

## Chapter 401: All Good News

After hanging up the phone, Xia Qinghan's eyes lit up brightly.

Qiao Haoming was the young master of the Qiao family and knew a different level of people, which was why he knew the difficulties Jiang Shenghe was experiencing.

At that moment, Xia Qinghan wanted to be the female lead, but then quickly dismissed the idea.

Although the female lead had not yet officially been announced, there were already many actresses competing for the role.

If she got the lead, she would definitely be maligned to death.

Moreover, if she was the lead in her first show, it would be easy for her to attract criticism.

Xia Qinghan also understood that her acting skills were still weak, and she could not carry this role. Instead of gaining fans, she would be attacked.

She had seen many artists who were critiqued like crazy after being strongly promoted.

Anyway, it would be enough to get the role of the "Queen of the Animals."

Thinking of this, her smile was very wide.

Soon, the phone rang once again.

Bai Meixue said, "I've got a variety show for you."

"Variety show?" Xia Qinghan was surprised.

"Full Steam Ahead."

Her eyes widened.

"Full Steam Ahead?!"

"Full Steam Ahead" was a fun and competitive variety show in which celebrities and real people teamed up to participate in various challenges. Those who succeeded in the challenges were rewarded with generous prizes.

This was Coconut TV's leading variety show, and its ratings ranked in the top three among shows in the same time period.

Xia Qinghan had not yet debuted, but she could participate as a real person!

In fact, most of the so-called real people in the program were trainees of major entertainment companies, or good candidates signed by them.

Even if they weren't, after participating in the program, if the audience response was good, they could also enter the entertainment industry.

"But the projects there are so hard!"

Although Xia Qinghan was pleased, she couldn't help but worry.

"Don't worry, I will make them look after you," Bai Meixue said. "I've already taken care of it."

Xia Qinghan was relieved to hear her say that.

"Oh yeah, you still have to compete on TV tomorrow night. Have you memorized all the information I gave you?"

"Mmm!" Xia Qinghan nodded. "I've memorized them all."

"That's good!" Bai Meixue was relieved. "Then tomorrow afternoon, you can go directly to the TV station."

"Ok."

After hanging up, Xia Qinghan couldn't stop smiling.

Could it be that the sun had come out of the sky? All she heard tonight was good news!

Thinking about the online comments about her and Xia Xibei, she couldn't help but sneer.

Xia Xibei had no projects and no chance to appear on camera; she would soon fade into oblivion.

It was not possible to rely solely on the spontaneous publicity coming from online users for long. That would attract critique.

In other words, the two of them were not even comparable.

When she thought about it, she could barely hold back her laughter.

The next afternoon, she took time off to go to the TV station.

Knowing that she was going to participate in the recording of the competition "Million Dollar Wisdom and Courage," Little Shi and Nini were very envious.

This was a show that only top scholars got to participate in! And she had the chance to appear on camera!

Xia Qinghan was so amazing, to win such a chance on her own! She was a top scholar indeed!

As she was being flattered and praised by these two girls, Xia Qinghan's face did not show anything, but her heart was about to burst with joy.

However, when she got to the TV station and saw someone who shouldn't be there, she jerked backwards.

"Xia Xibei?! Why are you here?!"

The focus of the crowd in front of her was actually on Xia Xibei?

Looking at Xia Qinghan's shocked expression, Xia Xibei laughed, "I'm here to participate in the recording of 'Million Dollar Wisdom and Courage.'"

"Impossible!"

Xia Qinghan frantically shook her head with a horrified expression.

**Chapter 402: Good Skin**

All the crew members of “Million Dollar Wisdom and Courage” were excited because today was the first day of filming.

Of course, that wasn’t the main point.

The main point was that two beauties were here on set this time!

This was an intellectual contest show, and the contestants were mostly top students.

Frankly speaking, top students usually weren’t very good-looking.

That was why everyone was thrilled when they came across these gorgeous girls in the preliminary round.

With their presence, the average looks of the contestants would be raised!

Later, they even found out that the two beauties had been involved in a fairly huge incident. Also, they were both trainees at the same company!

Some of them couldn’t help but doubt whether the questions had been leaked. After all, the two beauties had special identities, and they didn’t seem particularly intelligent.

However, some said that it wasn't a bad idea if the audience ratings went up because of the leaked questions.

Sure enough, that was only an opinion held by a minority. Most of them still hoped that the integrity of the show could be maintained.

No matter what, everyone was looking forward to seeing the two beauties.

Today, they finally met them in person!

Upon meeting them, everyone couldn't help but marvel. They were true beauties indeed!

Originally, they had thought that it was either some special camera effects or photoshop that made them look so good, but it turned out that they really were that gorgeous in real life!

Especially the beauty named Xia Xibei! She had flawless skin and a body that made everyone envious!

Xia Qinghan was quite pretty too. However, when they stood next to each other, the disparity was instantly visible.

Then they realized that these two had beef!

As far as many celebrities were concerned, no matter how intensely their fans fought online or how much they despised each other, they would put up a friendly front when they met.

However, not only could all the crew members sense the tension between them, the two didn't bother to conceal their strife either.

It seemed like there was an exciting drama in store for them!

Everyone started setting up their equipment while stealing glances at the two girls.

Xia Qinghan could sense their eyes on her. In order to maintain her perfect image, she had no choice but to keep smiling.

However, what she didn't know was that her smile was way too unnatural, which drew even more attention from people.

On the other hand, Xia Xibei was casually sitting on a chair while the stylist did her make-up, looking completely at ease.

“Whoa, your skin is so good!”

The stylist was a woman in her thirties, whom people addressed as Sister Lili. She looked fair with make-up, and her skills were pretty great.

Her face was full of amazement as she stared at Xia Xibei's skin.

She had done make-up for many artists and had seen all sorts of skin. Nonetheless, this was the very first time she came across skin as fair and supple as Xia Xibei's.

It was like a hard-boiled egg that had just been peeled: fair, smooth, and rich with collagen. It was so good to the touch that she felt reluctant to put make-up on it.

"What brand of skincare products do you use?"

Sister Lili couldn't stop marveling over her. How she wished she had skin as good as Xia Xibei's.

Her skin wasn't good, as she had a lot of freckles. She never dared to meet anyone with her bare face, and always relied on cosmetics to cover up her flaws.

"I don't use commercial skincare products. I usually buy my products from a beauty parlor," Xia Xibei answered to all her doubts.

Sister Lili was curious, questioning, "Which beauty parlor?"

"Hongyan."

"Hongyan?" She was taken aback. "You buy your products there?"

"Yes," Xia Xibei answered. "Sister Lili, you know Hongyan?"

“Of course I do! I’m a member too! But Hongyan has been closed down, hasn’t it?”

Xia Xibei laughed, “They’re just renovating. It’ll be up and running again very soon.”

### **Chapter 403: Good Care Makes Good Skin**

Xia Xibei did not expect Sister Lili to be a customer of Hongyan as well.

However, even if Sister Lili wasn’t a customer of Hongyan, she would make her one anyway.

Now that Hongyan was temporarily shut down for renovation and most of the customers had ditched them, they had to look for some new customers.

Sister Lili was a make-up artist. Thus, she had good connections with many artists and celebrities. If she thought Hongyan was good, she would recommend it to her acquaintances.

Although Xia Xibei was confident that Hongyan would never run short of customers again, it was always good to bring in a couple more!

“I thought Hongyan couldn’t make it anymore because there was a new beauty parlor. Xianrong, wasn’t it?” Sister Lili queried as she did Xia Xibei’s make-up.

“Of course not,” Xia Xibei denied. “Do you think that Xianrong can give me such impeccable skin?”

“No way!” Sister Lili shook her head immediately.

She had been to Xianrong before. It had been effective indeed, but certainly not to such an extent.

Besides, no matter how much effort they put in, they would never be able to make one’s skin as good as Xia Xibei’s.

Even if someone had good fundamentals and invested a lot of money in skin care, such effects simply could not be guaranteed.

“If I tell you that your skin can become as good as mine, would you believe me?”

Sister Lili was stunned for a second, then she shook her head decisively.

“No.”

She wasn’t young anymore. There was no way her youth would return unless she resorted to medical intervention.

“Hongyan can do this!” Xia Xibei claimed, firmly and resolutely.

Sister Lili frowned, “How is that even possible?!”

Xia Xibei’s skin was perfect indeed, but she was a teenage girl after all, full of youth and vigor. It was normal for her to have skin like that.

But what about her? She was nearing her forties. How could she possibly have such smooth, supple skin?

“How about this? I happened to have brought a bottle of facial serum and eye serum with me. If you don’t mind, you could bring them back and have a try.”

Xia Xibei grabbed the small bag beside her and took out two small, beautiful porcelain vials.

