

Chapter 391: Who's Xiaoyun?

Not long after Xia Xibei and the others arrived at the restaurant, Huo Zijun turned up as well.

Upon arriving, Huo Zijun and Jiang Yuran were locked in an embrace, giving each other a playful punch.

“Brat, you’re finally back after being there for so long!”

Jiang Yuran made an innocent face, “It was you guys who didn’t go back, wasn’t it?”

Their families were all based in the capital. Previously, Qiao Yanjue and Jiang Yuran were both active within the capital. Huo Zijun was the only one who worked in City G.

However, Qiao Yanjue later also went to City G, causing Jiang Yuran to wonder what was so attractive about City G. What made them so happy that they forgot to return home?

Having been apart from each other for so long, the three of them were a lot more chatty than usual.

“It’s just a pity that the fellow Han Rui isn’t here with us.”

The four of them were of about the same age. They had grown up and studied together since they were young, and they had always gotten along very well.

The three of them had chosen to go into business while Han Rui joined the army, even making his way into the special forces. He was usually occupied with missions, and seldom had time to meet them.

“He just told me that he’s doing well,” Huo Zijun said after taking a sip of water.

“Why didn’t he contact me?” Jiang Yuran wasn’t very happy about it.

“Haha,” Huo Zijun shot him a glance, “Are you sure he can find you?”

The four of them had very different personalities. Han Rui was a reserved, serious man, while Huo Zijun was mellow and gentle, Qiao Yanjue was cold and haughty, and Jiang Yuran was a carefree playboy.

Jiang Yuran had never run short of girlfriends since his teenage years.

Men that had similar backgrounds as he always felt like they weren’t spending their money well if they didn’t have several girlfriends at a time.

He was a man with integrity though; he never had more than one partner at a time. It was always a one-to-one relationship.

He had a big brother at home to hold things together, and he wasn’t very interested in the family assets anyway, so he spent his life fooling around and having fun.

They might not always be able to find him, even if they wanted to.

Therefore, Han Rui always contacted the rest of the squad, who would then get in touch with Jiang Yuran.

“Cheh!” Not only was Jiang Yuran unruffled by the roast, he even spoke in a righteous manner, “He just wasn’t lucky enough to find me!”

Huo Zijun rolled his eyes at the shameless remark, nearly spitting water on his face.

After bickering with Huo Zijun for a while, Jiang Yuran came to a sudden halt, his jaw hanging open and his eyes going wide with shock.

He rubbed his eyes dramatically and stared at Qiao Yanjue in utter disbelief.

“God damn it!” he squealed. “Big Qiao, what are you doing?!”

Qiao Yanjue was skillfully peeling shrimp for Xia Xibei. Upon hearing his name being called, he spared a second and shot him a glance. “Want me to buy you a pair of glasses?”

Jiang Yuran was speechless.

Holy jeez, this surely couldn’t be his beloved Big Qiao! Someone must have exchanged him with a fake one!

Wasn't Qiao Yanjue a clean freak? What the hell was happening right now?

While he was deep in shock, Qiao Yanjue had managed to peel a few more shrimps.

Damn! That was swift, wasn't it? How long did it take him to master that skill?

Jiang Yuran couldn't help but hold Xia Xibei in high regard now.

She must be a piece of work, to be able to mold Qiao Yanjue into the man he was right now!

If others saw him peeling shrimp for a girl, they would be shocked to death!

He shook his head and sighed, "If Xiaoyun sees you like this, imagine how upset she'll be!"

"Xiaoyun?" Xia Xibei's chopsticks stopped moving, and her expression changed subtly.

"Don't listen to his nonsense!" Qiao Yanjue's heart skipped a beat, and he shot Jiang Yuran a death stare. "Xiaoyun used to be our schoolmate."

"Really?" All of a sudden, Xia Xibei couldn't seem to taste the sweetness of the shrimps anymore, so she set down her chopsticks, "You guys must be close then."

She knew exactly which Xiaoyun they were talking about.

Wasn't it Li Weiyun?

Chapter 392: Totally Unrelated

Xia Xibei had come across Li Weiyun several times, none of which had left her with pleasant memories.

Li Weiyun was aloof and haughty, but that wasn't a big deal because the Li family was a prestigious family, and she had every reason to be snobby.

However, she was close to Xia Qinghan, so Xia Xibei couldn't avoid her condescending disdain every time they met.

Besides, Li Weiyun was Qiao Yanjue's fiancée. It caused a great deal of commotion when the two of them got engaged.

"Xiaoyun... Is your fiancée, right?" Xia Xibei asked, deep in thought.

"Ouch!"

Qiao Yanjue was startled by the question and poked his finger with the prawn shell.

He stared at her in disbelief, "What fiancée? What are you talking about?"

