him, he would caress her!

However, Xia Xibei had not yet stopped being angry at him. Seeing King Chu's pathetic look, she narrowed her eyes and pointed to the single sofa that was chewed into a mess, asking, "Did you do this?"

King Chu looked at the sofa, which was impossible to tell from the way it was, blinking innocently.

"Ooo..."

Seeing King Chu still shaking his head, Liu Manhong was exasperated. "Who else could it be? You have not come over for a few days, so he is almost tearing the house apart."

"Bark!" It's not me!

"He did it!" Liu Manhong was frustrated and amused. He was quite well-behaved before, but now he was getting rowdier and rowdier.

In the words of other people, he was becoming more and more purebred.

"You're not admitting your mistake?" Xia Xibei snorted, "Go stand there!"

“Bark?” King Chu was shocked. Why did he have to stand?!

“If you did something wrong and don’t admit to it, you should be disciplined!” Qiao Yanjue gloated from behind them.

Right! He had wanted to give King Chu something tasty to eat, but who knew he would be so ungrateful?

Although King Chu was shocked and aggrieved, he was up against mean and petty humans. The only thing he could do was to go take the punishment.

After he had been standing for 10 minutes, he laid down on the ground, looking devastated.

After disciplining King Chu, Xia Xibei took out the cream.

“This is the face cream I just made. By the way, how is it going over at the Wan family?”

Liu Manhong couldn’t back down from speaking on this topic.

Chapter 338: Got a Girlfriend Yet?

Liu Manhong just couldn’t be nice whenever the Wan family was brought up.

“Xianrong has been bustling with activity for the past few days.”

Xianrong had been on cloud nine ever since they got to know that Hongyan was going to be closed for a month.

As far as they could see, Hongyan had admitted defeat right away.

They said the reason they had shut the premise was because they wanted to renovate and reopen it after a month...

Wasn't that a downright lame excuse? How could they even compare with the Wans?

They were glad that Hongyan had realized that there was no way they could win, so they might as well admit defeat early on to avoid suffering an ugly defeat.

Even though Hongyan had quit from the competition, the many experienced beauticians that they had once hired couldn't just go to waste.

After Hongyan was shut down, customers would start flocking to Xianrong. Without enough beauticians, they would end up missing many opportunities to make money, wouldn't they?

“They're inviting my people over, non-stop,” Liu Manhong. “Some of them have accepted the offer.”

“How many have gone so far?” Xia Xibei asked, not worried about the situation.

“A few, I guess.”

Liu Manhong wasn't really bothered, because those that were gone weren't the ones she truly treasured, neither were their skills particularly outstanding.

“The ones who stayed are my aces.”

Liu Manhong sure wasn't a fool. How would she sit back and watch her employees leave without taking action?

Apart from her several trusted subordinates, she had also discussed what was happening with some pretty skilled beauticians. There was no way she would let the ones who really mattered leave just like that.

As for the ones who didn't have much significance, leaving or not depended upon their loyalty.

She had distributed this month's pay to her employees and had them take a paid break.

She had done enough on her part. As for whether they would hold on to the opportunity, it wasn't something that she could control.

“How about the customers?”

“Customers...” Liu Manhong still felt somewhat battered when she talked about this.

Although she knew the customers would return once the new products were launched, she still felt bad when she thought of the losses that she would have to bear due to the outflow of customers.

“Many of them have been drawn away by Xianrong.” Liu Manhong scowled, “They’re even thinking of canceling their memberships.”

If they hadn’t known that Liu Manhong had never been in debt and that she had the Qiao family backing her up, they would have thought that it could be a fraud.

However, with Liu Manhong’s reputation and the fact that she still held ownership of the premise, they weren’t very worried about it.

Anyway, they had given Liu Manhong a month’s time. If it didn’t turn out right after a month, they would be requesting a refund.

As for those who didn’t trust Liu Manhong and insisted on canceling their memberships, Liu Manhong had refunded them already.

The Wan family was elated by the withdrawal of customers and beauticians, and they were boasting about Xianrong’s greatness every single day, even claiming that Hongyan would go bankrupt very soon.