The pristine, white vials were delicate and adorable, only two centimeters in height, able to store 20 to 30 milliliters of fluid at most.

Xia Xibei twisted off the caps of the vials and a refreshing, elegant fragrance wafted through the air.

“This is the eye serum, and this is the facial serum.”

Sister Lili stopped what she was doing and sniffed at the air a little.

“Smells good.”

“Works even better!” Xia Xibei praised the products without holding back, “Sister Lili, bring them back and have a try. If they don’t work, throw them away. If they work...”

“What then?”

“Then I don’t know what to do. If you wish to purchase them, you have no choice but to go to Hongyan,” Xia Xibei laughed. “I don’t have much stock left at hand.”

“Alright then, I’ll give them a try!”

Sister Lili didn’t refuse, accepting the two vials straight away.

Some celebrities would offer small gifts to stylists and make-up artists so that they could look better. She was used to such customs.

These things didn’t cost much, so she accepted them.

However, when she learnt about the prices of these two little vials later, it nearly frightened her to death.

She felt great after accepting the gifts and took Xia Xibei’s make-up even more seriously.

Sure enough, she was also elated to be able to do make-up for such a gorgeous artist.

When she was done with the make-up, she couldn't help but be astonished as she looked at Xia Xibei, who looked even more stunning with make-up.

She was so incredibly gorgeous!

"Come, come here! Let's take a photo first!"

She fumbled out her phone and took a photo with Xia Xibei right away.

However, she couldn't help but stare at the picture with contempt after it was taken.

"I shouldn't have been in the same picture with a fairy like you! I look so terrible!"

Despite saying that, she saved the picture.

Now that Xia Xibei was done with her make-up, it was Xia Qinghan's turn.

**Chapter 404: Not Make-up But Disfigurement**

Xia Qinghan sat aside and watched Xia Xibei and the make-up artist chatting fervently, grumbling to herself.

She was just a make-up artist. What was there to talk about?

Watching Xia Xibei hand two small bottles to the makeup artist, she became even more dismissive.

Why would she try to please a makeup artist? Was Xia Xibei on drugs?!

They were the stars of tomorrow! Why did they need to please a makeup artist? This was just too low!

But it made sense. As Xia Xibei had little hopes of becoming a big star, she would have to lower her posture.

As for her, she would become a superstar in the future. She would be the one being flattered, so there was no need to ingratiate herself with others. Not to mention the fact that the woman was just a useless makeup artist. Working on such a small show, how powerful could she be?

This thought was naturally revealed on Xia Qinghan's face, and her eyes couldn't help but take on a condescending disdain for Sister Lili.

What she didn't know was that Sister Lili was not the makeup artist for this program, but a makeup artist of small fame.

Sister Lili only came here because she was friends with the director of the program and came here to help.

She had been in the circle for a long time, and she had seen all kinds of people in her time.

Xia Qinghan was not old enough to hide all of the thoughts on her face, so they were very easy to see.

Sister Lili's mood became bad upon seeing Xia Qinghan's contemptuous disdain for her.

Although she was a beautiful girl, and a rare beauty to this show, beautiful women were never very hard to find in the industry. She shouldn't stick her nose up in the air.

Besides, there was a prettier, more modest, and very adorable beauty next to her!

At this moment, Sister Lili thought of the online comparison.

Sure enough, people couldn't be compared to each other!

"Close your eyes."

Sister Lili's tone was cold and casual.

Xia Qinghan, who was feeling all sorts of smug, hurriedly closed her eyes and let the powder puff sweep to and fro on her face.

“You can open your eyes now.”

When she opened her eyes, she was startled. “How come it’s so white?”

This foundation was too white! It was several shades whiter than her face!

Sister Lili’s hand movements did not stop as she explained shortly, “The stage doesn’t have the same light, so of course we have to make it whiter. Otherwise, who can see you?”

Although Xia Qinghan felt it was not right, it wouldn’t be good to argue.

While she looked down on the makeup artist, to really say something was another matter.

Plus, before coming over, Bai Meixue had emphasized that she should not get into conflict with others.

So she could only bear it.

When the makeup was finished and she looked at herself in the mirror, she was dumbfounded.

What the hell was this?!

Her skin was so white, it shined. Her eye shadow seemed dirty, her under eye area was white, and her eyes looked puffy. Her hair was tied into a ponytail, revealing a shiny forehead...

This made her 9 out of 10 face appear to be 6 out of 10!

Was this makeup?! This was disfigurement!

“What kind of makeup did you put on me?!”

Xia Qinghan really couldn't help her outburst.

“Is there a problem with my makeup?” Sister Lili put her hands on her waist. “It's the same for everyone!”

Saying that, she even pulled Xia Xibei over for comparison.

“Look! Why does no one else have a problem?!”

Looking at the makeup on Xia Xibei's face, Xia Qinghan froze.

It seemed that... Their makeup was really similar! Even the hairstyle was the same ponytail, but the effect was worlds apart!

“So if you don’t look good yourself, you doubt my skills?!” Sister Lili hummed.

“You!” Xia Qinghan exclaimed in annoyance.

“Take your places, we’re ready to record!”

The director’s voice interrupted the stalemate.

#### **Chapter 405: A Comparison of Looks**

In fact, Xia Qinghan’s makeup was not really ugly; it could be said to be remarkable. However, standing beside Xia Xibei, a difference came out.

Originally, the two girls already had a difference in their looks, but after wearing the same makeup, the difference became more obvious.

Because of her fair complexion, Xia Xibei’s makeup was impeccable, while Xia Qinghan, whose hairline was set back slightly, appeared to have a wide forehead, so she didn’t look so good.

A total of 50 contestants were able to participate in the program, which was to be recorded in two days.

Among the 25 contestants here today, there were other girls, but the two of them were the most eye-catching.

When they finished their makeup and came out, everyone's eyes turned to Xia Xibei.

So beautiful!

Some boys blushed, while others couldn't help but go and chat with her.

After being left out, Xia Qinghan's heart was on fire, but she could only tolerate it.

Up on the stage, the first round consisted of rehearsals, and then the official recording would begin.

After the positions were assigned, Xia Qinghan found that Xia Xibei was right across from her.

Looking at Xia Xibei's beautiful face, her rage grew stronger and stronger, and her resentment towards the makeup artist also transferred to Xia Xibei.

However, her resentment turned to smugness when she thought of the competition later.

No one knew that Bai Meixue had given her a copy of the questions and told her to memorize all the answers.

Although Xia Qinghan felt that she knew enough to handle such a competition, if she had extra help, why shouldn't she use it?

Looking around at the nervous-looking contestants, she felt even better. This feeling of controlling everything was fantastic!

Watching the change in Xia Qinghan's expression, Xia Xibei first stared at her, then finally came to a realization.

She must have cheated!

Recalling the rumors she had heard in her previous life, plus knowing both Xia Qinghan and Bai Meixue's characters, Xia Xibei was sure that they would not be so easygoing.

Of course, she had to wait for the competition to know if it was true.

After a brief rehearsal, the official recording began.

The judges, the hosts, and the audience were all in place.

Those who participated in the recording were ordinary viewers and there were no fans. After all, the competition had just started.

When it was time for the final, naturally, it would be very different.

“Hello everyone, welcome to the ‘Million Dollar Wisdom and Courage’ show!”

The hosts were a man and a woman, both looking very civilized and educated.

“Next, let’s introduce our players. XX from XX, from...”

With each name, the camera gave a close-up of the contestant, while everyone applauded enthusiastically.

“This is Xia Xibei, a junior from Qing Ye High School in G City!”

When Xia Xibei was introduced, the host’s voice was noticeably higher, while the audience applauded very enthusiastically after their surprise.

A beauty like this on this kind of program? Let’s applaud!

Xia Xibei did not panic when faced with everyone’s enthusiasm. With a calm smile, she bowed slightly to everyone.

Everyone's eyes lit up and the applause became even more intense.

"This is Xia Qinghan, also a junior from Qing Ye High School."

Both surnamed Xia, and from the same school in the same grade... Everyone couldn't help but wonder, 'Were they sisters?'

But even if they were sisters, there was a difference in their looks!

Everyone gave Xia Qinghan a lot less applause than they gave Xia Xiubei, and she almost had a grim expression.

"Now, to introduce the rules of this competition. There are 25 players in this competition, and after this session, ten players will be eliminated...."

"This is a points competition, divided into two rounds. The first round is taking turns to answer the questions, and the right answer wins points. The second round is competitive answering, and the right answer wins points, while the wrong answer loses points..."

"Do you all understand? Good. The competition officially begins!"

## **Chapter 406: Must Have Cheated**

Xia Xibei worked quite hard for this show.

Of course, she was not the same as other people.

She had a great memory, and she remembered various pieces of knowledge with just a glance, not putting in too much effort.