Jiang Yuran started clapping and laughing out of nowhere, "Their families really did plan on that before!"

If it hadn't been for Qiao Yanjue's willful, unbridled nature, and the way he kept a firm stance through it all, the two of them might have become a couple by now.

Qiao Yanjue stared at Jiang Yuran with his ice-cold eyes, till he shut his mouth and touched his nose bashfully.

"I- I was joking."

After making Jiang Yuran shut his mouth, Qiao Yanjue turned to look at Xia Xibei. In a solemn manner, he explained, "I do not have a fiancée. Xiaoyun, whom they were talking about, is a high school friend of ours. We haven't been in touch for years."

They hadn't really kept in touch ever since Li Weiyun went abroad to attend college.

"What do you mean you haven't been in touch?" Jiang Yuran asked in a low voice. "It's just that you always ignored her."

Everyone knew how Li Weiyun felt about Qiao Yanjue, but he had always been cold and distant to her, never responding to her feelings.

Huo Zijun was speechless. He gave Jiang Yuran a forceful slam on his back, making a loud bang.

What a silly kid! How dare he still speak nonsense? Was he trying to get murdered by Qiao Yanjue?

“Big Qiao is right,” Huo Zijun said. “Xiaoyun is our highschool friend, one who has been living overseas all these years. I think she’s got a boyfriend now.”

He was trying to imply that Qiao Yanjue had absolutely nothing to do with Li Weiyun.

Although Huo Zijun didn’t believe that Qiao Yanjue and Xia Xibei could make it together, that didn’t mean he should hold them back!

Qiao Yanjue gave him a satisfied look, and then turned to tell Xia Xibei, “Alright, let’s not talk about those irrelevant people anymore. Eat more. You got skinny over the past few days.”

Jiang Yuran couldn’t bear the sight of Qiao Yanjue trying his best to please Xia Xibei.

Damn it! Was this the same cold, cruel, fierce Big Qiao that they knew?!

It turned out that he was no exception from other men, who lost their integrity in the face of a woman’s beauty. Even Li Weiyun became an irrelevant person.

Imagine how upset Li Weiyun would get if she knew!

However, he didn't dare to speak another word, because Qiao Yanjue had just shot him a very intimidating warning look.

If he uttered another word, the consequences would be fatal.

Qiao Yanjue was not one to forgive.

However, this showed how much Qiao Yanjue adored and appreciated Xia Xibei.

Jiang Yuran heaved a silent sigh instead. It seemed like Li Weiyun no longer stood a chance.

Qiao Yanjue was already so evasive about the subject, even before his relationship with Xia Xibei became a certainty, so imagine how he would act in the future?

Li Weiyun didn't have a chance in the past, nor would she get a chance in the future.

However, Jiang Yuran was more concerned about his best friend's feelings than Li Weiyun's.

Thus, he didn't bring up Li Weiyun again.

Xia Xibei couldn't help but feel better after hearing Qiao Yanjue deny his relationship with Li Weiyun.

She may seem selfish, but so what? She simply hated Li Weiyun and Xia Qinghan.

If Qiao Yanjue really had been with Li Weiyun before, she would keep a wide berth from him right away.

Chapter 393: Eat It Yourself

Xia Xibei had to admit that her mood brightened up the moment Qiao Yanjue denied having any relations with Li Weiyun.

She even took a piece of meat for Qiao Yanjue with her chopsticks.

"You should eat too."

An idea occurred to Qiao Yanjue as he looked at her smiling face. He wiggled his fingers, "I have to peel the shrimps."

He opened his mouth when he was done talking, exposing his tidy white teeth.

Xia Xibei was dazed for a moment, blinking in confusion.

“Quick,” Qiao Yanjue hastened, “I have to get on with the peeling.”

Xia Xibei hesitated for a moment, before decisively placing the piece of meat in his hand.

“Eat.”

He shouldn't mind eating meat with his hands since he had gotten them dirty while peeling the shrimps in the first place.

Qiao Yanjue was speechless, while Huo Zijun and Jiang Yuran were shocked.

Both of them were pretending to be busy eating while secretly observing the couple's actions, but Xia Xibei's unexpected move almost made them spit out their food.

Luckily, they didn't have anything in their mouths at that moment. Otherwise, all the dishes on the table would have been ruined.

The two of them started coughing, as they had nearly choked.

“Sorry, sorry! My throat is suddenly so itchy!”

Huo Zijun grabbed the glass on the table and started gulping down water, his face flushed red.

Jiang Yuran nearly burst out laughing.

Qiao Yanjue wasn't good at flirting with girls indeed!

Of course, it was mainly because the girl wasn't in the mood for it.

Qiao Yanjue's face turned very dark as he stared at the piece of meat in his hand.

After a very long moment, he finally stuffed the meat into his mouth.

