

## Chapter 421: Horrible Outcome

Jiang Yuran's words caused Jiang Liran to freeze for a moment.

Big Qiao? Qiao Yanjue?

Jiang Liran was several years apart from Qiao Yanjue and the others, so they didn't hang out together, but how could he not know Qiao Yanjue?

This young woman... Ah, this little miracle doctor and Qiao Yanjue had a relationship?

And judging by Jiang Yuran's attitude, it seemed that the relationship between the two was not ordinary!

Jiang Liran was still pondering over the relationship between the two, and Xia Xibei was all but speechless.

"What are you talking about?!"

"Oh yeah, I said the wrong thing!" Jiang Yuran understood and lightly slapped his own mouth. "How could you and Big Qiao have a fight? If you really quarreled, he'd definitely kneel on a washboard first!"

With Qiao Yanjue's whipped ways, there was no need for him to be on Xia Xibei's side.

Xia Xibei was speechless. Her heart was beating wildly, and her face was red with annoyance. What nonsense he was talking about?!

Kneeling on a washboard?! What a joke!

Jiang Liran was not as clueless as his brother, and seeing the girl's annoyance, he swatted his brother aside and immediately changed the subject.

"Doctor, what should I do about this situation?"

He was sincere and serious, no longer as suspicious as he was before.

His seriousness swept away Xia Xibei's shame and embarrassment, so she answered, "I will give you some medicine to force out all these parasites. When the time comes, the mother worm will suffer a backlash."

"The mother worm? Great, thanks!" Jiang Liran immediately thanked her and had an idea in his mind.

Xia Xibei nodded. He did indeed have to thank her.

If he had not met her, he wouldn't have lived for more than a few years.

Looking at Xia Xibei's serene and beautiful face, Jiang Liran's heart stirred and he suddenly asked, "What would have happened if I continued like this?"

Xia Xibei raised her eyebrows, "Do you really want to know?"

"Yes."

"If you kept going as before, you would drink some konjac jelly liquor, and after six months, your health would have been damaged. If you engaged in marital relations, in two or three years, no medicine would have worked on you."

Jiang Liran's face turned pale.

Jiang Yuran was also taken aback.

At this moment, his brain, which usually wasn't used very much, was spinning fast.

"Big brother, wasn't your and Sister Dongqing's wedding scheduled six months from now?"

Thinking of this, his face also became ugly.

Jiang Liran's face was even more remarkable than his.

After being illuminated by Xia Xibei, with his experience and mentality, how could he not recognize the foul play here?

Although he did not understand what Xia Xibei had said about the konjac jelly liquor, he did drink.

In fact, drinking alcohol was suggested by a doctor Xie Dongqing had introduced to him!

If he really drank all that alcohol, he would have married Xie Dongqing six months later.

Once married, marital relations would have been inevitable.

Then, after two or three years, he would have been dead!

Thinking about it, if Xie Dongqing was still willing to marry him when he was in ill health, he would definitely have been very touched. He would be very good to her. If not absolutely devoted, then at least very faithful.

Then, when he died, wouldn't Xie Dongqing, as his wife, be able to inherit his estate?

At this moment, all kinds of suspicions flashed in Jiang Liran's mind. His face became more and more grim, and his body trembled due to anger.

Jiang Yuran was startled and hurriedly reassured him, "Brother, take it easy. Let's figure it out first."

Jiang Yuran was also sure that this matter was related to Xie Dongqing, but at this time, he could not let Jiang Liran get too agitated.

Jiang Liran had experienced enough in his past, so he quickly took a few deep breaths and squashed the anger in his heart.

## **Chapter 422: Collaborate With You**

“Thank you!” Jiang Liran’s attitude was sincere. “I’d like to know... How much would you like to be paid?”

These days, he had spent a great sum of money on treatments, none of which seemed to yield any significant effects.

Now that Xia Xibei had saved his life, she must be paid.

He wouldn’t hold a grudge, even if she asked for a lot.

What surprised him was that Xia Xibei was silent for a moment, before asking, “You own BiDu Cab Service, right?”

Jiang Liran was taken aback at first, then he nodded, “Yes.”

BiDu Cab Service was a new project that their company was working on. Online cab-booking services were taking off nowadays, and everyone could see the great value that the market promised. Thus, the Jiang family had also gotten down on the field.

However, the project was still in the initial phase of development. Trials were on-going and the project was yet to be officially launched.

Apart from an occasional mention in the financial news, hardly any outsiders knew about this project.

“Great. I’d like to collaborate with you.”

Xia Xibei’s words struck them like a bolt from the blue, leaving the brothers stupefied.

Collaborate?!

Did she have any idea what she was talking about?

“Are you... Are you sure?”

“Of course I am,” Xia Xibei nodded, her smile bright and cheerful.

In fact, Xia Xibei remembered Jiang Liran very well.

In her past life, Jiang Liran would pass away in a traffic accident two years from now, which had been reported in the news.

The reason she remembered him so clearly was mainly because he looked way too handsome in the picture.

With his youthful and striking appearance, he stood out like a bright, unstained star amongst all the half-bald, overweight chairmen in their middle or old ages.

The news drew a lot of attention. Everyone felt that it was a huge pity to lose such a young, handsome man!

After his passing, an enormous amount of assets were left behind and a series of dramatic events ensued.

As his legal wife, Xie Dongqing received quite a big sum of money, alongside BiDu Cab Service.

At that time, BiDu Cab Service had become a huge sensation, which dominated the market of online cab-booking services of the country.

Later, BiDu Cab Service got into a lot of trouble due to management problems, and their reputation gradually became tarnished.

However, BiDu Cab Service was still going strong at the time the mishap befell Xia Xibei.

Therefore, she thought it was a good idea to have a hand in BiDu Cab Service, since it was only about to take off now.

She had saved Jiang Liran's life, for Christ's sake!

In her previous life, it was said in the news that Jiang Liran had probably died because he felt unwell while driving, which made him lose sight on the road momentarily, leading to the car crash.

Now that she had met Jiang Liran, Xia Xibei finally understood that it was all fate, even from the beginning.

Having been poisoned, his body gradually weakened as time passed, and it was only natural that Jiang Liran got into trouble.

Jiang Liran couldn't seem to wrap his head around Xia Xibei's request.

"You... You really want to take part in the project?"

"Yes," Xia Xibei nodded. "Honestly speaking, I think that this project has a great prospect."

The brothers exchanged a glance, still stunned.



“Alright! Sure, I’ll let you in.”

After a moment of silence, Jiang Liran finally gave the green light.

“Very well,” Xia Xibei’s smile widened.

Shortly after, the three of them, nope, the two of them engaged in an intense discussion of the project, in which Xia Xibei contributed many ideas.

Jiang Liran was totally amazed by Xia Xibei. How did she acquire such a brilliant, outstanding mentality at such a young age?!

The discussion enlivened Jiang Liran more and more, making him forget about his illness.

The discussion finally ended, despite their reluctance, when Xia Xibei’s phone buzzed.

“Sorry, something came up, I have to go.”

Xia Xibei flashed them an apologetic smile after reading Liu Manhong’s message.

“It’s alright, you may go back first,” Jiang Liran nodded. “We’ll continue tomorrow.”

“Sure, rest well.” Xia Xibei stood up. “I’ll come again tomorrow.”

### **Chapter 423: Can’t Repay Kindness with Evil**

After having someone send Xia Xibei away, only then did Jiang Liran turn around to look at Jiang Yuran.

“Who in the world is she?”

Xia Xibei had astonished him way too much today.

How did a young girl like her have such a high attainment in traditional medicine?!

Jiang Liran still remembered how Xia Xibei had injected the needle. Neither the way she was so decisive and straightforward when pushing the needle in nor her skilled techniques were something that could be acquired in just one or two years.

Later on, he was rather hesitant when Xia Xibei requested to collaborate with them.

Nevertheless, Xia Xibei had just saved his life. It would take at least a seven-digit sum if converted to money—his life was certainly worth that much.

Furthermore, it was equivalent to Xia Xibei investing the seven-digit remuneration she received in the BiDu Cab Service project.

Jiang Liran had never been a stingy person, so he consented to her request decisively.

At first, Jiang Liran only thought of it as a sum of money he had paid Xia Xibei. What he did not expect was that she would turn out to have such brilliant views on the project!

Looking at the papers on the table and the matters written on them which should be addressed, Jiang Liran couldn't appease the lingering fascination in him.

Their team had been actively discussing the project in an attempt to sort things out, but they hadn't come up with any practical solutions to the problems so far.

However, Xia Xibei had them all at her fingertips!

Apart from that, she had even raised lots of enlightening ideas!