Moreover, the ratings of this competition were quite high in her previous life. She had followed along and watched one or two episodes, plus there were some odd questions posted and discussed online, so she remembered a handful of topics quite well.

So she was actually “cheating” too, but it was nowhere near Xia Qinghan’s blatant cheating.

After the competition started, Xia Xibei was sure of her suspicions.

Xia Qinghan had definitely read the question bank. Otherwise, it would have been impossible to answer so quickly.

During the first round, when the questions came out, Xia Qinghan would immediately answer them, winning a lot of applause.

Seeing her look so relaxed, Xia Xibei was sure that the questions had been leaked.

Of course, Xia Qinghan thought the same thing.

Xia Qinghan was shocked when looking at Xia Xibei's effortless appearance.

It took a lot of work to make herself relaxed and calm enough that she was able to answer reflexively when she heard the questions.

But what about Xia Xibei? What made her so relaxed?

The next moment, Xia Qinghan understood— Xia Xibei also had access to the question bank!

She almost didn't let out a breath, looking at Xia Xibei with a complicated expression.

Just how in the world did Xia Xibei manage to come into contact with the question bank? And she must have had access to even more questions!

Xia Qinghan did not have a complete set of questions—it would have been too conspicuous if it was too complete and all the questions could be answered.

Therefore, during the competition, she hesitated on two or three questions and ended up getting two wrong.

But such a failure rate was normal!

Xia Xibei, however, must have memorized the answers to all the questions! Otherwise, she couldn't have answered so quickly and gotten them all right!

She was out of control!

Listening to the enthusiastic cheers and applause from the surrounding audience, Xia Qinghan couldn't help but frown.

So arrogant... Wasn't Xia Xibei afraid of being exposed?

The questions in the preliminary round were not too difficult, and the other players performed well. However, the best contestant was Xia Xibei, with a 100% accuracy rate!

In the end, Xia Xibei deservedly ranked first, a male sophomore from a famous university ranked second, while Xia Qinghan ranked third, and a girl named Ren Ningning ranked fourth.

Although the competition went well, it took almost four hours to record.

Of course, the final broadcast of the show must be edited.

However, all of them were tired, as it was very exhausting.

Even Xia Xibei was a little tired. She had not worn high heels for a long time, but this time, she had worn heels for hours and was exhausted.

“You’re amazing!”

An elegant girl came over, her eyes shining brightly as she looked at Xia Xibei. Her friendliness was apparent.

This was Ren Ningning, the fourth-place winner.

“You’re doing pretty well, too,” Xia Xibei said with a smile and a friendly attitude.

“I thought that the people who came to this competition were not that good, but there are experts!” Ren Ningning was very impressed.

Xia Xibei was speechless.

“Then why did you come to the competition?”

If the people who participated in the competition weren’t good, then she herself wasn’t good either?

Ren Ningning understood what she meant and waved her hand. "I'm not very good, so I didn't want to come to the competition. If I hadn't lost a bet with my brother, I wouldn't have come here to be embarrassed."

She didn't expect to meet such a great beauty after coming here!

### **Chapter 407: Sister Who Lost a Bet**

Xia Xibei's mind stirred slightly and she immediately asked, "Your brother?"

"You know him," Ren Ningning smiled. "Ren Juncheng."

"You're Juncheng's elder sister?"

Xia Xibei was surprised, she always knew that Ren Juncheng had a sister, but she never thought that they would meet here.

"I often heard him mention you. Oh yes, Honey often mentions you too."

"Huh?" Xia Xibei was stunned, "Honey mentioned me?"

Honey can't talk and Ren Ningning couldn't possibly understand Honey's words, so how could she mention her?

“Uh, here’s the thing…”

Ren Ningning’s expression was a little complicated.

After listening to her explanation, Xia Xibei finally understood what was really going on.

Ren Juncheng used to take Honey to visit Xia Xibei, and his family suspected that he was dating.

One day, Ren Ningning found a picture of Xia Xibei in her brother’s cell phone and was amazed—she was a great beauty!

However, Ren Juncheng firmly denied that this was his girlfriend and insisted that she was someone Honey liked.

Ren Ningning felt that her brother was insulting her intelligence.

So, after a lot of arguing, Ren Juncheng proposed a bet.

If Honey recognized Xia Xibei, then Ren Ningning would appear on “Million Dollar Wisdom and Courage.”

If Ren Juncheng lost, he would run five kilometers every day for a month.

“I didn’t expect Honey to actually recognize you!” Ren Ningning tsked.

If it was in person, it would not be surprising that Honey would recognize her. However, Ren Juncheng only brought out a picture of Xia Xibei!

The first time Honey saw a picture of Xia Xibei, she immediately got excited. She rushed up to the phone and rubbed it, meowing, and actually tried to pull Ren Juncheng out of the house.

So she had lost. Her brother wasn’t insulting her intelligence; she just hadn’t seen enough.

“It’s just that I didn’t expect you to come to the competition!”

Ren Ningning’s eyes were amazingly bright.

To tell the truth, she was also a member of the Beauty-Adoration Association, and was currently at the level of president.

Xia Xibei was just too beautiful, and her skin looked so good! She wanted to touch her skin!

Xia Xibei also had a calm and soft vibe, making people feel very comfortable.

No wonder Honey liked her.

“You’re awesome! I’m a college freshman and I’m not as good as you!”

How enviable it was to be good-looking and have a high IQ!

Looking at Ren Ningning’s enthusiastic face, Xia Xibei laughed, “You’re great too!”

This was not a phony statement. Ren Ningning had performed very well, falling behind Xia Qinghan by only one question.

And Xia Qinghan had seen the answers in advance!

“Ah! You’re still better!” Ren Ningning waved her hand without concern. “You got all of them right!”

“Hah!”

A cold snort of disdain came from the side.

The two turned their heads to look, seeing a dismissive Xia Qinghan.

When she got off the stage, there were not too many people, so Xia Qinghan was not as gentle and friendly as before. The mockery on her face was not hidden in any way.

“Who knows what tricks some people pulled in private... And only certain people can be fooled, right?”

Her snide remarks made Ren Ningning frown.

When she was on stage, Ren Ningning did not like Xia Qinghan.

Although she was good-looking, the girl gave her a bad feeling.

Although Ren Ningning liked good looks, she also paid attention to feelings, so she did not want to talk to Xia Qinghan.

She didn't expect Xia Qinghan to approach them and say these inexplicable words.

Before Ren Ningning could say anything, Xia Xibei spoke up.

“Who knows what tricks some people have pulled in private... But they still look so righteous. Do they really think others are fools?”

**Chapter 408: So That's It**

Xia Xibei's words made Xia Qinghan's face sink.

She didn't expect her to be even more tough-mouthed than she thought!

Xia Qinghan sneered and looked at Ren Ningning, "I'm advising you, it's best to see people for who they are. It's not fun to be cheated."

Ren Ningning froze for a moment, then couldn't help but smile.

"Thank you for the reminder, but it doesn't matter even if I get cheated. She looks so pretty!"

Ren Ningning's simple and brutal answer made Xia Qinghan choke for a moment, making her feel like she was with Song Jiaren.

Damn! How come all these people had holes in their brains?

She was about to say something else when Xia Xibei's phone rang.

"Someone is coming to pick me up, I have to go now," Xia Xibei looked at the phone and said to Ren Ningning.

As for Xia Qinghan, she really didn't care.

“I’ll go with you!” Ren Ningning immediately raised her hand, “If it’s convenient, can you give me a ride?”

“Sure.”

After saying that, the two of them just walked away, leaving Xia Qinghan behind.

Looking at them leaving with cheeky smiles, Xia Qinghan hated it so much.

She pulled out her phone and dialed the number.

“Aunt Xue.” As soon as the call connected, Xia Qinghan blurted out, “Why did Xia Xibei also come to the competition?”

“She also went to the competition?” Bai Meixue was really confused this time. “How is that possible?!”

As this opportunity was found by her, the company had nothing to do with it.

So how in the world did Xia Xibei do it?

“It’s true! We just finished recording!” Xia Qinghan was indignant. “And she got all the answers right!”

“Where did she get the questions?”

Bai Meixue was startled, having the same thought as Xia Qinghan.

“I don’t know,” Xia Qinghan shook her head. “She’s too cocky!”

“I have to check it out!” Bai Meixue said immediately. “Don’t worry, I’m going to check.”

Xia Qinghan talked while walking out, and when she reached the door, she stopped in her tracks. “I think... I think I know why.”

“Ah? What?” Bai Meixue on the other end was still a little confused.

“I saw her get into an FS.”

FS was the luxury car of luxury cars, each car worth at least tens of millions of yuan.

“What?!” Bai Meixue drew in a breath. “When did she find a rich guy?”