Jiang Yuran nearly spat his water again.

Qiao Yanjue actually ate with his hand?! He was out of his mind!

Jiang Yuran couldn't help but shake his head with a deep sigh.

Just how did a bright, young man turn into someone like this? Love really did drive people insane!

However, what shocked him more was that Qiao Yanjue quickly adjusted his mood, carrying on with his task of peeling shrimp.

Towards the end of the meal, he couldn't even bear to look at Qiao Yanjue anymore. It was too much of an eyesore!

He would have captured the moment with a camera if he could, so that he could show it to the whole world!

He didn't dare to do such a thing, of course. All he could do was try to distract himself by chatting with Huo Zijun.

"By the way, have you found the herbs that I asked you to?"

Huo Zijun nodded, "I found them. I was going to tell you when you happened to show up."

Jiang Yuran was glad.

"Great! I'll give them to my older brother, so he'll take care of his health."

Jiang Yuran's older brother, Jiang Liran, was in his early thirties this year, meant to be his fit, youthful years. However, his health wasn't great. Despite not having any major illnesses, he had always been under the weather.

Having attended many health check-ups, he was simply deemed generally frail.

The entire Jiang family was speechless. He had been alright in the past. It wasn't like he could fight a bull but running 1.5 kilometers without exhaustion was certainly no big deal for him.

How did he become so frail all of a sudden?

Regardless of the cause, all the members of the Jiang family were concerned with his health.

Jiang Yuran was only ever interested in having fun and enjoying life; the family business was never his thing. That was why he worried for Jiang Liran's health a lot.

After all, Jiang Liran was the pillar of the Jiang family.

Jiang Yuran never wanted to shoulder any of the responsibilities.

"You! Look at you!" Huo Zijun couldn't help but shake his head, "If you could just be a little more serious, your brother wouldn't be so burned out!"

Jiang Yuran shrugged, "But I'm just lazy! Haiya, it's no big deal. The capable ones should always work harder!"

Huo Zijun rolled his eyes, not wanting to talk to him anymore.

"I happen to have the stuff with me, I'll hand them to you."

Huo Zijun took out a bag and opened the box inside.

Upon detecting the familiar scent, Xia Xibei turned swiftly to look, her eyes shining so bright, it was almost frightening.

Chapter 394: Must Have Been Poisoned

“This is...”

Xia Xibei couldn't help but stand up upon smelling the familiar scent, making her way towards them.

The two were startled by her sudden move.

Huo Zijun explained, “These are the herbs that I got him for brewing wine.”

Xia Xibei took a look at the herbs in the box, then turned to Jiang Yuran, her expression rather somber.

“Are you poisoned? You don't look like it though.”

Jiang Yuran was stunned for a moment, then his face fell.

“What do you mean I’m poisoned?”

Her words didn’t sound pleasant to his ears.

“These are herbs for detoxification.”

Jiang Yuran scowled, “What kind of nonsense are you talking about?”

His impression towards Xia Xibei worsened drastically in just a moment.

Who would feel good if someone appeared out of nowhere and claimed that they were poisoned?

The next moment, however, he realized that both Qiao Yanjue and Huo Zijun’s faces had turned very somber as well.

“Are you serious about it?” Huo Zijun had a grave look on his face, “These are herbs for detoxification? Are you certain?”

He had obtained these herbs from a remote village according to Jiang Yuran’s request, but he wasn’t exactly familiar with them.

Xia Xibei seemed completely serious.

“These herbs are fine if they are used on their own. When added with white wine of 65 degrees and above, however... Then they are used for detoxification.”

Jiang Yuran was overwhelmed with shock upon hearing her words, “How are you so familiar with it?!”

He got these herbs for brewing wine indeed, and it had to be white wine of 65 degrees and above.

If Xia Xibei hadn't explained things so clearly, he would have thought that she was trying to fool him.

However, that surely wasn't the case now that she had stated the alcohol content of the white wine with such accuracy.

“Who's poisoned?” Xia Xibei fired another question of her own instead of answering his.

Before Jiang Yuran could speak, she went on, “You look completely fine, so it must be someone else that's been poisoned.”

“Why is it not me?” Jiang Yuran asked.

“People who have been poisoned will present unusually red lips and cheeks, but their body temperature will be one or two degrees lower than normal. Also, they'll feel lethargic often. Because of their weakened immunity, they fall sick easily, especially when it gets too cold or warm.” Xia Xibei added after explaining, “You don't have such problems.”

Jiang Yuran looked terrified. All the signs and symptoms that Xia Xibei had stated matched his brother's condition perfectly!

That was how his brother was. He didn't have any major illnesses, but he came down with minor ailments often, and he was always weak and lethargic.

Jiang Yuran stood up in great shock, staring straight at Xia Xibei.