Liu Manhong wouldn't have been able to hold herself back if she didn't keep reminding herself of how she would shame the Wans terribly in the near future.

"Yeah. Once Brother Huo is done with the products in a few days' time, we can start the training," Xia Xibei said.

New products had to be complemented by new techniques.

Xia Xibei had a set of unique techniques that could maximize the benefits of the products.

"Alright, noted," Liu Manhong nodded, once again contemplating the series of actions to take next.

Then she looked towards Qiao Yanjue, "Oh, by the way, your mom called a few days ago. She asked me if you've gotten yourself a girlfriend."

Qiao Yanjue's expression changed theatrically upon hearing that, and he stuttered a bit, "What- What are you talking about?!"

Liu Manhong was speechless.

"It wasn't me who said it, it was your mom—my older sister that said it. Look at how old you are! You should start looking for a girlfriend if you don't want your dad to interfere."

Chapter 339: You're Wrong

Qiao Yanjue's face turned dark, "Stop that nonsense! What do you mean I'm old? I'm still in my youth, okay! Also, I'm the only person that's in charge of my relationships!"

As he spoke, he gingerly observed Xia Xibei's expression.

However, there wasn't really much he could see from Xia Xibei's face.

This both elated and disappointed him at the same time.

He was glad that Xia Xibei didn't get angry, but the exact same reason disappointed him as well.

"Haha!" How could Liu Manhong even know what he was thinking about? So she sneered, "As long as you keep it in mind. As for what you said about being in charge... That depends on whether your dad and mom agree."

Judging from the Qiao family's condition, they sure wouldn't allow Qiao Yanjue's life partner to be the child of an ordinary family.

Feelings were important, but so was compatibility. Otherwise, his partner would end up suffering a lot.

Qiao Yanjue's face turned even darker upon hearing those words, and his heart sank at the same time.

Liu Manhong was right about it.

If he were to protect the person he loved, he had to equip himself with greater power.

“You don’t have to worry about it, I know what I’m doing,” Qiao Yanjue said with a sullen face, his manner rather frightening.

Nonetheless, not only did he not intimidate the two people beside him, his reaction even roused their curiosity.

“Sister Hong, don’t worry, Brother Qiao is a great guy, I’m sure many girls like him,” Xia Xibei waved her hand and said with total nonchalance.

She still remembered that Qiao Yanjue was a renowned man in her past life. Despite his aloof and dreary character, girls were extremely fond of him.

Besides, according to the chronology, this was about the time when his family had started finding him a fiancée.

Therefore, they didn’t have to worry about it at all.

Xia Xibei was speaking for him, but not only wasn’t Qiao Yanjue happy about it, it made him feel even worse.

He could clearly see that Xia Xibei didn't have any intimate thoughts for him. Otherwise, she wouldn't be able to comment so casually about it.

It was as if there was something tearing at his heart, which felt extremely awful.

"You have a point," Liu Manhong agreed. "You have no idea how many girls have fallen for him ever since he was a kid!"

Although he didn't like any of them.

"That's for sure!" Xia Xibei nodded. "Our Brother Qiao is a good-looking, awesome guy!"

"In fact, it isn't too early. You could meet the girl now, see each other for a couple of years, then get married and have kids later on. What perfect timing!"

"Yes!" Xia Xibei couldn't agree more. "You have to spend some time together to get to know each other, only then will your marriage be blissful."

As he listened to the two of them exchanging remarks, talking over the most important event of his life like housewives in a market, Qiao Yanjue's face turned extremely dark.

Forget about Liu Manhong, why would Xia Xibei say the same thing too?

Did she want him to get married to someone else so badly?

“Don’t you want to ask me what kind of girls I’m drawn to?” He cut them off all of a sudden.

“Is that even hard to figure out? Of course you’ll like a girl that’s elegant, generous, and gentle,” Xia Xibei replied without the slightest hesitation. It would surely be girls who were completely different from her.

Qiao Yanjue’s face turned as dark as the clouds in the sky before a thunderstorm struck.