The more he thought about it, the more he felt that Xia Xibei was profound and unfathomable.

Jiang Liran grabbed his younger brother, and questioned him with a serious face, "Tell me honestly, how old is she exactly? It must be just her face that looks young, right? She's actually in her fifties or sixties already, right?"

After all, most prestigious doctors looked young because they knew the proper ways to keep themselves fit.

Jiang Yuran yelled with his collar in his brother's grasp, which was almost suffocating him, "Can't you tell? She's still a highschool student!"

"A highschool student?!"

Jiang Liran froze, and Jiang Yuran seized the chance to break free from his grasp.

"Yea," Jiang Yuran nodded, "I think she's only seventeen this year, if I'm not mistaken. She's not an adult yet anyway."

If she were an adult, Qiao Yanjue would have made his move by now.

Jiang Liran was petrified.

Seventeen? Just what kind of devil was she?

He only came back to his senses after a good while.

"You said... She's with Qiao Yanjue?"

“Big Qiao likes her.” Jiang Yuran couldn’t help but laugh like a villain upon bringing that up. “But the little girl doesn’t seem to like him, so he’s just secretly in love!”

As far as he was concerned, that was the funniest joke in the world!

Who would have expected things like that to happen to Qiao Yanjue!

Jiang Liran was equally stunned.

However, he felt that it was quite normal when he thought of the magical things that Xia Xibei was capable of.

Who wouldn’t like such an intelligent, devilish young lady?

As he thought of that, he turned to look at Jiang Yuran all of a sudden.

Jiang Yuran felt goosebumps breaking out all over him as his brother stared at him for a good while.

“Brother, what do you wanna say?”

Jiang Liran suddenly shook his head and sighed with a contemptuous look on his face, “Forget it, you don’t deserve her.”

Jiang Yuran was befuddled.

He hit the roof, insisting, “Hold on! What did you mean?!”

Was this even his own brother?! What did he mean he didn’t deserve her?!

Jiang Liran shot him an extremely disdainful look, “Too bad, she’s my savior. I can’t repay her kindness with evil.”

He grabbed the papers on the table and left after he finished talking.

Jiang Yuran was shocked. Damn it! This really was his own freaking brother!

Meanwhile, the driver was dropping Xia Xibei at a high-end shopping complex near her residential area.

Liu Manhong had just sent her a message, asking her out for shopping.

Yes, you heard right. It was 9 o’clock at night, and Liu Manhong was still shopping and buying clothes.

However, apart from Liu Manhong, Xia Xibei also happened to run into some other “acquaintances.”

## **Chapter 424: Enemies are Bound to Meet**

These days, Hongyan was closed for renovation, so Liu Manhong took this as an opportunity to train her beauticians.

It was more like imparting some new techniques to them rather than training. This way, they could incorporate these new techniques once the new skincare products were out.

In fact, Liu Manhong knew that the new effects mostly resulted from the new products, while the techniques only served as a simple aid and cover-up.

The beauticians were all experienced, so they learnt fast.

As a result, Liu Manhong had quite some free time on her hands, which she decided to spend by shopping with friends.

Even after her friends left, she continued shopping on her own.

While strolling, she came across a boutique. The clothes and ornaments in the shop were gorgeous, and they looked like they would suit Xia Xibei very well.

Thus, she asked Xia Xibei to come over.

However, what she didn't see coming was running into people that ruined her vibes.

"Oh god, isn't this our Sister Hong? Why are you shopping on your own? Is it because you've got nothing else to keep yourself occupied with?"

An annoying, ridiculing voice sounded behind Liu Manhong.

She turned and saw a man and two women.

The good-looking, middle-aged woman in the middle appeared to be in her thirties, a scornful smile on her well-tended face.

A pretty teenage girl was holding her arm, looking like they had an intimate relationship. A tall, handsome young man was standing about two steps behind them.

Liu Manhong's smile vanished the moment she saw the woman.

"So it's Mrs. Wan, I see. It's been a while. You look kinda great, so I suppose Mr. Wan hasn't had any mistress that made you mad lately? Congrats!"

Liu Manhong's jest made Yu Lanxiang pull a long face.

Her face turned even more ashen upon taking a closer look at Liu Manhong's face, which made her look a few years younger.



Hongyan had closed down right as Xianrong made its grand opening.

For the past few weeks, life had been great for her, especially when Liu Manhong was at her worst.

Without Hongyan, Xianrong's sales were on the upswing. They had even sabotaged Hongyan by hiring some of their beauticians and trainees, all in a bid to expand their business.

Originally, she thought that Liu Manhong's life would be a mess after Hongyan was closed down, and she would probably look a lot more haggard than she did before.

Much to Yu Lanxiang's surprise, however, Liu Manhong's face appeared to look youthful, rosy, and bouncy with collagen. The fine lines at the corners of her eyes had disappeared somehow, and she was looking a few years younger than she previously did!

If not for the mature, profound look in her eyes, Liu Manhong basically looked just like a young lady in her twenties.

How did she defy her age?

Liu Manhong's sarcastic words made Yu Lanxiang's face turn even darker.

Although Hongyan was closed down and Xianrong had gotten the upper hand, the mention of her husband's mistress would always cause a sting in her heart.

The reason they couldn't stand each other was all because of Wan Xianyao.

As far as Liu Manhong was concerned, it was a totally undeserved disaster, like a bag of dung that fell from the sky!

Years back, Wan Xianyao fell in love with her at first sight and started courting her like mad, despite the fact that he had a wife and Liu Manhong was married to her ex-husband.

It totally disgusted Liu Manhong!

If not for the last bit of rationality left in her, she would have chopped Wan Xianyao up with a knife then!

Later, her brother-in-law, Qiao Yanjue's father, Qiao Zhengyuan, came forth to resolve the matter. He told the Wans to think about the consequences if Wan Xianyao kept harassing Liu Manhong.

Even though the matter had been sorted out, Yu Lanxiang was far from done with it.

As far as she could see, it was Liu Manhong who had seduced Wan Xianyao, and she must be a shameless woman!

Thus, she made Bai Meixue and Liu Manhong's ex-husband meet by design, tempting him to have an affair- she had to let Liu Manhong know how agonizing it was to have someone else meddle with her marriage!

In the end, Liu Manhong really did divorce her ex-husband, which only fueled their enmity for each other.

#### **Chapter 425: I'm Afraid to Look Ugly**

Much to Yu Lanxiang's surprise however, Liu Manhong began to lead an even more carefree, unrestrained life after her divorce.

As she saw how Hongyan kept prospering under Liu Manhong's management, with more and more chain stores springing up, Yu Lanxiang couldn't stand it anymore.

Her oldest son, Wan Shicheng, had joined the business management in recent years, which not only made her proud but relieved at the same time.

However, Wan Xianyao started having even more mistresses than he did before, which added to her grievance.

Other women might have divorced him by now, but not her. She insisted on holding on to her marriage, wasting her time and effort on Wan Xianyao.

The more she held onto it, the more furious she became. These days, she was catching her husband and his mistress in their act on a monthly basis, a drama that bystanders enjoyed watching.

That only added to her hatred towards Liu Manhong.

How could a divorced woman like Liu Manhong live life in such a graceful, carefree way?

Due to various reasons, Yu Lanxiang decided to open a beauty parlor and square up with Liu Manhong.

Then things unfolded in the way she wanted—Hongyan closed down.

She was smug when she first saw Liu Manhong here today, and she couldn't hold back the urge to show off. However, she didn't expect Liu Manhong to look so stunning and exuberant, the complete opposite of the dispirited look that she was expecting to see on her.

“Shouldn't Sister Hong be at the shop at this hour? How come you're here shopping?”

Despite her displeasure and frustration, Yu Lanxiang wouldn't admit defeat just yet.

“Oh yeah, I forgot! Hongyan has been closed down!” She shook her head with a sigh, faking an apologetic look. “I'm really sorry, I never thought that Xianrong would deal such a huge blow to Hongyan!”

Yu Lanxiang's loathsome words and behavior ignited a fire of rage in Liu Manhong.

“It doesn't matter, I think it's time to take a good rest since I've made a lot of money,” she smiled in a humorless way. “Besides, I'm actually glad for you, since you now have something to keep yourself

occupied with. You don't have to go around confronting your husband's mistresses and getting humiliated anymore! That must have been awful! You should start some hobbies."

Liu Manhong didn't know what to comment about her.

She'd rather waste her time and energy on other people than sort things out with her man. How morbid!

Besides, her weak point was more than obvious. It only took a mention of Wan Xianyao's many affairs to hit her fair and square.

Liu Manhong simply couldn't understand it. Was she sick in the mind or something?! She was such a mood destructor.