"How do you know all that?"

"Because she's also a doctor," Qiao Yanjue explained, standing up.

"Doctor?!" Jiang Yuran gasped, and his voice broke.

"Yeah," Qiao Yanjue nodded, smiling with pride. "She has amazing skills."

Huo Zijun asked with curiosity, "Are you sure that it's a case of poisoning? For real?"

Although he was a fairly good doctor, he wasn't familiar with herbs that could only be found in remote areas, let alone what illnesses they could indicate.

“Yes,” Xia Xibei nodded. “Although I can’t tell the exact situation as I haven’t met the patient, I’ll say that these herbs are merely for symptomatic relief, and they won’t tackle the problem at its root. With increasing consumption of alcohol, other problems will arise. It may even affect one’s lifespan.”

“What?!” Jiang Yuran was flabbergasted. “Are you serious?”

“Everything she said is true,” Qiao Yanjue nodded, his face solemn. “I think your family has to pay more attention to this matter.”

He had also heard about what was going on with Jiang Liran.

It was no big deal if it was just an illness. However, who would have expected him to be poisoned?!

Jiang Yuran still couldn’t quite believe what Xia Xibei had just said. After all, it sounded way too terrifying.

“Who on earth are you?”

Chapter 395: A Serious Problem

Before this, Jiang Yuran was only friendly towards Xia Xibei because Qiao Yanjue liked her.

After learning about Xia Xibei's background from Huo Zijun, Jiang Yuran was no longer impressed by her, nor did he think that her relationship with Qiao Yanjue would last very long.

However, it was Qiao Yanjue's business.

As his best friend, he would lend him a hand whenever he needed him, but he wouldn't get involved in his personal life, especially in matters of love.

But he would never have thought that Xia Xibei was a doctor!

The scariest part was that although she had never met Jiang Liran in her life, she could explain all his signs and symptoms so explicitly!

The moment he found out that his older brother was poisoned instead of sick, he became anxious right away.

If anything untoward happened to his older brother, it would be a massive blow to their family.

On top of that, he would have to bid farewell to his pleasant, carefree life.

No matter what, his older brother's health and safety was the most important thing in the world.

"It doesn't matter who I am. What matters is that these herbs won't be of much help." Xia Xibei was wearing a calm look as she added, "Besides, I can tell that the patient is in a rather critical condition by now, because the winter yam is involved."

“Winter yam?” Huo Zijun caught the keyword. “This thing’s called winter yam?”

“Oh, it’s what I usually call it, but I’m not sure what its scientific name is,” Xia Xibei explained.

In the fantasy world, this herb was known as the winter yam. It was a rhizome that looked similar to ginseng but had entirely different medicinal effects.

“You said that it’s critical... How critical is it, exactly?”

Jiang Yuran was very anxious. He didn’t care if it was winter or autumn, he was only concerned with his older brother’s health.

“This kind of herbal wine can serve as an antidote to recover one’s body temperature. However, their bones will undergo changes later on, as if they have been corroded by acid. If one consumes a lot of this, they could trip and fall just once, never be able to stand again. ”

Their faces paled with shock upon hearing Xia Xibei’s words.

This was frightening!

“What if he doesn’t drink this then?”

“His condition will worsen even without drinking this. His body temperature will rise by a lot, and he’ll experience a high fever that simply won’t go away. And that will continue for a long period of time.”

The looks on their faces were awful.

A high fever that wouldn’t go away... How tormenting!

“Also, other problems will follow as it progresses.”

Jiang Yuran’s heart thumped wildly in his chest, and his face turned ashen, “We went to the hospital to get it checked before, but they didn’t find any problems with him.”

It was necessary to get regular blood tests and all, but they didn’t find anything abnormal with him!

“Of course you couldn’t find any problem,” Xia Xibei stated with raised brows. “This is a type of parasitic venom.”

“Parasitic venom?!”

Their eyes bulged with terror. This sounded extremely terrifying!

“The winter yam can treat the symptoms produced by this venom, but it doesn’t cure it at its roots. From what I can see, the one who recommended you use the winter yam... They don’t seem to have good intentions.”

Xia Xibei touched her chin, absorbed in thoughts.

Jiang Yuran's face turned even paler, stuttering, "You- You're not lying to me?"

"Why would I be lying to you?" Xia Xibei shot him a glance, "It's not like I can benefit from it."

"She's right," Qiao Yanjue vouched for Xia Xibei.

"Jiang, Xia is right, there's definitely something wrong with this!" Huo Zijun spoke for Xia Xibei as well.

After all, he had witnessed Xia Xibei's greatness with his very own eyes.

Jiang Yuran felt his body go weak and he was at a loss for words.

He didn't expect to learn such a shocking truth today.