With Xia Xibei’s background, it was impossible for her to own such a luxury car, so she must have become a gold digger.

“I’ve seen her get into another car before.”

Xia Qinghan’s mouth had a sarcastic sneer.

Bai Meixue also understood. “So that’s how it is!”

“Wait, let me take a picture first.”

Xia Qinghan immediately turned on the camera and took a picture of the car.

Unfortunately, because of the distance, and since Xia Xibei was already in the car, she could not get a picture of Xia Xibei getting into the car.

Otherwise, it would be good news for reporters.

However, knowing that Xia Xibei had gotten herself a benefactor, it would be easy to find evidence later.

Thinking of this, Xia Qinghan’s smile deepened.

And in the FS, Ren Ningning looked shocked and curious as she surveyed the car’s interior furnishings.

This was an FS! A luxury car!

Although their family also had a bit of money, this was the first time she had seen this kind of car.

The interior furnishings of the car were very good, and at a glance, one knew it was very expensive.

Of course, most important was the handsome man who came to pick up Xia Xibei!

Ren Ningning's eyes lit up even more, but looking at the handsome man's attitude towards Xia Xibei, she had the good sense to lean towards the window to give them as much space as possible.

#### **Chapter 409: Not Biologically Related**

After getting into the car, Xia Xibei couldn't help but take off her high heels.

"Are you tired?" Qiao Yanjue asked, concerned.

"Yes," Xia Xibei nodded decisively, "My legs are tired!"

She could run for several hours in a row and climb a mountain without taking breaks, but wearing high heels was too much of a challenge for her. She hadn't been in heels so high for years!

She was still stretching her calf muscles while talking.

“I’ll give you a massage.”

Qiao Yanjue placed his warm hand on her calf.

Xia Xibei couldn’t help but shudder and move her leg away subconsciously.

“No need! I’ll use a hot tub later. That’ll do.”

Qiao Yanjue shook his head, “You haven’t worn high heels before, if you don’t get a massage to relieve them, they are going to hurt tomorrow too.”

Xia Xibei jumped when she saw him getting into action again. Hurriedly, she said, “I’ll rub them with some ointment when I get home, then I’ll be fine.”

“Do you have ointment at home?”

Xia Xibei was speechless at Qiao Yanjue’s question.

She did have herbs at home, but not herbal ointments. Who would prepare those things in advance!

However, Qiao Yanjue did not go on, because Ren Ningning was still with them.

“Hi, I’m Qiao Yanjue, I’m Beibei’s... Brother.”

“Hello, I’m Ren Ningning,” Ren Ningning replied in a quiet, reserved voice, then gingerly asked, “You’re... Her cousin?”

They had different surnames, so he sure couldn’t be her paternal cousin.

Their faces didn’t look alike either, so he was even less likely to be her biological brother.

“She’s the foster daughter of my aunt.”

Xia Xibei’s eyes went wide upon hearing Qiao Yanjue’s words.

When did she even become Liu Manhong’s foster daughter?

Luckily it was a foster mother that she had gotten. If she had a foster father... It would sound very weird (it sounds like “sugar daddy” in Chinese).

Ren Ningning was quick to respond. After integrating what Qiao Yanjue had said, she came to a sudden realization.

“So that means that you aren’t biologically related?”

“Yes,” Qiao Yanjue gave her a praising look.

Ren Ningning bumped her right fist into her left palm, her eyes sparkling a bit too bright. Her smile also widened.

“You came to pick her up even at such a late hour. You guys are really close.”

“It’s very late right now. I was afraid there might be danger.”

Qiao Yanjue felt chills pouring down his spine upon seeing her bright smile.

“Yea, yea, you’re right. Safety first!”

Ren Ningning nodded eagerly, and took the opportunity to roast her useless younger brother, “Why is my brother not worried about me though?”

“Oh, by the way, her brother’s Ren Juncheng,” Xia Xibei said.

“You know my brother too?”

Ren Ningning quickly got her head around it upon hearing Xia Xibei’s tone of voice.

“Yes,” Qiao Yanjue nodded.

Then Ren Ningning started shaking her head non-stop, while mumbling something under her breath.

“Are you hungry yet?” Qiao Yanjue ignored her and turned to ask Xia Xibei.

“Yes I am,” Xia Xibei nodded, sounding somewhat rueful. “I only had two breads for dinner, and they’re all gone by now.”

Qiao Yanjue said nothing but grabbed a bag from the back instead. There was a tiny cake box in the bag.

“Have some cake to fill your stomach first.”

He opened the box, exposing the gorgeous, exquisite slice of cake inside. Then he handed a fork to Xia Xibei.

Xia Xibei was surprised. She took the fork, then looked towards Ren Ningning.

“I’m not hungry!” Ren Ningning shook her head right away, “I don’t eat anything after 7pm because I get fat easily! And I’ll be reaching home soon! Enjoy it yourself!”

Xia Xibei would not force Ren Ningning since she said that. She was hungry indeed.

She took a small piece of the cake with the fork and put it into her mouth. The sweet, pleasant taste was so satisfying that she squinted like a cat.

Qiao Yanjue’s lips curled into a smile. He then opened a bottle of milk tea and handed it to her.

Ren Ningning was speechless.

#### **Chapter 410: This Man is Taken**

Ren Ningning felt as if her eyes were going blind as she watched the two. Her stomach, which was a little hungry just a while ago, felt overloaded with sweetness now.

Damn it, this couple was totally cruel!

Luckily, they soon arrived at her residential area.

“Thank you, see you next time!”

She got out of the car as soon as she finished speaking, hurrying home.

Upon reaching home, Honey dashed towards her and trod circles around her feet, seeming very welcoming.

“Honey! I love you so, so much!”

She scooped it up and stroked it heartily before setting it down.

However, Honey went limp right after it was put down, no longer showing the enthusiasm it did just moments ago.

Ren Ningning was puzzled. Wasn't Honey still a bouncy ball of energy just a while ago?

If she could understand Honey's language, she would surely throw up blood.

A while ago, Honey was only welcoming towards her because she carried Xia Xibe's scent when she came in.

“Sis, why didn't you tell me you were coming back?”

Ren Juncheng was coming out from his room to get some water when he became startled by his sister's presence.

They had agreed beforehand that he would go pick her up when she was done, so why did she come back on her own?

"Beibei sent me back."

"Beibei?" Ren Juncheng was surprised. "Xia Xibei?"

She nodded, "Yes."

Then before Ren Juncheng could ask questions, she said, "I finally understand why you said she wasn't your girlfriend."

"She's never been my girlfriend in the first place." Ren Juncheng was speechless.

"Of course she wouldn't like you! She's already got a very good-looking, awesome boyfriend!"

As she spoke, Ren Ningning shot disdainful glances at her brother.

Ren Juncheng was left speechless. True sibling, indeed.

But he quickly came to his senses.

“She has a boyfriend now? It can’t be! I met her a few days ago! She didn’t have one at that time!”

“You’ve met him before,” Ren Ningning said while drinking water.

“I’ve met him?” Ren Juncheng took a gulp of water as well.

“Yea, it’s Qiao Yanjue.”

“Pfffff!”

Ren Juncheng couldn’t help but spit the water all over his sister’s face.

“Ren! Jun! Cheng!!!!”

Ren Ningning pounced on her brother with her face wet, her expression murderous.

They caused a great commotion, which alarmed their parents. Only then did they come to a ceasefire.

Ren Juncheng's hair looked as messy as a bird's nest. With a face full of shock, he asked, "When did the two of them become a couple? Aren't they brother and sister?"

Ren Ningning rolled her eyes at her silly brother, "They aren't biologically related, are they?"

"They aren't, but..." Ren Juncheng couldn't go on.

He thought of how Qiao Yanjue had treated Xia Xibei during the times they went out.

"Holy jeez! That's magical!"

"What's magical about it?" Ren Ningning snorted, "Isn't that normal? The guy's handsome and the girl's pretty. How pleasing to the eye!"

She gave him another eye-roll when she finished talking, then looked away with contempt.

"But it's not right! They didn't tell us they're together now!"

"Can't you see it with your own eyes, even if they didn't say it out loud?"

Ren Juncheng shook his head right away, "I couldn't tell though."

Ren Ningning was speechless.

“Are you blind or what? Didn’t you see the look in Qiao Yanjue’s eyes? He looked like he was gonna eat her alive. And you still couldn’t tell?”

She felt like she was going blind from watching their sweet interaction even though the ride was short!

At first, her heart did flutter a little when she first met Qiao Yanjue, who was such an outstanding, eye-catching man.

After all, which girl wouldn’t daydream a little in front of a man as handsome as him?

However, she banished those unrealistic thoughts right away when she saw how Qiao Yanjue treated Xia Xibei.