Just as expected, Yu Lanxiang's face turned ashen at Liu Manhong's words.

All these theatrical incidents only happened because she was so obsessed with Wan Xianyao.

Fortunately, she was still concerned with her decorum, so she wouldn't make a scene in public.

After taking a few deep breaths, she cast aside the part about Wan Xianyao, and laughed, "Haha, it's great that you seem to be in a good mood. I guess I don't have to feel sorry now. Just tell me if there are any things that you want, I can buy them for you as compensation."

“No need for that...”

“Don’t worry about it!” Yu Lanxiang turned to wave at the young man behind them, “Shicheng, come here.”

She grabbed her son and smiled at Liu Manhong, “This is my oldest son, he’s the general manager of Wan Corporation now.”

“That’s great,” Liu Manhong said, offering an insincere compliment.

“I heard that Sister Hong hasn’t had a family all these years. Is it because...”

Liu Manhong cut her off with a wave of her hand, “Of course not, I just don’t feel like having children. It’ll be terrible if I start looking as old and haggard as you after having children!” Her smile remained unflinching. “Nothing really bothers me, I’m just afraid to look ugly.”

Yu Lanxiang’s face turned as dark as coal, neither did the two youngsters beside her look very good.

However, Yu Lanxiang wouldn’t give in just yet, “Is that so? I thought you might have secretly given birth to a daughter. Why else would you come to shops like this one?”

“Sister Hong,” a clear, pleasant voice sounded.

All of them turned to look at once, immediately stunned.

## Chapter 426: Who's the Rude One Now?

"Xia Xibei?!" Zhang Yi squealed in surprise, her jaw hanging open.

Beside them however, Wan Shicheng's eyes widened with awe.

What a gorgeous girl!

Wan Shicheng had always thought that Zhang Yiqi and Xia Qinghan were very pretty, but much to his surprise, the girl in front of him was even prettier than they were.

Her looks and the aura she gave off made everyone else around her pale in comparison.

Even though Zhang Yiqi was his cousin, he couldn't bring himself to say that Zhang Yiqi was prettier than this girl.

She was the kind of youthful, sprightly young lady that made men's hearts race.

As she approached, Xia Xibei noticed the look in Wan Shicheng's eyes. Her steps faltered a little, before she carried on walking as if nothing had happened.

She saw three people standing in front of Liu Manhong from afar, and she hurried over as the ambience didn't seem right. She didn't expect that they would turn out to be Wan Shicheng and Zhang Yiqi.

They were cousins, so it was normal for them to appear together.

"Beibei, you're here."

Upon seeing Xia Xibei, Liu Manhong instantly flashed her a bright, sincere smile.

"Sister Hong," Xia Xibei got to her side, and held her arm. "They are...?"

"Oh, the Wans," Liu Manhong simply replied, then walked away while holding her hand. "Don't bother with them. I just saw a few clothes that would suit you very well. I'm sure you'll look good in them! I need something pleasant to see now, since I've had a horrible time!"

With Xia Xibei around to keep her company, why would she give a d\*mn about those retarded morons?

"Sure."

Xia Xibei did not pay any attention to the trio, letting Liu Manhong guide her into the store.

Behind them, three faces didn't look pleased at all.



Zhang Yiqi almost blew her top.

It was impossible that Xia Xibei didn't recognize her, but she didn't even greet her!

"Xia Xibei!" She walked up to Xia Xibei angrily. "How could you not even say hi to me? Just how rude can you possibly be?"

Before Xia Xibei could say anything, Liu Manhong shot her a death stare.

"Where did this ill-mannered girl come from? Why didn't you greet me just now, if you are so polite? You don't even know how to respect elders; how dare you make noise now? Get lost! You're such an eyesore!"

Having been scolded right in the face like that, Zhang Yiqi's eyes widened in disbelief, and her cheeks turned red from either anger or shame.

She had called her... An eyesore?!

Yu Lanxiang's heart ached for her niece, and she hurried over to her, "Qiqi..."

Before she could go on however, Liu Manhong launched into a full blast, "Mrs. Wan, Sister Yu, I suppose you've got a lot of free time at hand now that you don't have to go around catching your husband's affairs. Could you please spend more time educating the young ones in your family? Aren't you making a

fool of yourself now? I understand that the Wans are used to embarrassing themselves, but could you not spoil our mood?

“She’s only a teenager now, so there’s still some hope of saving her! Don’t just be busy making money, and as a result end up neglecting the children’s upbringing!”

At the end of her tirade, she even put on a sincere, concerned look, as though she had really said that for their own good.

The two ladies nearly exploded in fury.

At the side, Xia Xibei stayed silent, all while silently cheering for Liu Manhong.

This was exactly the Sister Hong that she knew! They deserved this!

Yu Lanxiang’s face turned from dark to ashen, then from red to pale white, nearly having a heart attack.

Zhang Yiqi was no better than that.

Who wouldn’t get angry if someone called them “ill-mannered” right to the face?

Right as they were on the verge of exploding, Wan Shicheng stepped forth, his face full of sincerity.

“I’m sorry, Qiqi wasn’t being sensible. I apologize on her behalf.”

“Brother Shicheng?!” Zhang Yiqi was dumbfounded.

Wan Shicheng shot her a look, then looked back at Liu Manhong and Xia Xibei.

“To show my sincerity, I’ll cover all your expenses today.”

#### **Chapter 427: Not Even Planes Can Take Off**

“Shicheng!” Yu Lanxiang was stunned too.

Wan Shicheng made a face at his mother and cousin, looking dignified. “Mom, Qiqi, we’re at fault this time. Of course we have to apologize.”

Yu Lanxiang took a look at the pretty Xia Xibei, and the realization hit her. She fought back the urge to pounce forward and claw at her face.

What a vixen!

The old one was a vixen herself, as was the young one! Both were equally shameless!

However, the look in Wan Shicheng's eyes frightened her, so she had no choice but to bear with it.

"Yeah, you've lost your source of income now that Hongyan is closed down, so we'll pay for you this time."

Liu Manhong sneered, "No need for that, I can still afford some clothes. It's all good as long as you don't come ruining my vibes."

He truly was Wan Xianyao's son huh? He had clearly inherited his father's disgusting personality!

The hilarious part was that did he really think Xia Xibei was that gullible?

If it was so simple, why would Qiao Yanjue be so frustrated all the time?

"Miss Liu..."

Wan Shicheng wanted to say something more, but Liu Manhong cut him off, "Enough, the shop is closing. Could you kindly shut up? Sometimes, all men have to do is be quiet to be likeable."

Having been treated so ungraciously, Wan Shicheng's smile froze on his face.

Liu Manhong turned around and entered the shop.

“Please get me an S-sized one,” Liu Manhong waved at the salesgirl, while pointing at a long, grass-green dress.

“Alright, please give me a moment!”

“I’ll get an S-sized one too,” Zhang Yiqi came in and said with a sullen face.

“Sorry, we only have one for each size,”

The salesgirl was now in a quandary.

She had just witnessed their quarrel a while ago. Would they get into a physical fight now?

“I think an XS will fit you.” Liu Manhong glanced at her up and down, “It’ll be enough for you since you have small boobs.”

Zhang Yiqi was speechless.

All the salespeople hung their heads low to suppress the urge to laugh.

Liu Manhong dared to make such a remark, but not them.

“Liu Manhong!” Yu Lanxiang stepped forth with a dark, glum face.

“I wasn’t wrong though,” Liu Manhong shrugged. “You must have known it, since you also run a beauty parlor. How could you be clueless about it? Her boobs wouldn’t even qualify for an airport, not even planes can take off from there!”

“Why?” Xia Xibei played along.

“Because they’re sunken!”

Pfff— —!

The salespeople nearly burst out laughing, quickly making themselves scarce to avoid being hated.

“You!”

Zhang Yiqi’s face was as red as a tomato, nearly exploding on her spot.

How could a young lady like her not be infuriated by such a humiliation?

Yu Lanxiang was also trembling in rage, “You- You’re being too much!”

Liu Manhong shook her head like they were hopeless. What made them think they could pick a fight with her and come out alive, especially with the poor combat capacity they had?

“How is that so? Am I not speaking the truth? Beibei, was I wrong about it?”

“No,” Xia Xibei puffed her chest a little.

That wasn't something that she would usually do, but no one asked them to provoke Liu Manhong in the first place, right?

It was no laughing matter when Liu Manhong started spitting venom. As her daughter, she had to back her up for sure.

Yu Lanxiang and Zhang Yiqi were spitting fire from their eyes.

Zhang Yiqi had come shopping to get a pretty dress, so that she could attend Mo Bonan's birthday party.