"What... What should we do about it then?" He could no longer think straight at that moment.

"Xia, do you know how to cure it?" Huo Zijun asked.

"Of course I do," Xia Xibei smiled with confidence.

Chapter 396: Bring Him Over

Xia Xibei had been living in the Land of Fantasy for over twenty years. She was still an orphan in this lifetime and was brought home by master.

Her master was also a lone man, and he didn't know how to raise a child. When she started talking, he simply gave her all sorts of books. Once she learnt how to study on her own, he made her learn things by herself.

Fortunately, the soul that resided in her body was a mature one, with powerful self-control. Besides, she had suffered way too much because of her uneducated background and lack of experience, so she took it all very seriously.

Her great spiritual power also enabled her to learn extraordinarily fast.

That was the reason why in just twenty years or so, she had acquired expertise in applying and resolving poison, apart from mastering medicine.

The kind of parasitic venom that Jiang Liran was poisoned with was a piece of cake to her.

"Of course I know how to cure it," she said placidly.

Her confidence caused Jiang Yuran to become anxious once again.

“Could you please come over to have a look at him then?”

Qiao Yanjue spoke for him too, “Help him, will you?”

“Resolving the poison is not a big issue,” Xia Xibei nodded, “But he has to come over on his own.”

“Why?” Jiang Yuran blurted out.

Wasn’t it more convenient for her to travel to the capital?

“Because I need to go to school!” Xia Xibei stared at him as if he was an idiot.

Jiang Yuran’s mind went blank all of a sudden, then he came to his senses—Xia Xibei was still a student, for Christ’s sake!

They had picked her up from her high school just today!

God damn it! It turned out that she was only a high school student!

Jiang Yuran’s lips twitched and his jaw hung open with shock.

How in the world was a high school student so incredibly capable? Who on earth was she?

At that moment, he had the same exact doubt that Huo Zijun was having.

“Alright, tell your brother about it, and bring him over as soon as you can.”

Qiao Yanjue patted him on the shoulder, waking him from his deep shock.

“Sure!” Jiang Yuran nodded right away.

“Oh, by the way, don’t let him know my age,” Xia Xibei added.

It was really interesting to look at the ever-changing expressions on Jiang Yuran’s face, the look in his eyes a complicated one.

He would never tell her age, even if Xia Xibei hadn’t reminded him.

If Jiang Liran knew that the one who would be treating him was a 17-year-old little girl, he would surely berate him for being nonsensical.

Being scolded wasn’t a big deal because Jiang Yuran was used to it, so it wouldn’t do him any harm. He was only afraid that his older brother wouldn’t be willing to come, and it would be very tough to persuade him.

“Rest assured, I know what to do.”

When he finished speaking, Jiang Yuran fumbled to take out his phone immediately, going to stand beside the windows to make the call.

Huo Zijun looked equally curious, “I didn’t know you knew all that.”

“Because I’m a genius!” Xia Xibei flashed him a lovely smile.

Huo Zijun wanted to ask more, but Qiao Yanjue cut him off, “Alright, enough. Let’s carry on eating. You can talk about it later.”

Huo Zijun shot him a glare, almost throwing a fit.

Jiang Yuran quickly ended the call.

“How did you tell him about it?”

All of them were curious.

“I told my mom that I found a genius doctor who can treat my big brother, and that I’ll bring him over,” Jiang Yuran looked a little proud.

If he talked to his brother directly, he sure wouldn’t want to come, but their mom would certainly haul him here at all costs.

Everyone in the family was worried about him, and they wouldn’t miss out on any chance that might improve his condition.

All of them gave him a thumbs-up.

After the meal, they were ready to head back.

Xia Xibei came to a stop when they were at the door. She stared at a random tall guy for a moment, then walked up to him and patted him, “Brother Hai!”

The ordinary-looking guy was startled. When he saw Xia Xibei, he smiled and asked in a quiet voice, “You can recognize me?”

“Of course. I made this thing after all,” Xia Xibei smiled at him too.

“Bei, who’s this?” Qiao Yanjue came over and asked, cautiously looking at the guy.

Chapter 397: A Useful Mask

The man looked at the outstanding Qiao Yanjue beside Xia Xibei, a little surprised.

“This is...”

Qiao Yanjue stepped in front of Xia Xibei seamlessly, introducing himself, “Hello, I’m Qiao Yanjue.”

“Hello, I’m...” The man looked around carefully to make sure no one was nearby before whispering, “I’m Nie Zehai.”

“Nie Zehai?”

Qiao Yanjue frowned, then quickly remembered.

Nie Zehai—wasn’t he the actor that Xia Xibei had mentioned before?

But he couldn’t be!

Qiao Yanjue stared at Nie Zehai for a while before he asked in confusion. “You’re that Nie Zehai?”