This man was freaking taken!

She almost felt like crying when she saw how tender and affectionate Qiao Yanjue was towards Xia Xibei.

He was so thoughtful!

**Chapter 411: On Your Side, For Sure**

By the time Xia Xibei and Qiao Yanjue finished their meal and got home, it was almost 11 o'clock at night.

"I'll give you a massage, okay?" Qiao Yanjue hadn't forgotten.

Xia Xibei was speechless, "No need!"

"What, you don't trust my techniques?" Qiao Yanjue looked serious.

"It's not because of that..."

"Then I'll do it!" Qiao Yanjue seated himself on the couch and patted the seat beside him, "Come sit here, I'll help you."

"Hmm..."

"You've helped massage me so many times before, I should do it at least once for you too, right?" Qiao Yanjue put on a righteous look.

"Alright then," Xia Xibei agreed at last.

She sat opposite to him, then stretched one of her legs out towards him and said, "Massage down this vein then."

"No problem."

Qiao Yanjue cast his eyes down, concealing his emotions.

He embraced Xia Xibei's leg and placed his right hand over her calf.

The tender touch of her skin made his heart skip a beat, and he felt as if electric currents were coursing through him.

"Ah!" The warm, rough touch of his palm made Xia Xibei feel a bit numb and sore, and she nearly withdrew her leg.

"Don't move."

Qiao Yanjue pulled himself back from the reverie, and his expression went back to normal.

While massaging her leg, he asked her about the filming today.

"Was it smooth?"

“I’ll say so.”

Now that her attention had been diverted, Xia Xibei started talking about her day, “I don’t know when it will air, at least two weeks from now I guess. I still have to go for filming later.”

“Did anything special happen?”

“Special things... I’m not sure if this can be considered special.”

“Oh? Wanna tell me about it?”

“It’s just...” Xia Xibei came to a sudden stop and stared at Qiao Yanjue for a moment.

“What’s wrong?”

“If... If I ever get into a conflict with your friend, what would you do?” Xia Xibei was wearing a somber look.

“I’ll be on your side, for sure,” Qiao Yanjue blurted out without the slightest hesitation.

But it left Xia Xibei speechless, “You trust me that much?”

“Yes,” Qiao Yanjue nodded decisively. “Of course I trust you. It’s not like there’s anyone else that can compare to you.”

“But your friend might not trust me.”

“Then he’s not my friend anymore.”

“Huh?”

“Don’t worry, my friends are all great people,” Qiao Yanjue laughed softly, his low, deep voice tingling her ears. “If they don’t trust my decision, I won’t be friends with them either.”

Xia Xibei felt her breath caught in her throat. Something didn’t feel quite right.

“Hey, hey, massage this part. Use some force!”

Qiao Yanjue paused a bit, then shook his head and added force like she instructed.

“Then... What if it’s someone in your family?” Xia Xibei asked again, hesitant.

Xia Qinghan was Qiao Haoming's fiancée, and Qiao Haoming was Qiao Yanjue's nephew. Thus, the relation between Xia Qinghan and Qiao Yanjue wasn't distant either.

She was unsure whose side he would take.

Friends could be changed anytime, but family relations weren't always easy to untie.

"I'll be on your side, of course!"

Again, Qiao Yanjue replied without hesitation.

Upon meeting Xia Xibei's doubtful gaze, he laughed, "I think I haven't told you about my family, have I?"

"No..." Xia Xibei shook her head after a brief moment of pondering.

"I'm the youngest child in my family. My oldest brother, my second older brother, and my third older sister don't share the same mother with me," Qiao Yanjue said, switching to the other leg.

"So, your relationship with them...?"

"So we don't get along well. Not at all."

At that point, the look on his face turned sorrowful, “In fact, apart from my parents and Sister Hong, I don’t have any other close relatives. They are as good as strangers to me.”

#### **Chapter 412: What If We Fight?**

Xia Xibei was stunned when she saw the look on Qiao Yanjue’s face suddenly change.

“What- What do you mean?”

Qiao Yanjue reduced the force on her leg, and soon returned back to his normal self.

“My brothers and sister are all about ten to twenty years older than me, and they never liked me or my mom. Don’t call them my family. Ha! They treat me like I’m their enemy!”

He gave a self-deprecating laugh, and there was a hint of tears in his eyes when he said that, which he tried to conceal by hanging his head low.

Xia Xibei felt her heart aching terribly.

In her past life, she had heard of things about the Qiao family, and knew that they all had complicated relationships.

However, she wasn’t sure what exactly was going on with them.

All she knew was that Xia Qinghan had become a daughter-in-law of the Qiao family, which she was extremely proud of. The Xia family also became better off because of that.

With financial support from the Qiao family, Xia Qinghan's career had an even smoother sailing.

She had also heard that Qiao Yanjue wasn't on good terms with his brothers and sister. There were even rumors saying that he murdered his brothers to get to where he was.

Of course, these were just rumors and gossip, and she couldn't ascertain their authenticity.

Besides, despite all that, he and his brothers appeared to get along when outsiders were around. Xia Qinghan also had a good relationship with Qiao Yanjue's fiancée, Li Weiyun.

No matter how intensely people discussed them, they never failed to put up a respectful, harmonious front.

Nevertheless, now that Qiao Yanjue said it himself, it must be true.

Qiao Yanjue did not stop what he was doing, continuing, "Don't talk about brotherhood. When they never stop hoping that I'm dead, somewhere out there..."

Xia Xibei interrupted him, "When I first met you, was it also them who..."

“Yes.” Qiao Yanjue held nothing back, looking crestfallen. “The second time too.”

He wasn't lying. The feud between them was real. It was just that these things could no longer upset him ever since a few years ago, all because it wasn't worth his while.

Looking at the vulnerability that he had never shown her before, Xia Xibei felt a lump in her throat, and she found it a little hard to breathe.

“Don't- Don't be sad, I...”

She used to think that it was Qiao Yanjue's enemies that were hunting him down, but she had never expected it to be his own brothers.

She knew how terrible it felt to be hurt and betrayed by family and relatives. She knew it all too well.

“I'm not sad,” Qiao Yanjue chuckled, his vulnerability nowhere to be seen now, as if the tears he had just shown were nothing but an illusion.

He said, “I'm just trying to tell you that those who truly care for me will always believe in me and stand by my side. As for those who don't, I don't give a damn about them.”

In other words, those who didn't stand by his side would never be considered as his close ones.

He massaged her leg harder, and spoke in a serious tone, "In fact, my parents are both great. It's just that my dad can be a little hard-headed at times. But you don't need to worry, he's not going to hurt you."

Xia Xibei was shocked and couldn't help but frown. Why did his words sound a bit off?

"As long as you treat me well, my parents will be good to you."

Xia Xibei didn't know what to say. That sounded even more wrong!

Before she could get her head around it, Qiao Yanjue went on, "By the way, what else did you want to tell me?"

Xia Xibei hesitated for a moment before asking, "Do you know Xia Qinghan?"

"Yea, she's my nephew's fiancée," Qiao Yanjue nodded. "Why? You two don't get along?"

He had looked into their relationship before, and knew that they weren't on good terms, but he wasn't very sure about the exact reason. It was like they had developed a feud out of nowhere.

Xia Xibei looked somewhat grave as she asked, "If I get into a fight with her, what would you do?"

"Call 120," Qiao Yanjue replied without a second thought. "Then find a lawyer."

Xia Xibei was speechless.

### **Chapter 413: Definitely An Illusion**

Qiao Yanjue explained, "If you guys really got into a fight, I'll have to call an ambulance for her. Otherwise, I'm afraid she'll die."

Qiao Yanjue had seen Xia Xibei's strength and certainly understood how tough she was.

Xia Qinghan was a weak woman with no power. How could she beat her?

"As for the lawyer... I certainly won't let you be taken away."

Xia Xibei didn't know what to say.

However, after saying this, Qiao Yanjue smiled again.

"Of course, I believe that you won't be caught in the act. So, the possibility of that is zero."

Xia Xibei was so smart, how could she hit someone indiscriminately and then get caught for it?

Besides, she wouldn't do anything by force. It's more likely she'd frustrate them to death.

Qiao Yanjue's words made Xia Xibei smile, "You trust me that much?"

"Of course," Qiao Yanjue blurted, looking at her.

For a moment, the two of them looked at each other and the air seemed to freeze.

Xia Xibei held her breath, Qiao Yanjue's eyes were dark and deep, as if they were about to suck her in.

"Okay, I'm fine now!" She panicked and jerked her leg back. "I forgot, I haven't taken off my makeup yet!"

As soon as she came back, she got a massage, so how could she have remembered to take off her makeup?

Looking at her back, Qiao Yanjue smiled, "Well then, you have a good rest. I'm going back."