“You’re wrong, completely wrong.”

Xia Xibei was startled by the look in his eyes.

It was so terrifying; he looked like he was about to devour her.

“Hmm...”

“Do you really have no idea what kind of girls I like?” Qiao Yanjue’s eyes were as dark and unfathomable as an ancient well, gleaming with sparks that made every heart race.

“I...” Xia Xibei’s breath was caught in her lungs, and she was at a loss for words.

“Alright, enough. I know what I should do, you don’t have to get involved.” Qiao Yanjue stood up abruptly, clenching his hands into fists. “I’m going home to get some rest.”

Watching his back as he furiously stomped off, Xia Xibei and Liu Manhong couldn't help but stare at each other in shock.

Chapter 340: A New Boyfriend Every Day

"Is he... Angry?" Xia Xibei was a little apprehensive. "Did what we say make him mad?"

Liu Manhong carefully recalled the situation just now, as well as Qiao Yanjue's reaction, and an idea flashed through her mind.

Xia Xibei was a little nervous, catching Liu Manhong's stare. "Why are you looking at me like that? What did I say?"

"You really don't know?" Liu Manhong asked gingerly.

"What... Should I know?" Xia Xibei was also at a loss.

Liu Manhong frowned and stared at her for a while, then finally shook her head, "Nothing. It's just his stinky temper. Ignore him."

"Okay, let's get back to this." Liu Manhong picked up the face cream Xia Xibei brought back, "Has mass production started yet?"

“Almost.”

Xia Xibei did not understand what Liu Manhong just meant but did not investigate further.

She always felt that if she continued to look deeper, something terrible would happen.

The two talked for a while, King Chu also finally finished with his punishment. He was pathetically lying on the ground, looking at them in vain, occasionally whimpering and chiming in with a few words.

The two people and the dog were rather harmonious.

After a little more time, the two of them finished their discussions and Xia Xibei went back to her place.

Looking at Xia Xibei's departing figure, Liu Manhong's face was a bit conflicted.

After sorting everything out, the premonition in her mind became clearer and clearer.

With this thought, she picked up the phone and dialed Qiao Yanjue's number.

However, the other end hung up on her.

Liu Manhong had to laugh. Would this kid be so childish in front of others?

She became angry and kept calling.

After hanging up several times, the other end finally couldn't resist and picked up the phone.

His tone was impulsive as he asked, "What do you want?"

"I want to introduce a boyfriend to Beibei," she spoke up.

"How dare you?!" Qiao Yanjue's voice came out from the other end, a mixture of shock and anger.

Liu Manhong's heart sank, her suspicion now confirmed.

"Get down here! If you don't show up, I will introduce seven boyfriends to her tomorrow, one for each day!"

Then she hung up.

Qiao Yanjue looked at the phone incredulously, shocked and anxious. What did Liu Manhong mean by this?

However, in two minutes, he reached Liu Manhong's home, his face was still ugly.

"Hah! You're giving me an attitude?" Liu Manhong pointed and demanded bullishly, "Sit down!"

Qiao Yanjue's back went cold and he sat upright.

"Bark?" King Chu looked at them blankly, not understanding what was going on.

"Go to the room!" Liu Manhong pointed with her hand. King Chu wailed and returned to his room with his tail between his legs.

He was a smart dog, naturally he knew when he could be reckless and when he could be obedient. Otherwise, his owner would be furious.

When King Chu left, Liu Manhong pulled over a chair and sat on it in reverse.

"Say, what's going on with you?"

"What do you mean?" Qiao Yanjue's gaze flickered.

"Hah!" Liu Manhong snickered, "Do you have a bad memory, forgetting what I just said?"

Qiao Yanjue's face dimmed. What did she mean by introducing seven boyfriends to Xia Xibei? But knowing Liu Manhong, she really would do such a crazy thing!

Although Xia Xibei would not possibly accept it, this was very disheartening.

"Couldn't you tell?" Qiao Yanjue gave him a blank look. Otherwise, how would she threaten him with such things?

"Eh-!"

Getting confirmation, Liu Manhong immediately drew back a breath.