This wasn’t even the same person!

The Nie Zehai on TV was handsome and elegant, while the Nie Zehai in front of him was very ordinary looking and could not be seen as handsome.

Xia Xibei nodded, "He is indeed the one you know."

"This..."

Qiao Yanjue was shocked. What was this?!

"I'll explain it to you later."

Xia Xibei looked at Nie Zehai again and smiled.

"Congratulations, you're famous now."

These days, with the airing of "Legend of Qinghe," Nie Zehai's popularity had skyrocketed. His fans on the microblog grew by more than one million.

This speed made people envious.

However, when people were famous, it was difficult to go out.

Seeing how Nie Zehai looked today, you could see that it was not easy for him.

The face-changing mask was made by Xia Xibei, and she remembered it, otherwise, she wouldn't have recognized him either.

"Yeah, I exploded."

Nie Zehai's expression was a bit dazed.

These days, he was a bit overwhelmed by his skyrocketing popularity.

He had been in this circle for so long that he didn't have much of an obsession with fame anymore, just wanting to act.

But he didn't expect that this show, which he didn't have much hope for, would be a hit!

Oh, rather, he should say, the show did not become famous. Only his character became famous.

This kind of thing happened from time to time in the entertainment industry, and he was just in time for it.

These days, he'd been given a lot more interviews than before, and taken on a lot more work. It felt like his feet hadn't even landed on the ground yet.

However, with more fame, there were benefits as well as problems.

Lately, he had run into a lot of fans when he went out. People were so enthusiastic that he couldn't even go out as before.

Luckily, Xia Xibei gave him a mask for when it was necessary to go out, using it to avoid the crazy fans and reporters.

When he put on the mask and changed clothes, he was like a different person, able to move as freely as before.

"Thank you for the mask. Otherwise, I would have a headache now."

Xia Xibei laughed, "You're welcome. You paid for it too."

"I still have to thank you!"

After he put on the mask, he really felt the comfort and convenience of the mask.

A few thousand yuan for a mask? It was worth it!

“I’m still making new masks. I’ll bring them to you then.” Xia Xibei teased, “I’m just afraid that when I visit you, you’ll have a beautiful girl in your room.”

“How can it be?” Nie Zehai also smiled. “Just give me a call when the time comes.”

“OK.”

Feeling Qiao Yanjue’s fierce gaze, Nie Zehai hurriedly ended the conversation.

“My friend is waiting for me, let’s talk more next time.”

“Okay, let’s talk next time,” Xia Xibei waved a hand at him.

“Goodbye, Mr. Qiao.” Nie Zehai squeezed out a polite smile for Qiao Yanjue.

“Bye.”

After sending Nie Zehai away, Qiao Yanjue stared at Xia Xibei for a while before saying, “I haven’t slept well these past few days, and I’m so tired now.”

Chapter 398: Li Weiyun Calls

Xia Xibei froze.

She had thought Qiao Yanjue wanted to say something, but she hadn't expected him to say this.

"What have you been up to these past few days? Are you very tired?" While saying that, she was still concerned. "Let me give you a massage when you get back."

Huo Zijun and Jiang Yuran walked over, immediately drawing in a breath at her words, then looked at Qiao Yanjue in shock.

He was a monster! Xia Xibei wasn't even an adult yet!

Jiang Yuran was even more disgusted.

Although he was a playboy, he never laid a hand on a minor. He was a man of honor!

Although Xia Xibei was strong and different from ordinary girls, she was not yet 18-years-old!

Huo Zijun was equally shocked.

He didn't expect Qiao Yanjue to strike so quickly!

Meeting the eyes of his friends, Qiao Yanjue almost rolled his eyes.

Their minds were too dirty!

“That’s good, you can press my shoulder a little more. It’s quite sore,” he said to Xia Xibei without changing his expression.

“Okay,” Xia Xibei nodded.

Looking at the two people’s natural attitude, Huo Zijun and Jiang Yuran suddenly came to a realization and let out a sigh of relief.

So it was a real massage!

However, when he understood, Jiang Yuran was dumbfounded again.

“You guys... Live together?”

Otherwise, how could these words be said so normally?

“No.”

“Yes.”

Xia Xibei and Qiao Yanjue’s voices rang out at the same time.

Jiang Yuran was confused. Was it a yes or no?

“We live next door, so we kind of live together,” Qiao Yanjue explained without a change in his expression.

“The same place?” Jiang Yuran was still surprised.

“Right,” Qiao Yanjue nodded and gave him a pat. “Well, it’s late. Go back to the hotel and get some rest.”

After saying that, he grabbed Xia Xibei and headed out.

“Bye,” Xia Xibei waved at him as she was dragged away.

Looking at the two people’s departing backs, Jiang Yuran looked at Huo Zijun with a shocked expression.