"Good, go ahead, I won't see you off!"

Xia Xibei waved her hand without looking back and dove into the bathroom. “Remember to close the door for me!”

“Okay.”

Looking at her slightly flustered back, Qiao Yanjue’s smile deepened, but he didn’t make any rash moves.

Only after hearing the door open and close did Xia Xibei let out a fierce sigh of relief.

She patted her face, which felt a little feverish.

Thinking about what Qiao Yanjue had just said, her face scrunched up into a frown.

He couldn’t be... Interested in her, right?

Once she had this idea, Xia Xibei immediately sucked in a breath, then shook her head violently.

No way! How could Qiao Yanjue like her?!

He had seen all of her negative sides, so he couldn’t be stupid enough to like her, could he?

Yes, it must be an illusion!

Xia Xibei laughed at herself, and then walked into the bathroom.

As soon as she saw her face in the mirror, she could not help but cry out.

“Ahhh!”

OMG! She looked horrible!

Her makeup was all over the place!

The quality of these cosmetics was not bad, but they weren't great either. After a whole evening, plus a late-night snack and no make-up touch ups in between, her make-up had melted.

It was not a disaster, but it was very close to it.

This was the middle of the night, and to suddenly see such a face, even if it was her own face, Xia Xibei was almost scared to death.

So how in the world did Qiao Yanjue say something like that to her face?

Xia Xibei was sure that the small glimpse of flirtation just now was definitely an illusion!

Who would want to make a move to that kind of face?!

Xia Xibei muttered to herself, shaking off this inexplicable feeling of illusion, while removing makeup and cleaning up.

She was satisfied only after seeing the clean and beautiful face in the mirror.

As she touched her flawless face, the smile on the corner of her mouth turned cold.

The next morning, she returned to school and, by coincidence, ran into Xia Qinghan again.

This time, Xia Qinghan only had Tao Yueying next to her. Rumor was that Liu Zhijing had taken a break from school because she was not feeling well.

Seeing Xia Xibei's flawlessly beautiful face, Xia Qinghan's mood instantly turned bad.

"You..."

But this time, Xia Xibei didn't even look back. She walked away, leaving Xia Qinghan to gnash her teeth.

**Chapter 414: I Love to Study**

When she returned to the classroom, Xia Xibei stopped dead in her tracks.

“What the hell?”

There was a bouquet of flowers on her desk and a box of chocolates underneath.

Looking at the delicate packaging of the box and the foreign language on it, you could tell that it was an expensive box of chocolates.

Tang Luo pointed to these two items, “They were already here when I arrived.”

Ever since the incident with Li Yulin, there was no more bread and milk on his desk.

Now, it was Xia Xibei’s turn.

Moreover, the gift-giver was even more reckless. They were at school!

Sending flowers so blatantly... Did the person want everyone to know?

The others also came over.

“Sister Bei, who is this from?”

“There is a letter too!”

Xia Xibei picked up the letter, opened it, and couldn’t help but snicker.

“It’s from Wan Shijie.”

“Holy crap! It’s that boy!”

The others were dazed.

Wan Shijie actually sent her flowers? What did this mean?

Tang Luo took a look at the letter and was also speechless.

“Dear Classmate Xia Xibei:

Although we had an unpleasant incident before, I know that it was just an accident. I’m sending a small gift. I hope you can forgive me.”

The first part was pretty normal, the weird part was at the back.

“It was the most wonderful accident for you and I to meet...”

Tang Luo couldn't look at the words which followed, his stomach was turning over.

“He is pursuing you.”

If it was anyone else, they might still be impressed, but unfortunately, Xia Xibei was not anyone else.

Xia Xibei picked up the bouquet, looked at it, and shook her head.

“Pity.”

The others were dumbfounded. Pity what?

The next moment, everyone saw her take the bouquet and chocolates, pick up the letter, and head out.

“What's wrong?”

Everyone looked puzzled.

Some people followed curiously, seeing her enter the teachers' offices with these items.

After listening outside for a while, the faces of those two classmates changed. They rushed back to share the gossip with everyone.

"Sister Bei is so awesome! She gave the stuff to the teacher!"

"Ah, you guys didn't see the teacher's face! I almost died from laughter! Maybe he thought the stuff was for him!"

"Ha ha ha ha!"

The two students finished laughing before continuing.

"The teacher was furious after reading that letter!"

"Sister Bei said she suspected that Wan Shijie was getting back at her."

"Get back at her?" The others were curious.

“Sister Bei said that Wan Shijie must be trying to affect her studies by doing this. Who doesn’t know that the school doesn’t allow dating?”

Even if they were dating, it would not be so blatant!

Wan Shijie even sent flowers over. This was too much!

Of course, the teacher wouldn’t have known about it if no one had reported it to him.

“That’s right! Wan Shijie’s intentions are too vicious!”

“Wan Shijie was just defeated. Why would he chase our Sister Bei?”

“That’s not true! Sister Bei is so beautiful and smart, and also our school beauty. Who wouldn’t like her?”

“But he has suffered such a big loss, and he’s still going after our Sister Bei?! It’s so strange!”

“Yes! The teacher is also really angry. He slapped the table and said he’d find Wan Shijie’s class teacher to file a complaint!”

Xia Xibei’s grades were so good. She was supposed to be going to a great college, so she couldn’t be affected by this.

Everyone talked enthusiastically, and when they saw that Xia Xibei had returned, they came up to her.

“Sister Bei, what happened?”

“Not much, I just returned the things so that Wan Shijie does not affect my studies.” Xia Xibei had a serious face as she added, “I love to study.”

The crowd was left speechless.

#### **Chapter 415: Getting a Scolding**

Xia Xibei’s words left everyone speechless. However, her studies were indeed improving marginally, and her performance was way more stable than before.

Previously, in one of the monthly assessments, her grades improved by leaps and bounds. She got second place, while Tang Luo won first place again, as usual.

Some people even doubted her excellence and suspected her of cheating in the exams. After this, however, no one dared to make such remarks.

—As for Xia Qinghan, she was so furious because she had dropped to seventh place this time.

After handing the flowers and the gift to the class teacher, Xia Xibei didn’t bother with it anymore.

Thus, she didn't know that Wan Shijie was almost choking on rage right now.

Wan Shijie sure was mad, for Xia Xibei had landed him in so much trouble.

Having lived for so many years, this was the first time someone had made such a big fool of him, and he even got a serious demerit due to that!

It was an absolute humiliation!

Right now, everyone at school knew that not only did he lose the match, he even hit someone.

There were even rumors saying that he had arranged the match with Qing Ye High School under Zhang Yiqi's instigation.

At this point, their good reputation was turning foul, and their facades were falling apart.

Even though some of their loyal fans strove to defend them, they could hardly turn things around now, for their pleasant days were as good as gone.

It wasn't as bad for Zhang Yiqi, because she would be sitting for the national college entrance exam soon. She would leave the school soon after that, so the gossip and rumors at school wouldn't have as huge of an impact on her.

But it wasn't the same for Wan Shijie! He still had to study there for another year!

The gossip and comments only fueled his anger, making him resent Xia Xibei even more.

At last, under Zhang Yiqi's instigation, he decided to change his strategy.

He would first make Xia Xibei his girlfriend, then dump her cruelly afterwards, hurting her so much that she would wish that she were dead!

Xia Xibei was nothing but a poor wretch, and it would only take a little bit of effort to make her fall for him.

So he gave her flowers and chocolates, and even geared himself up for a long-running war.

With Xia Xibei's character, he believed that she wouldn't let her guard down quickly.

But it didn't matter, he could wait. He was rich and bored; he had the time.

However, things didn't turn out the way he expected.

He was summoned to the office and got a terrible scolding from his class teacher and the discipline master!

Only then did Wan Shijie find out that not only did Xia Xibei not accept his expensive gifts, she handed them to the class teacher instead!

Her class teacher then called and roasted his class teacher for a good while, even reporting the matter to the discipline master.

Next thing he knew, he received a good scolding from his class teacher and the discipline master!

At last, the discipline master warned him that the principal would be alerted if he ever harassed Xia Xibei or disturbed her while she studied again.

If the school knew about this, it would cause a big fuss. If that happened, Wan Shijie would have two serious demerits!

Even though the Wan family was wealthy and prestigious, the school wouldn't show them respect if their child misbehaved!

That was because Xia Xibei happened to be one of Qing Ye High School's top students.

Qing Ye High School had made things clear—Wan Shijie was trying to distract Xia Xibei from her studies, which would affect everyone's grades as a whole, further affecting their performance in next year's national exam!

Qing Ye High School and Meihua High School were both cluster schools, which competed with each other in almost every way.

Now that things had unfolded to such an extent, Meihua High School couldn't help but be furious, having been roasted by their competitor like that.