However, not only did she not get what she came here for, but she had also gotten savagely insulted by Liu Manhong.

She almost went up in flames.

“Umm, here's the...” The salesgirl spoke in a small, shaky voice, “Fress.”

“I’ll go and try it on then,” Xia Xibei smiled, and went inside the fitting room with the dress held in her hand.

Zhang Yiqi stared at the fitting room viciously, waiting for Xia Xibei to come out so she could mock.

However, she froze when Xia Xibei emerged from the fitting room.

#### **Chapter 428: Walking Off After Insulting**

Everyone was stunned the moment Xia Xibei stepped out of the fitting room.

The grass-green dress was short at the front and long at the back, revealing her slim, straight, shins in the front. Behind her, the ankle-length, tender edge of the dress swayed like grass as she sauntered, bringing forth a refreshing breeze.

Her skin was fair and supple, her eyes radiant and enchanting. She looked as breathtaking as an elf princess.

Her 1.7-meter tall, slender build, her ample bosom and haunches, her slim waist, the striking ratio of her long, her gorgeous legs in those high heels...

All the salesgirls around her were astounded.



The boutique was quite renowned for its clothes because of their impressive designs. Some celebrities had worn their clothes before, but honestly speaking, none of them looked as stunning as Xia Xibei.

“Terrific!”

“It’s absolutely gorgeous!”

The salesgirls couldn’t stop marveling over her in awe, envy, and jealousy.

She was extremely beautiful! Her body’s shape was terrific! Her ratio was perfect!

They had always thought that such an amazing body could only exist in photoshopped pictures, but now they had seen it with their very own eyes!

Sure enough, what made them envious most was her face.

She had good looks, a perfect body, and better still, she was rich!

What an absolute winner in life!

“Sister Hong, how do I look?” Xia Xibei walked up to Liu Manhong and asked her with a smile.

“Stunning! Absolutely stunning!” Liu Manhong applauded ardently.

She had a great body too, but she couldn't help but feel envious upon seeing Xia Xibei.

Xia Xibei was very skinny, but she was ample where she needed to be. Who wouldn't be envious of a body like that?

“We'll get this one!” Liu Manhong said immediately, then pointed at several other dresses, “Try these ones on too.”

“Sure!”

The salesgirls got into action right away. They wanted to see more of her too.

Xia Xibei turned around, paying no heed to Wan Shicheng, whose eyes were shimmering with awe, and Zhang Yiqi and Yu Lanxiang, whose eyes were spitting fire, and entered the fitting room once again.

Liu Manhong then took a look at Zhang Yiqi, and laughed, “What now, wanna give it a try? How about I lend you the S-sized one to try on?”

Zhang Yiqi's face was flushed red, as though someone had given her a slap in the face.

With Xia Xibei's entrancing beauty in comparison, she wouldn't dare to do it, no matter how confident she had been before!

Wouldn't that be like bringing shame upon herself?

At that moment, she was at a complete loss for words.

Liu Manhong then turned to look at Yu Lanxiang, "Aren't you running a beauty parlor? Give her a massage more frequently while she's young, it might help her get a fuller chest."

Zhang Yiqi's face switched between red and ashen, but she didn't have the guts to call them "milk cows." Liu Manhong and Xia Xibei's bodies weren't that exaggerated.

No matter how reluctant she was to admit it, Xia Xibei did indeed have a greater body than her!

She was ample where she needed to be, and skinny where there shouldn't be fat.

Yu Lanxiang was also stomping in anger because Liu Manhong shot a glance at her chest as she said those words, the disdain in her eyes so obvious that she almost erupted.

"Liu Manhong, you..."

Before she could say something, however, Liu Manhong walked off without giving her a chance to retaliate.

It was more exciting to walk off after insulting someone!

The fitting rooms at the shop were rather unique. There were some spaces outside the rooms that allowed people to look from the outside once the person inside was done dressing, without having to step out into the open space.

Liu Manhong pulled the curtain close, blocking Wan Shicheng's line of sight.

Scumbags like him didn't deserve to admire Xia Xibei's breathtaking beauty.

Wan Shicheng's brows furrowed, a streak of determination flickering across his dim eyes.

He no longer cared about the two ladies beside him, whose cheeks were puffed up like two angry puffers.

At that moment, a young, willowy woman stepped into the shop, and called out in delight, "Shicheng? What are you here for?"

## **Chapter 429: Free of Charge This Time**

When Xia Xibei and Liu Manhong came out with the clothes, they saw a young woman who was quite seductive.

Yu Lanxiang had left, and Zhang Yiqi stood next to the woman, glaring over with an ambiguous expression.

When the woman saw Xia Xibei come out, her gaze shot over to them, sharp like a knife.

Xia Xibei did not pay attention to them and handed the clothes to the salesclerk.

“The bill is waived this time, as my apology.”

Wan Shicheng walked up to them with a sincere, genuine expression.

“Free of charge?” Liu Manhong cast him a surprised look. “This is your store?”

“No, it’s my friend Sisi’s store,” he said, pointing at the woman.

“Yes, the bill is waived this time. After all, you’re a friend of Shicheng.” Sisi pursed her lips and smiled, only her smile was a bit forced, and she looked at Xia Xibei with a displeased look.

“No need, we are not friends.” Liu Manhong glanced at her, “We can afford to buy it ourselves.”

The few clothes here added up to nearly 100,000 yuan.

For ordinary people, this was a lot of money, but it was not much for them.

“I know, but this is my apology. I hope you guys can accept it.” Wan Shicheng smiled warmly, “If you insist on paying for them, we can exchange contact information and I can pay you later on.”

“Yes, the more we contact each other, the easier it is to become friends.” Sisi had a fake smile. “We are all young people, there must be common topics.”

“Common topics?” Liu Manhong snickered and threw the clothes back. “Forget it, we don’t...”

Before the word “want” could be uttered, she was interrupted by Xia Xibei.

“Are they really free?” Her eyes lit up a little.

Seeing this, Sisi and Zhang Yiqi’s expressions were both disdainful.

She really was poor. As soon as they mentioned the stuff was free, she became excited.

“Yeah.” Zhang Yiqi turned up the corner of her mouth, “Isn’t it great? No need to pay!”

Wan Shicheng frowned at her with a warning in his eyes.

If she hadn't insisted on staying, he really wouldn't have wanted her to stay to ruin his plans.

"Who wouldn't like a waived bill?" Xia Xibei smiled and glanced at them, and finally, her eyes turned to a small raffle spinner on the table.

The small spinner was quite exquisite, with a pointer pointing down. The spinner was divided into many compartments, with each winning prize written inside.

Seeing her glance, the salesclerk immediately explained, "As long as you buy at least 10,000 yuan, you can take a spin. The prizes are very generous!"

Xia Xibei looked carefully at the prizes on it, finally focusing on the smallest sliver of the spinner: double refund of the purchase amount.

"This one..."

"Oh, if you get this grid, your bill will be waived, and you also get twice the money back!"

That is to say, you get paid back twice the money you spent; they're basically giving away money!

However, it was not easy to do. This grid was the smallest, and easily passed over. The event had been running for two days by now and no one had won it yet.

After Xia Xibei spun the spinning wheel and tried it out, she looked at Sisi, "So can I draw a prize too?"

"Of course you can." Sisi looked a little impatient. "A waived purchase can also draw a lottery, with the price of the clothes remaining the same."

"Then if I drew this, how does it count?" She pointed to the smallest grid and asked.

Zhang Yiqi's mouth moved a little, wanting to make fun, but she did not dare to speak.

Sisi turned up the corner of her mouth, "Of course we'll follow the same rules."

"That's good." Xia Xibei took Liu Manhong's hand and smiled cheekily, "Sister Hong, today I'll show you what it means to be the luckiest of the lucky!"

### **Chapter 430: Won Again**

Zhang Yiqi and Sisi glanced at each other, their eyes showing the same contempt.

Did she think she'd win just like that? She was dreaming!



Under the watchful eyes of the crowd, Xia Xibei smiled lightly and lifted her finger, sending the spinner moving.

There were many prizes: silk scarves, clothes, jewelry, and also a waived purchase. The biggest prize, however, was the double refund of the purchase amount.

After a few spins under the gazes of the crowd, the spinner finally came to a halt.

The pointer stopped at the smallest grid.

“Oh my god!”

“She won!”

“She really won!”

The salesclerks gasped and looked at the scene with disbelief.

She really won!

This was too lucky!

Zhang Yiqi and Sisi were dumbfounded and skeptical, wanting to shout out that she had cheated.

How could she be so lucky?

Liu Manhong laughed out loud, "You're definitely the luckiest of the lucky! I finally believe that story about how you won the lottery before!"