“This... This...”

Huo Zijun sympathetically patted his shoulder, “Stay here for a few more days and you’ll understand that this isn’t the Big Qiao you once knew.”

He had all but gotten used to this side of Qiao Yanjue.

The corners of Jiang Yuran’s mouth twitched and he didn’t come to his senses for a long while.

This kind of Qiao Yanjue was really too scary!

Thinking about the girls he disliked to the point of no return, Jiang Yuran shook his head in disgust.

It was true, love made people blind!

Back at the hotel, Jiang Yuran had just come out of the bathroom when the phone rang.

“Little Yun?”

“Yuran, I’m back in the Capital City. Want to get together?” a female voice came out.

“You’re back in Capital City?” Jiang Yuran was surprised. “Aren’t you in F country now? Aren’t you working on your design exhibition?”

“The design exhibition is done!” Li Weiyun’s voice was light and cheerful, “I’ve graduated and I’m ready to come back and start my own business.”

“Start a business?” Jiang Yuran gave a laugh. “You’re the daughter of the Li family. Do you need to start your own business?”

“Even if I didn’t start a business, I still have to join a company. I can’t have it so easy, unlike you!” Li Weiyun laughed.

“Indeed, no one has it as easy as I do.” Jiang Yuran was not ashamed but proud. After all, not everyone could live such a comfortable life.

“It’s still early, so let’s get together.”

“I’m not in the Capital City right now. It’ll have to be another time.”

“Really?” Li Weiyun’s voice was a little nervous. “What about... Yanjue?”

“He’s not in the Capital City either.” Jiang Yuran suddenly blurted out, “We’re all in G City.”

“G City? You’re all in G City?” Li Weiyun was surprised. “I’m also going to G City in a few days! We can meet up then!”

Chapter 399: Here For Who

Jiang Yuran knew it wasn't going to end well right after he blurted those words out, and when he heard what Li Weiyun said, he almost died of regret.

He wasn't Qiao Yanjue, who didn't know what Li Weiyun intended.

As a friend of theirs, he could see things very clearly.

If this was before, he would help her by steering the conversation in the way she wanted, although it never helped at all.

However, Qiao Yanjue had someone he liked now. If Li Weiyun came to visit, things might get ugly.

"Hmm... I'm going back in a few days' time. Let's meet up when I'm back."

After a moment of silence on the other end, Li Weiyun replied, "You aren't welcoming me?"

"How can I not!" Jiang Yuran denied it immediately. "It's just that City G isn't my place. I don't know any entertaining places here, so we might as well meet when I'm back at the capital."

"Is that so?" Li Weiyun laughed, "It's alright, I have an acquaintance in City G. I'll ask her to show us around when I'm there."

Now that Li Weiyun had made up her mind, what more could Jiang Yuran say in response? He had no choice but to nod along, "Alright then, let's have fun together."

"Yea, ask the rest of the squad to join too. We haven't met for quite a while."

"Okay."

"By the way, I heard that Brother Liran hasn't been well. I know a pretty great doctor here. Do you need my recommendation?"

"A doctor?" It sparked Jiang Yuran's interest for a second, but he turned it down as he thought of what Xia Xibei had said. "No need for now. I happen to know a doctor here too. I'll see how that turns out first."

"Alright then. Just tell me if you need it."

"Sure."

Jiang Yuran still looked awkward, even after the call ended.

He was hesitating over whether he should tell Qiao Yanjue about it.

Now that Li Weiyun was going to come meet them, things might get a bit out of hand.

Besides, everybody knew who she was coming here for.

Jiang Yuran had heard that the Li family wanted to unite its power with the Qiao family through marriage.

Sure enough, no exact names were mentioned, but the only members of the Qiao family of a suitable age who weren't married by now were none other than Qiao Yanjue and Qiao Haoming, who were in their twenties.

The rest were far too young.

As for the Li family, Li Weiyun and her twin brother Li Feiyun were the only ones whose ages were compatible.

Qiao Haoming already had a fiancée, so Qiao Yanjue was the only one left to consider.

There was no way Qiao Yanjue would be matched with Li Feiyun, who was a man. Therefore, only Li Weiyun was left.

In fact, everyone knew that Li Weiyun liked Qiao Yanjue. It was an open secret.

However, everyone also knew for a fact that Qiao Yanjue didn't like her.

Qiao Yanjue's status was different, after all. His parents doted on him a lot. They wouldn't force him to do anything that he didn't want to. Thus, they had declined the Li family's proposal.

However, it seemed like Li Weiyun hadn't given up on him after all!

Jiang Yuran couldn't help but shake his head as he thought of the complicated relations involved.

He was glad that it wasn't something that he had to deal with.