When the brutal scolding finally ended, Wan Shijie returned with an ashen face.

Having put in so much effort, only to watch it turn out this way, Wan Shijie nearly had a meltdown!

However, it wasn't like he could figure out a better way to handle it.

Who would have expected Xia Xibei to be so hard-headed!

#### **Chapter 416: I'm Chasing Celebrities**

After handing over the stuff to the class teacher, Xia Xibei ignored Wan Shijie.

He couldn't make any waves anyway.

At noon, Xia Xibei received a call from Jiang Yuran, who sounded a little excited.

“My elder brother is here, when are you free?”

Ever since he learned that his big brother was not ill, but poisoned, Jiang Yuran’s heart had been suspended in mid-air.

He and his elder brother were several years apart, but the two of them had always had a very good relationship.

Plus, when Xia Xibei spoke of it so frighteningly, he didn’t dare hesitate.

Therefore, he desperately urged his parents, and then his elder brother, to hurry over.

Fortunately, the entire Jiang family, including Jiang Liran himself, was very concerned about this matter, so in the past two days, after the arrangements were taken care of, Jiang Liran flew from the Capital City to G City.

After making sure Jiang Liran got on the plane, Jiang Yuran immediately called Xia Xibei.

Jiang Yuran was Qiao Yanjue’s friend, so of course Xia Xibei wouldn’t say no.

Moreover, she was also curious to know how this poison could be found here.

She had always thought that this kind of poison was only found in the Land of Fantasy. It seemed that her knowledge of this world was lacking.

Right, she had not traveled too much in her first life. She only went back and forth to a few places; she had never even been to a large forest. She only learned about the world from books and the Internet. Her knowledge of the world was too shallow.

In her second life, in order to make up for the shortcomings of her first life, she went everywhere after her teenage years and not only mastered her medical and poison arts fully, but also learned a bunch of miscellaneous things. She was not a master, but knew enough to bluff.

Now that she was back in this world, it was time to find the time to go out and explore.

While thinking so, Xia Xibei replied to Jiang Yuran, "Making time is better than choosing a day. Let's do it this afternoon."

"Okay then, I'll have someone pick you up!"

"Okay."

In the afternoon, she got a call from Song Jiaren, asking her to have dinner together, but Xia Xibei said no.

After being rejected, Song Jiaren was not annoyed. She had other plans anyway.

When Xia Xibei asked her what the plans were, she put on a mysterious smile.

“I’m chasing after celebrities and met some friends online, so we’re meeting in person.”

“Chasing after celebrities?” Xia Xibei froze for a moment and was speechless. “Don’t you only chase me?”

Earlier, Song Jiaren said that she was going to be the leader of Xia Xibei’s fan support group.

“Of course I’m only following you among the female stars! But there are no restrictions on good looking male stars! Besides, I can learn the culture of the fan industry while chasing!”

This was so reasonable, Xia Xibei was at a loss for words.

“Which male star are you chasing?”

“Nie Zehai! Qi Chen! My Brother Chen! He’s so handsome!”

Song Jiaren got so excited mentioning this, even Tang Luo heard the exuberance in her tone.

“Wait a minute... You’re chasing Nie Zehai?”

“Yeah!” Song Jiaren was very excited, “Brother Chen is super handsome!”

“Do you... Know whose cousin he is?”

“What cousin?”

Xia Xibei froze for a moment, as she thought about it... It seemed that Song Jiaren had not met Nie Zehai!

“Nothing. You go meet the fans, just be careful. I still have things to do on my end.”

“OK!” Song Jiaren hung up the phone and went to the fan meet-up with great excitement.

She was now much thinner and a beauty—although a little chubby, she was not afraid of meetups anymore.

On the other end, Xia Xibei took out her phone, looked through some news about Nie Zehai, looked at the time, and had an idea.

After class, Xia Xibei got into the car sent by Jiang Yuran.

**Chapter 417: Too Unreliable**

Jiang Liran's face and lips were rosy, looking as if he was full of energy.

However, his eyes were tinged with fatigue.

His health was getting worse and worse. He looked radiant but was actually very weak, getting sick at the drop of a hat.

In the past two years, he had to go to the doctor almost once every month.

In addition, he also ate a lot of tonic, such as ginseng, reishi, etc., almost constantly.

However, the situation was not getting any better.

This time, Jiang Yuran said he had found a very powerful doctor, so he put everything on halt and flew to G City.

"How about it? Has the doctor come yet?"

Jiang Liran was restless as he watched the time pass by.

Even if his personality was calm, he was also anxious. Who didn't want to be healthy? This feeling of being sick was really hard to bear.

“Don’t worry, the doctor’s almost here.” Jiang Yuran took his phone and contacted Xia Xibei. “Just a few more minutes.”

Hearing that, Jiang Liran could only push down the anxiety in his heart.

In fact, he did not hold too much hope for this meeting, because he had been disappointed too many times.

“Have you found the herbs I told you to look for before?” he asked Jiang Yuran.

Due to Jiang Yuran’s relationship with Huo Zijun, Jiang Liran agreed to leave this matter to him.

But it had been so long. How come there was still no news?

He was so unreliable.

Jiang Yuran’s body stiffened and his smile became unnatural.

“Old Huo is looking for it. It should be found soon.”

How could he tell the truth to Jiang Liran?

As a result, he hurriedly changed the topic, "By the way, how is Sister Dongqing? Why didn't she come with you?"

Xie Dongqing was from the Xie family and Jiang Liran's fiancée. The two of them had gotten engaged a year ago and had a good relationship.

This past year, Jiang Liran's health had not been very good, so Xie Dongqing had helped them to find some doctors.

The relationship between the two of them heated up rapidly during this year, and Jiang Liran also liked her a lot.

"She had something to take care of, so I didn't ask her to come along."

While mentioning his fiancée, Jiang Liran's mouth twisted into a smile.

Jiang Yuran joked, "Sister Dongqing is so good to you! Don't let her down."

"Why do you say that?!" Jiang Liran glared at his brother. "I should say this to you! You're always on the prowl. Be careful of falling overboard one day!"

Jiang Yuran did not take this seriously.

“Don’t worry, I have some sense!”

Jiang Liran shook his head speechlessly. There was nothing he could do about his younger brother.

At that moment, there was a knock on the door.

“Coming!”

Jiang Yuran’s eyes lit up and he immediately ran to open the door.

Jiang Liran also stood up with a polite smile on his face, ready to welcome the doctor.

However, after seeing the visitor, the smile at the corner of his mouth froze and he glared at Jiang Yuran fiercely.

The young woman was beautiful, the most beautiful girl he had ever seen. But the timing was not right!

“Brother, let me introduce you. This is-”

“Nonsense!”

Jiang Liran interrupted Jiang Yuran's excited introduction, his eyes stern, "You asked me to come here to introduce me to her?!"

"Yeah..." Jiang Yuran looked confused. "I-"

"I knew you were unreliable!"

Jiang Liran was furious, he didn't fly here from the Capital just to spend time with Jiang Yuran and his nonsense!

"I thought you knew how to behave. I didn't expect this!"

After saying that, he shook his hand and was about to leave.

"Mr. Jiang, please stay." The young woman's clear voice was like a spring brook, stopping Jiang Liran in his tracks. "I'm the doctor who came to help you."

Jiang Liran stopped in his tracks, and his face became even more unsightly.

"You're a doctor?"

**Chapter 418: How Did You Know**

Jiang Liran looked Xia Xibei up and down, a look of suspicion and dissatisfaction on his face.

How old was she?! She was a doctor? She must be kidding!

Thinking of this, Jiang Liran glared fiercely at his brother. He didn't expect that even if he was usually unreliable, that he would make light of such things!

"We don't need to bother you."

If not for years of upbringing, Jiang Liran would have cussed.

However, he also had an unpleasant expression, and was about to leave.

"Mr. Jiang, don't you want to know why your body has become like this?" Xia Xibei didn't stop him but smiled lightly instead. "You are not able to sleep at night, right?"

These words caused Jiang Liran's body to stiffen and his feet to stop moving.

He turned his head and looked at Xia Xibei incredulously, then looked at Jiang Yuran.

"Did you tell her that?" he demanded.

However, after the words came out, he shook his head.

Jiang Yuran couldn't have told her because he did not know of his recent situation.

For more than a month, he could not sleep at night, tossing and turning in bed while in great pain.

No matter how physically tired he was, he simply could not sleep.

This pain was devastating!

"How did you know?" He looked at Xia Xibei, his gaze like that of a knife.

Even though he was tormented by the pain, his sternness and mental ability were not diminished.

"Of course I could tell," Xia Xibei smiled at him, a smile so bright it almost dazzled him.

Not waiting for him to come back to his senses, Xia Xibei had already walked inside. "If you are interested, why don't you listen to my explanation?"