Before, Xia Xibei had told her about winning the car jackpot twice. She had thought Xia Xibei was joking, but now she realized that there really were people with such an unbelievable amount of good luck!

Xia Xibei smiled under the shocked and envious gazes of the crowd, "I told you I'm lucky!"

She looked to Sisi and the others, "Now that I've won, what's next?"

The smile on the corner of Sisi's mouth froze.

If it wasn't for the fact that she had set up the spinning wheel, she would have thought Xia Xibei was cheating.

"Since you won the prize, of course we will cash it."

"Thanks for the trouble, then." Xia Xibei was very polite. "As for the waived bill you mentioned, don't worry about it, just give me the purchase amount."

Sisi's smile stiffened and she told the salesclerk, "Go ahead, cash out for her."

Zhang Yiqi's face was even more unpleasant.

Wan Shicheng was also very surprised. Originally, he wanted to use this opportunity to get on with Xia Xibei, but he didn't expect her to win such a prize!

Now he was a bit bewildered.

Liu Manhong wrote down her account number and asked the salesclerk to transfer the money.

Looking at the money that had arrived, she was beaming with joy. It was extra income.

"Okay, let's go."

"Wait a minute."

"Wait."

Xia Xibei and Wan Shicheng spoke at the same time.

Wan Shicheng immediately smiled, but without waiting for him to say anything, Xia Xibei looked at Sisi.

“If I buy more clothes, can I try the lottery again?”

“Of course you can.” Sisi pursed the corner of her mouth. “As long as you spend 10,000 yuan or more, you can draw the lottery.”

“Is it unlimited?”

Sisi frowned, feeling a little off, but nodded, “Yes, it’s unlimited.”

Xia Xibei smiled, “That’s great.”

She raised her eyebrows at Liu Manhong, “Sister Hong, the opportunity to get rich is here.”

Everyone’s heart was thumping.

What did she want?

Soon, Xia Xibei made them understand what she wanted.

She didn’t even try on the clothes. She just picked out another ten or so items that added up to at least half a million yuan.

This time, Wan Shicheng didn't even have the chance to say the bill was waived.

After paying the bill, Xia Xibei spun the spinning wheel once again.

Finally, the pointer pointed to "Double refund of purchase amount."

"Damn!" Sister Hong shouted and hugged her. "You won again!"

Everyone next to her was dumbstruck. Winning once was one thing, but winning a second time?

Zhang Yiqi rushed up and grabbed the spinning wheel. "Impossible! You must have done something!"

Faced with her suspicion, Xia Xibei looked at Sisi. "Miss Sisi, this is yours, right?"

### **Chapter 431: Bought Too Little**

He Sisi's face darkened.

This was indeed her family's stuff, and she set it up on her own.

However, Xia Xibei's horrifyingly good luck still made her suspicious.

She couldn't help but go up and check the spinner.

"Is there a problem?" Liu Manhong snorted with her arms crossed.

No matter how Xia Xibei did it, her luck was just so unbelievable.

Everyone else also looked at each other.

"If there's no problem, are you guys going to cash out for us?"

He Sisi's expression grew unpleasant.

However, the carousel was fine, so she could only grit her teeth.

"Redeem the prize!" she ordered.

The salesclerks shrank their necks and hurriedly cashed in their prizes.

So, the 500 thousand yuan Liu Manhong had just spent turned into a million yuan refund.

“There’s no limit on the number of times, right?” Xia Xibei asked again.

Everyone was speechless.

Damn, what did she want?

Wan Shicheng’s smile was also a bit awkward.

He had just wanted to take this opportunity to get closer to Xia Xibei, but who would have thought that Xia Xibei would have earned more than one million? It was like winning the lottery!

“Sister Hong, the clothes here are really pretty!” Xia Xibei said to Liu Manhong.

Xia Xibei had already recognized He Sisi as one of Wan Shicheng’s confidantes. In the previous life, the two of them had also had conflicts.

It just didn’t occur to her that if this store was opened by He Sisi, it would also have been funded by Wan Shicheng.

Although He Sisi was not a decent person, the clothes here were still quite beautiful.

Most importantly, the more you bought, the more money you made!

“Yes, they’re pretty.” Liu Manhong smiled brightly, “Buy more!”

The corners of the others’ mouths twitched, and their expressions were ugly.

The salesclerks took a few steps back to keep themselves out of it.

They obviously understood the situation at hand.

Wan Shicheng wanted to use this tactic to get close to Xia Xibei, but unfortunately, her luck was unbelievable, and they earned a lot of money instead.

1.2 million yuan! This money was earned too easily!

Moreover, they vaguely felt as if Xia Xibei was fighting with them.

Of course, it had nothing to do with them; they were just the poor salespeople.

He Sisi was unaware of her employees’ inner rants, and her expression was unsightly.

Although she did not believe that Xia Xibei could have good luck a third time, who could guarantee it?



This young woman was wicked!

She pondered in her mind and didn't dare to speak, but Zhang Yiqi piped up, "Xia Xibei, don't you dare go too far!"

Damn!

He Sisi's eyes immediately went wide.

Was Zhang Yiqi trying to make an enemy?

Sure enough, Xia Xibei laughed, "Where did I go too far? I came here to buy something and then drew a prize. Is there a problem?"

"You guys are not going to deny it, are you?" Liu Manhong demanded. "Then I'd have to complain to the Consumer Association about your false marketing!"

"You--"

"Shut up!" Wan Shijie shouted in a low voice, telling Zhang Yiqi to stop talking.

Xia Xibei didn't listen to him but looked at He Sisi. "Anyway, just tell us straight. Can we still buy clothes here?"

He Sisi's face was steely, but she didn't know how to answer.

As she hesitated, a song rang out. It was the closing bell of the mall.

She breathed a sigh of relief, as if she had been pardoned.

"Sure! But it's ten o'clock and we're closing, so please come back tomorrow."

Liu Manhong sighed and said to Xia Xibei, "You bought too little, It's such a pity!"

The next day, there was definitely no such good thing.

Everyone wondered, was this an attempt to get the whole store?!

### **Chapter 432: Pissing Them Off**

Before leaving, Wan Shicheng wanted to say something else, but was ignored by Xia Xibei.

She couldn't face Wan Shisheng and Wan Shijie. Otherwise, she might not be able to control herself.

These two brothers had contributed a lot to the miserable situation she ended up in during her first life.

In fact, after experiencing the second life, she had become much more forgiving. Otherwise, in the first hour of being reborn this time, she would have poisoned them.

If they hadn't approached her, she wouldn't necessarily have done anything to them. It's important to live your life without being bound by hatred.

But even if you started over again, some people's character and behaviors never changed.

Thinking of this, the smile on Xia Xibei's mouth grew cold, and she dragged Liu Manhong away.

Wan Shicheng looked at her leaving a little obsessively.

"Shicheng, you..."

He Sisi was a little resentful.

How could she not complain? She lost more than a million yuan today!

The money was not that much to her, but the fact that it fell into Xia Xibei's pocket really made her gnash her teeth in hatred.

"Well, it's late. You should go back to rest. I also have to go."

After saying that, he quickly left.

He Sisi looked incredulously at his departing back.

He just left? Without saying anything?!

Zhang Yiqi was even more confused.

She came out tonight to buy clothes so that she could show off at Mo Bonan's birthday party.

However, she hadn't bought any clothes, and now she was upset. Then Wan Shicheng just ran away? She could only chase after him.

"Cousin, wait for me!"

Yu Lanxiang was the angriest.

She was totally defeated in tonight's encounter with Liu Manhong.

Her son told her to go back first, saying that he would think of something on his side.

Although she knew that her son was interested in Xia Xibei, she could not defy him and had to leave first.

Originally, she had thought that her son would bring back good news, but when Zhang Yiqi told her everything, she was left flabbergasted.

Just... that's it?!!!

She was so mad that she gritted her teeth, finally deciding that she would steal the beauticians and clients from the Hongyan Salon, just so that Liu Manhong would not be arrogant!

Meanwhile, the two people who were being obsessed over and hated had returned home with their shopping bags, both in a very happy mood.

“Woof!”

King Chu immediately rushed up.

Xia Xibei stroked his head, and he was so happy that his tail was spinning like a fire wheel.

Liu Manhong glared at her dog in disgust, looking enviously at Xia Xibei.

“Your luck is too good!”

Xia Xibei smiled, not saying anything.

No one knew how much pain and suffering she had gone through to get such “good luck.”

Liu Manhong also did not look deeper. Things such as luck were too illusory. She was more concerned about Yu Lanxiang.

“I think Yu Lanxiang must be furious... Ha, ha, ha!”

“Woof woof!”