On the other end, Li Weiyun's expression was ice-cold as she hung up the call.

After staying quiet for some time, she dialed a number.

Very soon, a surprised voice came through from the other end.

"Sister Weiyun?"

"It's me," Li Weiyun spoke in a cheerful voice. "Qinghan, you're in City G now, right?"

"Yes! I study here!" Xia Qinghan was shocked and surprised at the same time. She hadn't expected Li Weiyun to call her.

After all, the two of them weren't close. Although they had each other's contact number, they rarely hung out together.

The Li family was far more powerful than the Xia family, so she dared not disturb Li Weiyun on normal occasions.

"Then you must be familiar with City G, right?"

"That's for sure!" Despite her puzzlement, she nodded right away.

"Perfect!" Li Weiyun's smile widened, "Recommend some interesting places for me to visit, please."

"Are you coming to City G, Sister Weiyun?" Xia Qinghan was even more surprised.

Chapter 400: I'll Help You

After hanging up, Xia Qinghan was kind of excited.

Li Weiyun was a well-known rich girl in their circle and a goddess to most men!

The Li family was one of the most famous, prestigious families in the capital, even more powerful than the Xia family.

Xia Qinghan had always considered herself outstanding and excellent, but she never dared to show off in front of Li Weiyun.

Li Weiyun was outstanding in almost every way.

Currently, Li Weiyun was furthering her studies in jewelry design in Country F and was doing very well.

The Li family ran a chain of jewelry and jade enterprises. With the Li family backing her up, Li Weiyun had absolute confidence in everything she did.

Thus, Xia Qinghan liked Li Weiyun a lot. Being friends with her would bring a great deal of benefits.

However, their circles were a bit different.

For some reasons, Xia Qinghan went to high school in City G these past two years, planning to return to the capital once she applied to a college there.

Besides, she was a few years younger than Li Weiyun, so they didn't have many chances to hang out together.

Now that Li Weiyun had taken the initiative to look for her, she was beside herself with joy.

After indulging in her excitement for a while, Xia Qinghan fumbled to take out her phone and started searching for places of interest to visit nearby.

After picking out several places, she stayed silent for a moment, then couldn't help but open Weibo.

After reading the feed about herself, she felt terrible once again.

Right now, the number of posts about her had decreased by a lot online, and those that were left were anything but pleasant.

She nearly tossed her phone at the wall while browsing through the netizens' compliments for Xia Xibei.

She had put in so much effort to try to boost her popularity before this, but in the end, Xia Xibei was the one who stole the limelight instead!

The more she thought of it, the more bitter she became. Xia Qinghan couldn't help but grind her teeth in rage and resentment.

At that moment, her phone started ringing out of nowhere.

"Han."

“Brother Haoming,” Xia Qinghan spoke in an aggrieved, tearful voice as she picked up the call.

“Don’t cry, don’t cry!” Qiao Haoming got anxious right away. “Don’t you cry, Brother Haoming is right here with you!”

However, Xia Qinghan started sobbing upon hearing Qiao Haoming’s words.

Qiao Haoming’s heart ached, “It’s alright, it’s alright! Brother Haoming will help you!”

He was following the on-goings online as well.

Although Xia Xibei’s looks and competence were beyond his expectations, actually leaving him in awe, Xia Xibei’s family and background would always be her biggest shortcoming.

Having a feud with Xia Qinghan without a powerful background was simply suicidal for her!

Thus, Qiao Haoming’s thoughts were focused on Xia Qinghan after his initial surprise and amazement for Xia Xibei.

“I’m dying from their endless scolding!” Xia Qinghan was overwhelmed with sadness. “They don’t know anything, yet all they do is pick on me!”

“It’s okay, they’ll start liking you soon,” Qiao Haoming comforted her.

“But if this goes on, how many more chances do I have to make them like me?”

Xia Qinghan had always been weak and helpless in front of Qiao Haoming. Otherwise, how would she be able to rouse his sympathy and affection?

Honestly speaking, she didn't care much about the mean comments directed at her online, but she couldn't stand being defeated by Xia Xibei.

Besides, she wanted the role of the queen of animals more.

She wanted to take it back from Xia Xibei!

“Don't worry, I'll help you.”

“How are you going to help me?” Xia Qinghan spoke in an even more tearful voice, but her message was clear. “Director Jiang won't change his mind easily.”

“Simple.” His confident voice came through from the other end. “Jiang Shenghe's son has contracted a rare disease. I can find him a doctor.”

In exchange, Xia Qinghan would get the role and join the filming, wouldn't she?

Xia Qinghan was surprised and doubtful at the same time.

“How did you know that?”

“I have a friend who happens to be his nephew,” Qiao Haoming laughed. “Rest assured, I’ll help you for sure.”

“You’re the best, Brother Haoming!”