Jiang Liran's expression changed several times, but finally he went back.

He sat on the sofa opposite Xia Xibei, his eyes alert.

Although Xia Xibei was younger and beautiful beyond his expectations, it was her words that were the most amazing.

“How on earth did you know that?”

“Right hand.”

Jiang Liran froze for a moment and immediately raised his right hand, which had several black dots on it.

“When more of these black dots appear, you’ll suffer even more.”

Jiang Liran’s heart flinched and his expression was grave.

“Who the hell are you?”

“Brother, she’s really a doctor! She’s here to give you an antidote to the poison!”

“Antidote to the poison?!” Jiang Liran exclaimed, his face suddenly changing. “What do you mean?”

Jiang Yuran looked at Xia Xibei.

Xia Xibei smiled faintly, "Mr. Jiang, you are not sick, you were poisoned."

"Impossible!" Jiang Liran immediately denied.

However, his mind understood that this situation was not right.

If it was just a simple illness, there was no way it could not have been found in medical examinations.

But... Poisoned? That was ridiculous!

"Give me your hand," Xia Xibei said faintly.

Jiang Liran's mind protested, but his hand involuntarily reached out.

Xia Xibei put her fingers on his wrist, feeling around carefully for a moment before releasing it. The corners of her mouth also took on a confident smile.

"What is it? Can you cure him?" Jiang Yuran asked anxiously.

"Of course," Xia Xibei nodded, "I'm here, aren't I?"

“Great!” Jiang Yuran was overjoyed.

“Wait!” Jiang Liran was disturbed and had a complicated look on his face. “What the hell is going on here?!”

“Didn’t she tell you? You’ve been poisoned!” Jiang Yuran said loudly.

“But how did I get poisoned? Why wasn’t it found in the check-ups?” Jiang Liran’s brows were locked.

“It wasn’t found because it’s a parasite poison, the little insects inside will hide. As for how you got poisoned...” Xia Xibei revealed a smile. “You will have to ask the people closest to you.”

Jiang Liran’s face suddenly changed.

#### **Chapter 419: You Know What I Mean**

Jiang Liran’s expression was ugly, glaring at Xia Xibei with a deadly stare, “What do you mean?”

Xia Xibei was not frightened by his actions and remained as composed as ever.

“The eggs of this parasite poison have to be eaten.”

Crap! Eaten? Eating parasite eggs?

Jiang Yuran’s eyes snapped wide with disgust—that was gross!

“Of course, this is only the first step,” Xia Xibei said without any rush. “To make the eggs hatch, you have to drink nutrients every day...”

“Wait a minute!” Jiang Yuran interrupted her with a disgusted look. “What is this nutrient?”

His face was contorted as his features wrinkled together, fully expressing his disgust.

“Forget it, you’d better stop, I don’t think my big brother wants to know either!” It felt like the next thing he heard wouldn’t be anything good.

Xia Xibei was speechless.

She swept him a glance and continued, “The nutrients have a taste, so they are usually mixed in tea, coffee, or milk. You have to drink it for a month before the eggs hatch.”

A month?

Jiang Yuran's face was very unpleasant, although not as twisted as Jiang Liran's. After all, it was him who had the parasites in his stomach!

Jiang Yuran slapped his head in a sudden realization, "So the one who poisoned my brother could be his secretary?!"

After all, only a secretary would bring drinks to Jiang Liran every day.

Jiang Liran's face became even more unpleasant.

"Not necessarily," Xia Xibei shook her head. "These nutrients have to be drunk at the eleventh hour, that is, between seven and nine o'clock in the evening."

Jiang Yuran's face was suddenly pale and his eyes appeared shocked and suspicious.

"Seven to nine o'clock at night?" Jiang Yuran was shocked. "Then the secretary is ruled out!"

Jiang Liran and his secretary didn't have an intimate relationship, and their company closed on time every day, so the secretary was long gone by seven o'clock.

"So we have to ask Mr. Jiang." Xia Xibei looked at Jiang Liran again. "Mr. Jiang should have an idea who it is, right?"

Jiang Liran's face was steely, as if he would pass out in the next second.

Jiang Yuran also reacted with a shocked face, "It can't be... Sister Dongqing?!"

"Shut up!" Jiang Liran shouted in a low voice, his conviction not too strong. "It can't be her!"

Jiang Yuran, however, did not care and yelled out, "I clearly remember you having dinner with Sister Dongqing every night for a while!"

The meals were all after seven o'clock and the nutrients could be put in the soup for him to drink.

Jiang Liran's chest rose and fell sharply, his mind full of chaos.

He looked sharply at Xia Xibei.

"You!"

He wanted to say that Xia Xibei was lying, but before he could say the words, he saw Xia Xibei take out a bag with silver needles from her school bag and a small bottle of 100ml.

"Whether it's true or not, we can tell by looking."

She didn't have time to dwell unnecessarily with Jiang Liran.

To make him believe, she would use the facts.

Xia Xibei opened the bag of silver needles. Inside were a variety of silver needles, all in different lengths, sizes, and thickness.

Then she opened the small bottle and the fragrant smell of wine wafted out of it.

After promising Jiang Yuran she'd come, she had made all the preparations.

Looking at her skilled movements, Jiang Liran's mind went even more blank.

This... She really knew what she was doing!

"Your hand."

Jiang Liran did not respond.

Jiang Yuran immediately stepped forward and pulled his big brother's hand over.

Xia Xibei placed the silver needle bag on her lap, pulled out some silver needles, and then quickly inserted them into Jiang Liran's forearm.

## Chapter 420: Still Not Solved

Xia Xibei's beautiful hands seemed to be dancing, and with a swoosh, the silver needles landed on Jiang Liran's forearm.

The brothers couldn't help but draw a breath.

That was just horrifying!

However, something even scarier was yet to come.

In Jiang Liran's forearm, living things were moving under his skin! They moved one after another, like worms crawling towards the fingers.

The brothers were dumbfounded, thinking they were seeing things.

After placing a row of silver needles around the black spot, Xia Xibei took out a slightly thicker silver needle and fiercely stabbed Jiang Liran's middle finger.

"Ah!" Jiang Liran shrieked as a drop of reddish black blood dripped from his finger. There was something moving inside it.

Xia Xibei brought over a cup filled with some liquor.

She moved his finger toward the cup and gave it a squeeze.

The next moment, Jiang Liran felt that the small things that had been moving slowly immediately became intense, rushing forward quickly under his skin.

Then, he felt something fall out of his finger and land in the liquor with a slight thud.

Xia Xibei put the cup on the table and pulled out all the silver needles from Jiang Liran's forearm.

The brothers only felt a blur before their eyes, then the silver needles in Jiang Liran's arm were gone.

“What the hell!?”

Jiang Yuran leaned over to take a look, shocked by what he saw in the cup.

A third of the cup was filled with liquor, and on top of the liquor was a rolling cloud of black dust.

When he looked closer, he saw tiny black worms moving up and down, which was very scary.

“Ew!”

Jiang Yuran had goose bumps and almost threw up.

Although he did not look carefully, this was too terrifying!

Jiang Liran’s body had actually harbored these disgusting things... It was horrible!

On the other hand, Jiang Liran felt much more relaxed, and half of his burden seemed to have been lifted.

How could he not have noticed this kind of immediate effect?

For a moment, he felt really conflicted, and he couldn’t even say anything.

“Little Beibei, are they parasite worms?”

After Jiang Yuran took a look, he immediately stepped back and avoided them, afraid the worms would fly toward him, which would be too scary.

“Hmm.” Xia Xibei slowly sterilized the silver needles and put them away, raising her eyes to look at him. “However, this is only part of it.”

Jiang Yuran had thought that his big brother was already healed, but Xia Xibei’s words gave him another blow.

“There’s more?!”

Jiang Liran also drew a breath and looked at her in horror.

“Of course.” Xia Xibei’s expression was normal. “You guys didn’t think it was all taken care of, did you?”

She could help them out quickly. After all, to her, this kind of parasite worm was indeed child’s play. But if she fixed it too quickly, wouldn’t it make them think it was too easy, and not technically difficult?

“Then... How is it going to be fixed?” Jiang Liran’s body stiffened. He hadn’t moved until now, as if he was petrified.

“Now you believe it, right?”

The color of Jiang Liran’s face shifted from blue to red to black and white, and it felt like his face was contorting.

“I believe it!”

How dare he not believe? The facts were all in front of him!

If she was doing magic, then her skill was too unbelievable!

Jiang Yuran didn't have time to laugh at his brother, looking at Xia Xibei eagerly. "Little Beibei, please! Please help my brother! I promise you, if you fight with Big Qiao in the future, I will definitely take your side!"

Xia Xibei's smile suddenly froze.