King Chu was startled, his owner having gone crazy.

Liu Manhong’s face darkened when she felt the dog’s disapproval.

But she didn’t mind that much and changed the subject.

“Are the skin care products done yet?”

Xia Xibei nodded, "There's still a week or so left, I think."

"Okay," Liu Manhong nodded, "It's about the same on my side."

Thinking of the reaction Yu Lanxiang would have afterwards, Liu Manhong almost died of joy.

"Okay, you go back to rest!" Liu Manhong waved her hand while turning on the TV.

After stroking King Chu, Xia Xibei was just ready to go when she heard some loud cursing, "Damn! What nonsense is this! Will you die if you don't start a rumor?!"

Xia Xibei turned around in shock and saw a row of not so small words on the screen.

Nie Zehai and Gu Qiang travel together, is good news coming?

### **Chapter 433: Very Aware**

Liu Manhong cursed angrily, "What do you mean good news is coming? Pfft! These reporters are too shameless..."

“Woof!” Shame on you!

“That’s right! It’s shameless!”

“Woof!” Yes!

Xia Xibei was dumbfounded.

She looked... Like she was following a star!

And seeing how proficient Liu Manhong and King Chu looked, it was clear that this kind of thing had been going on for quite a long time.

Xia Xibei watched the news for a while, quickly understanding.

Nie Zehai was shooting a show he had accepted before. He was the second male star, and Gu Qiang was the third female star.

Some journalists had taken a picture of the two traveling together. Of course, beside them was the assistant.

The reporters were people who made something out of nothing, and when they took such photos, of course they wanted to create some drama.



On TV, Gu Qiang spoke with a smile, “We do have some romantic scenes in the show. However, Brother Hai and I are just friends. We will usually eat together... Please, you guys. Don’t talk nonsense.”

Liu Manhong and Xia Xibei’s faces sank at the same time.

“Phony bitch!” Liu Manhong labeled her right away.

As a woman, Liu Manhong did not like to make things difficult for other women, but she was experienced and could naturally see what kind of person this woman was.

Although Gu Qiang said that she and Nie Zehai were just friends, her expression and tone stated the opposite.

Nie Zehai was so popular now and had enthusiastic fans. How could Gu Qiang not want to be involved with him?

In Liu Manhong’s opinion, Gu Qiang was trying to force Nie Zehai into a relationship.

This kind of trick was common in the entertainment industry. Both men and women had the same practice.

But in Xia Xibei’s mind, things were not as simple.

Gu Qiang was the one who had wrongly accused Nie Zehai of having nefarious intentions towards her!

She had said in front of the media that the two were just friends, but after a few days, she would say that Nie Zehai wanted to assault her.

When this news broke out, it would immediately draw everyone's attention.

Except for a few die-hard fans who believed in Nie Zehai's innocence, most people strongly condemned him.

Things got so heated in the end that Nie Zehai chose to quit the entertainment industry, while Gu Qiang used this opportunity to gain everyone's sympathy and a lot of resources.

Had it not been for the fact that a few years later, she was exposed for dating many people, plus the fact that Nie Zehai would not give up on finding the truth, she would have done even better.

After all, no one knew that the innocent and gracious looking girl was such a person.

Liu Manhong was still cursing, "This Gu Qiang is not a good person! How can Brother Hai be friends with her? Sooner or later, he will be eaten to the bone!"

Nie Zehai was not too young nor too old, and his fans called him Brother Hai. Even if Liu Manhong was an older fan, she also called him the same thing.

Xia Xibei raised her eyebrows, "You like Nie Zehai?"

Liu Manhong then realized that Xia Xibei had not left. She did not feel embarrassed and nodded frankly, "Yes. A few days ago I watched the "Legend of Qinghe." I really like him as Qi Chen. He's so handsome!"

Although she was not young, the heart of a teenage girl did not depend on age.

"Do you want an autographed photo?"

"Autographed photo?" Liu Manhong's eyes lit up. "Yes! Can you get it?"

"Of course." Xia Xibei smiled, "He and I are friends. I can even ask him to come out and meet you!"

But Liu Manhong shook her head, "That's not necessary, just get me a few photos. As a sensible fan, I want to be closer to his stage and farther away from his life."

Xia Xibei was surprised. Ooh, to have such a high awareness!

"Okay, I'll help you get a few photos then."

After coming out of Liu Manhong's house, Xia Xibei was about to go back, but her footsteps suddenly stopped and her expression became grave.

Then, she took the elevator and headed for the parking lot.

## **Chapter 434: What a Coincidence**

This neighborhood was inhabited by rich people, so the property management and security guards were very effective.

Outsiders were not allowed to come in without the owner's consent.

Therefore, there could be celebrities living here.

Xia Xibei went down to the garage and made her way to the place she remembered.

When she saw a certain wall, she was finally sure of her suspicions.

This wall was sprayed with a big red license plate number, the number belonging to Gu Qiang's rich benefactor!

Back then, when things finally came out, people online picked apart all the information on Gu Qiang's benefactors, including their license plate numbers.

Xia Xibei had passed by here before but didn't think that much about it. Luckily she figured it out now.

She was about to leave when she heard the sound of a car.

Soon, a car drove in.

Xia Xibei's eyes lit up after seeing the license plate, then she hid behind a pillar and looked over carefully.

After the car stopped, the people in the car did not come out immediately.

Xia Xibei's eyes were sharp, plus the lighting in the garage was good, so she clearly saw that the two heads in the driver and passenger seats had come together.

Her heart fluttered. She immediately pulled out her phone and started shooting.

As she zoomed in, she could see more clearly that the two people were indeed making out!

What the- It was so exciting!

She only came down to confirm the situation. She didn't expect to run into such a powerful scene.

They weren't planning on doing it in the car, were they?

Fortunately, the people inside knew that the setting was not right and quickly separated.

Then, the two people came out of the car.

After seeing the two people clearly, Xia Xibei's eyes got brighter.

It was really Gu Qiang! She was really lucky!

She had thought that it would take a few days of surveillance to get the evidence, but she did not expect such a coincidence to occur.

Gu Qiang was about 165 cm tall and in flats. The man beside her was about the same height as her, with a receding hairline and a big belly. His appearance was difficult, to say the least.

Gu Qiang was wearing a pageboy cap. She held the man's arm, smiling and acting coy.

As she talked to him, she offered another kiss.

The corners of Xia Xibei's mouth twitched. Gu Qiang was too desperate! And her acting skills were amazing! No one could see any reluctance!

If others saw them, they would definitely think that this was a couple in love with each other.

Xia Xibei marveled to herself and continued to hold up her phone.

When she saw the two people were finally about to leave, Xia Xibei breathed a sigh of relief.

In the next second, however, her eyes flashed, turning around and kicking her right foot to the side.

Then, her right foot was held by someone.

Before she could see who was coming, she fell into a wide, warm embrace.

Xia Xibei's heart jumped and her right hand was about to swing out. However, that person's reaction was even faster, grabbing her right hand and also her left hand, holding her very securely.

Her eyes widened and she drew in a breath, a fire burning in her heart.

Before she could make another move, a low, magnetic voice came to her ears, whispering, "It's me."

What the hell!

How could Qiao Yanjue have such moves?

What was he doing here?

Two thoughts appeared at the same time, leaving Xia Xibei a little confused.

Their commotion attracted the attention of Gu Qiang and her male companion, who looked at the two people hugging each other from afar. After exchanging a knowing look, they left decisively.

“Let go of me.”

After Xia Xibei came back to her senses, she blushed and struggled in Qiao Yanjue’s arms.

Qiao Yanjue then loosened his embrace.

“What are you doing here?”

### **Chapter 435: I Came to Wait for You**

Qiao Yanjue had just come to the garage and was about to go up when he saw Xia Xibei sneaking around.

He couldn’t help but be curious.



Moreover, what was she taking pictures of with her phone just now?

Faced with Qiao Yanjue's question, Xia Xibei had a rare moment of hesitation.

What should she say? That she had come over to be a paparazzo? No way!

That would definitely involve a lot more questions later.

Thinking of this, she stuffed her phone into her pocket and flashed a big, sweet smile at Qiao Yanjue.

"I... I came over to wait for you!"

At those words, a surge of joy coursed through Qiao Yanjue's heart.

She came to wait for him? What did this mean? Did she just get enlightened?

Fortunately, he still had sense and was not befuddled with joy.

He looked her up and down, then glanced towards the place where Gu Qiang and her boyfriend were standing just now.

"Really? You miss me that much?"

“Yes!” Xia Xibei’s heart skipped. With an innocent expression, she took his hand and pulled him towards the elevator. “I saw that you hadn’t come back yet, so I came down to wait for you.”

Qiao Yanjue looked at his arm, the corners of his mouth unconsciously twisting into a smile as he obediently followed her forward.

“How did you know when I was coming back?”

“I didn’t know, so I wanted to surprise you!” Xia Xibei blurted out without changing her expression.

Qiao Yanjue gave her a look with a smile in his eyes, but didn’t debunk her lie, nor did he tell her that when she was lying, her expression was different.

Every time she wanted to fool people, she had an innocent look and could bluff people into a daze.

But Qiao Yanjue had spent so much time with her, how could he not know her?

“Is that so? This is a surprise indeed.”

Qiao Yanjue accepted her “surprise” and “I miss you” without changing his face.

However, he didn't let her off the hook. "But why did you miss me so much today? What's going on?"

Xia Xibei's gaze couldn't help but drift a little, "There's nothing going on..."

"I don't believe it." He paused and grunted, "There must be something going on."

This gave her a bit of a dilemma, as her eyes kept blinking.

Qiao Yanjue just looked at her, waiting for her to complete her lie.

"Um... Oh yeah! I won the jackpot today!"

Xia Xibei finally thought of a reason, looking revived.

The corners of Qiao Yanjue's mouth looked smiley as he asked, "Oh? You won the jackpot? How big is it?"

She nodded repeatedly, "A big jackpot, more than a million!"

"More than a million? Did Old Jiang give it to you?"

Qiao Yanjue knew about Jiang Liran coming over today and Xia Xibei helping with the treatment.

However, Jiang Liran only gave about one million? Wasn't that a bit low?

He knew that Jiang Liran had spent a lot of money on his health. If Xia Xibei could help him fix his health, this much money was nothing to the Jiang family.

"No," Xia Xibei shook her head. "I won it when I bought clothes at the mall. The spending amount was doubly refunded, so it added up to this much."

"Such good luck?" Qiao Yanjue was also taken aback.

"Yeah!" Xia Xibei smiled. "I've always had good luck!"

The bad luck from her previous life was in the past. In this life, all her luck would be good!

All the bad luck was someone else's—like Xia Qinghan and those people.

Qiao Yanjue was in a better mood, watching her smile brightly.

However, he changed the subject.

"So what were you recording just now?"

Could he skip this topic?

### **Chapter 436: Hurting Each Other**

Xia Xibei looked over with an innocent face.

Qiao Yanjue looked back at her with an innocent face too.

The two looked at each other for a while, until Xia Xibei finally couldn't hold out.

"It's just that... When I was waiting for you, I happened to see it, so..."

"Who was it?"

Qiao Yanjue didn't believe Xia Xibei's explanation.

However, he also knew that Xia Xibei would not just randomly record people.

"The woman is a celebrity, the man is no. The two were acting intimate... I'm not sure of anything else."

It was a half-truth, and Qiao Yanjue understood, but he didn't pursue it further, for fear of angering Xia Xibei.

"You don't want to get caught and be arrested for being a peeping tom," Qiao Yanjue lightly flicked her forehead and said with a smile.

"How could I?" Xia Xibei had a confident expression. "Who can see me?"

Before she could finish those words, she met Qiao Yanjue's mocking eyes and was a little embarrassed.

"It's not like everyone is like you!"

But, speaking of which, she also had a question.

"It seems like... You're stronger than I thought?"

Thinking about the previous few encounters, Xia Xibei realized in hindsight that Qiao Yanjue was not the weakling she thought he was!

"Family-taught martial arts." Qiao Yanjue didn't hide it. "I've been practicing martial arts since I was a kid."

“Does everyone in your family learn martial arts?”

“Well, except for those who marry in, both men and women have to learn,” he nodded. “Martial arts practice starts at the age of six, and after reaching the age of 16, you can choose whether to continue or give up.”

“And how many stuck it out?”

“Not many.” Qiao Yanjue shook his head. “Not many people can stick it out.”

After all, the environment was different now. Instead of practicing martial arts so hard, it was easier to use weapons for self-defense.

Moreover, practicing martial arts was very grueling, so not everyone could persevere.

Qiao Yanjue was extremely talented in this area and was also able to endure hardship, which was why he had persevered until now.

By now, he hadn't become a martial arts master yet, but he was not far behind.

Xia Xibei nodded her head, feeling the same way.

If it weren't for the special circumstances of her second life, she wouldn't have stuck it out either.

But...

“How did you get hurt last time, when you faced those few punks?”

She was talking about the punks sent by Liu Lixin when the house was to be demolished before.

Because of that time, she had always felt that Qiao Yanjue was a weakling.

However, those moves he made just now were not weak at all.

So, how did those few punks hurt him?

Qiao Yanjue didn't know what to say. It'd been so long ago, why bring it up?

Xia Xibei looked at him with a smile, and he looked back innocently.

Come on, let's hurt each other!

“That's because I didn't react fast enough!” Qiao Yanjue justified. “So, after I came back, I intensified my practice!”

Xia Xibei was speechless. She had lost.



Qiao Yanjue's skin was really getting thicker and thicker!

"Oops, I've been busy all day today, so tired, I have to go back and rest."

Qiao Yanjue decisively changed the subject.

Xia Xibei was speechless and could only be dragged along by him.

The next day, Xia Xibei found Yu Ziqi.

"Let's go see your cousin tomorrow."

"See my cousin?" Yu Ziqi was surprised. "Why?"

"I have something to give him!"

Understanding dawned on Yu Ziqi, "It's that mask..."

"Right," Xia Xibei nodded, then revealed a mysterious smile. "You can try it too!"

Yu Ziqi immediately perked up. "Good! This way, we won't be photographed together!"

After changing their faces, the reporters wouldn't recognize them, so it would be more convenient.

### **Chapter 437: A Prelude to the Event**

Yu Ziqi was particularly interested in the mask Xia Xibei took out. Therefore, he was excited when she offered to change his face.

Before leaving, Xia Xibei called Nie Zehai and said she would bring the mask over, and also visit the set.

Nie Zehai readily agreed.

There was just one last mask left from the previous masks Xia Xibei gave him.

He had to admit, with the mask, it was much easier for him to go out and the paparazzi couldn't catch him at all.

Other than his manager and two close friends, no one else knew that he had such an amazing thing.

His best friends also wanted a mask, but it was all up to Xia Xibei.

Currently, Nie Zehai was shooting a new drama.

This drama was a project he had taken on before, and he was already in the cast when “The Legend of Qinghe” started airing.

His popularity was now very different from before, becoming a top young actor in one great leap.

He was originally the supporting male character, but because of his popularity, the director and scriptwriter were now discussing adding more parts for him.

He had many fans, and when the new drama started airing, there would definitely be many viewers watching the show just for him.

Nie Zehai did not dispute this.

This was what the director and the market wanted, and who didn't want higher ratings? And it was good for him too.

However, with more scenes for him, others' scenes would have to be reduced.

Moreover, his soaring popularity was a huge threat to others—especially the male lead of this drama.

These days, the atmosphere on set was a bit strange.

Nie Zehai understood what was happening, and his attitude was still as modest as ever, which made many people have a better impression of him.

After his popularity jumped, Nie Zehai also took on a few commercials, and in a few days, he had to go to the recording of "Full Steam Ahead," so his schedule was full.

Because of his busy schedule and the increase in the number of scenes, he was very occupied these days, often staying on set until late at night.

When the agent brought Xia Xibei and Yu Ziqi over, Nie Zehai was still shooting a scene.

When Yu Ziqi arrived at the set, he looked around at the machines and the various people coming and going, his mouth hanging open.

This was a whole new world for him!

Xia Xibei was much calmer.

She was not unfamiliar with this environment, and actually felt a little bit of affinity for it.

"You'll have to wait, Zehai has to keep working."

Nie Zehai's agent, Brother Mao, was a man in his thirties. He had a clean look and a steady personality, just not too much hair.

Xia Xibei nodded. "It's okay, we can wait. However, let's go to the lounge and wait, so we don't get in the way of everyone's work here."

Mao gave her a look, "Okay then, I'll take you guys in."

"Okay, thank you Brother Mao." Xia Xibei nodded, "We'll pay attention."

"It's okay." Brother Mao waved his hand and joked, "As long as you don't break anything, it's fine."

With Nie Zehai's current status, he was qualified to have a private lounge.

After Brother Mao brought the two of them inside, he left.

While Yu Ziqi looked around curiously, Xia Xibei suddenly asked, "Do you want to take a picture?"

"Yes!" Yu Ziqi nodded, but hesitated again, "But... Can I send it?"

"Let's ask Brother Hai later."

“Great!”

The two of them waited inside for half an hour, until Nie Zehai finally came back.

However, before they had talked much at all, there was a knock on the door.

“Brother Hai, are you here?”

Xia Xibei jumped up and pulled Yu Ziqi behind the screen. “Brother Hai, we’ll hide out for a while.”

Nie Zehai didn’t know what to say.

What was there to avoid?

### **Chapter 438: Be Aware**

Although he was speechless at Xia Xibei’s actions, Nie Zehai could only shake his head before going over to open the door.

“Gu Qiang?” He was a little surprised to see Gu Qiang at the door. “Why do you want to see me?”

“I feel that our scene just now was not great, and I wanted to discuss it,” Gu Qiang said while walking inside.

Nie Zehai’s smile disappeared and he did not close the door.

“This is something you should tell the director, right?” he asked.

Gu Qiang smiled at him charmingly, “Alas, the director wouldn’t necessarily listen to me!”

“How come?” Nie Zehai turned up the corner of his mouth, “If what you say makes sense, he’ll definitely listen.”

Behind the screen, Xia Xibei held up her phone and recorded through the gap.

Yu Ziqi watched her movements with surprise but said nothing, looking out through another crack.

Gu Qiang looked outside to make sure no one was passing, and the corners of her mouth took on a more coquettish smile.

She was just about to say something, but when she saw the surveillance monitor in a corner, her heart jumped, and her words suddenly changed.

“And yes, with this kind of problem, it’s the director who should be approached.”

Her smile returned to normal.

“I was just complaining, sorry to be a joke to you.”

“It’s okay.”

Nie Zehai was suspicious. Not understanding where her change came from, he could only smile.

Gu Qiang then exclaimed, “Ah, I almost forgot I had something to do. I have to go now.”

Just as she went out, Brother Mao came in with a puzzled look, “Why did Gu Qiang come over? Why is she by herself? Huh, where are your two friends?”

“Here we are,” Xia Xibei said, leading Yu Ziqi out from behind the screen.

“Why were you guys hiding back there?” Brother Mao frowned.

“Gu Qiang came over to look for Brother Hai just now. We did not want to disturb, so we hid in the back,” Xia Xibei explained, not mentioning the video captured just now.

“No need to hide.” Brother Mao’s expression was serious as he looked at Nie Zehai. His tone was grave, “Opposite sex or not, you should not be alone with anyone in the industry. Be careful of being trapped!”



Brother Mao had been in the circle for many years and had seen too many dirty tricks.

“Don’t you know what you are now? Besides, Gu Qiang is not a decent person!” Brother Mao had a contemptuous face.

He had seen Gu Qiang being all kinds of intimate with different men before.

Nie Zehai could not handle this kind of person.

“Don’t worry, I’ll pay attention.” Nie Zehai nodded.

This topic ended for now, and the few people were ready to go back to Nie Zehai’s room. After all, the matters that followed could not be talked about here.

Xia Xibei said, “Why don’t you give us the room card first, Brother Hai. Little Qi and I will go up first.”

Brother Mao thought about it and nodded, “Okay, you guys go back first, and we’ll follow.”

Xia Xibei was still a woman. Even if her current appearance was not conspicuous, those paparazzi had no moral standards.

And Nie Zehai could not easily go out now, so they had to go back to the hotel room to talk.

So, they split into two groups and went back to the hotel separately.

Yu Ziqi did not say anything from beginning to end, but he was bewildered, always feeling that something was wrong.

When all four people were in the room, everyone talked about the masks.

Xia Xibei pulled out the masks, "Here are five masks. If others want them, you can ask me again."

"Okay."

They were talking and laughing when Brother Mao's phone rang.

"I have to go out for a while, you guys keep talking."

"Okay."

Xia Xibei smiled. There didn't seem to be the slightest problem.

Two hours later, a huge firestorm was set off online.

## Chapter 439: A Jaw-dropping Scandal

A user who claimed to be a crew member posted a feed on Weibo.

“Jaw-dropping Scandal! A young male star with N-surname who became famous recently... Attempted to rape a female co-star from the crew! The two parties are in the midst of heated wrangling, stay tuned for more!”

The news drew every netizen’s attention the second it was released.

N-surname? Became famous recently? Young male star?

This wasn’t a sincere censor at all. The netizens saw right through it at first glance, and an enormous wave of heated arguments ensued.

“Holy Christ! He can’t be the one I’m thinking of, can he? This is exciting, huh?”

“OMG! God! Impossible! Didn’t know he was that thirsty!”

“He became quite a sensation lately, is that why he got so wild?”

“Assaulting women? What a scumbag!”

“Could it be NZH? He doesn’t look like a shameless one though!”

“Bah! Don’t throw dirt anyhow you like. Our boy is grinding hard on his new work, you freaking rumormonger!”

“Protect our boy! Those who spread rumors, go rot in hell!”

“LOL, look at that! It’s not even confirmed yet, and you’re geared up to defend him already?”

“LOL, look at that! It’s not even confirmed yet, and you’re declaring our boy guilty already? Even if our boy isn’t famous anymore, your crappy idol still will never get a chance!”

All of a sudden, an intense argument began raging in the comment section below the post.

Sexual assault was no laughing matter!

Very soon, some netizens ferreted out the identity of the account’s owner.

“This account likely belongs to a member of XX crew. Combined with his description, it must be none other than NZH.”

This comment sparked off thousands more comments.

Although the netizen used initials, everyone knew exactly who it was.

Fans were outraged, and a major uproar soon broke out.

Some hurried to the private and official accounts of other co-stars to seek the truth. After all, the nature of such an incident was too vicious.

Nie Zehai's fans were beyond furious. Who wouldn't be if their idols were involved in such a serious defamation?

Gu Qiang finally made a move on Weibo after receiving tonnes of queries.

"I went to @Nie Zehai's room today on invitation, having been told that we were to discuss the scripts, and others would be there too. When I arrived, however, I found out that he was the only one in the room! It didn't feel right, and I was ready to leave when he blocked my way! In the process of wrenching and struggling, I sustained injuries of different extents..."

Below those harrowing lines, several images were attached.

In the images, there were bruises of various degrees all over her face and body, and there was even a red, swollen patch on that fair, delicate face.

It was extremely dreadful.

“Damn it! This is disgusting! So it turns out it really was him!”

“Holy f\*ck! Shameless man! Can’t imagine a good-looking guy like him would ever coerce a woman with such obscene means! Don’t judge a book by its cover indeed!”

“I don’t believe Brother Hai would commit such an act! It’s all just your one-sided acting, right? That’s not how you get famous!”

“Damn, you still believe in your Brother Hai even after seeing the facts? Go f\*ck yourself!”

“Brainless fans will be brainless. Stop trying to defend your boy now that things are in the clear, damn you motherf\*cker!”

“I never thought Nie Zehai was such a disgusting person, I quit the fandom!”

The comment section was bustling with both condemnation and consolation, and swear words that were beyond vulgar raged like wildfire.

Some believed that Nie Zehai was innocent, but the majority were on Gu Qiang’s side.

After all, barely any women would step forth and speak about such matters if they hadn't sustained actual harm.

Her reputation would be tainted although she was the victim that accused Nie Zehai, because the society was always harsh on females. Many netizens in the comments roasted her for defaming Nie Zehai in her bid to gain fame.

In less than half a day, the incident quickly dominated the trending list, causing a massive amount of agitation on the internet.

Amidst the chaos, many emerged to take advantage of the situation.

#### **Chapter 440: I Believe in Him**

The incident became noteworthy news at once.

Nie Zehai was one of the most popular young celebs at the moment, one who just had a massive spurt in his number of followers recently.

If that was just a simple dating scandal, people wouldn't dwell on it for long.

However, sexual assault was a wicked crime that no one could get away with, nor be forgiven for due to its malevolent nature!

Nevertheless, some were secretly pleased, as Nie Zehai's sudden upswing in popularity had inevitably hindered the profit of many parties.

Therefore, him getting into trouble was a huge blessing as far as they were concerned.

Nie Zehai had taken over many resources, including commercials, variety shows, movies and endorsements... If he collapsed, these resources would be re-distributed to others, wouldn't they?

Having thought of that, some could no longer hold back their excitement. Stealthily, they began fabricating stories that would damage his reputation.

Some despised Nie Zehai, while others were on his side.

One of them was Nie Zehai's close friend of many years, Zhou Chunheng. The two of them joined the entertainment industry at around the same time, but Zhou Chunheng had always been active in films. By now, he had won several awards and was fairly popular.

He posted in his Weibo feed right away.

"My homie would never commit such acts! It is too wicked of @Gu Qiang to defame a kindhearted person in such a despicable way!"

Just as expected, the comments below his post consisted of two extremes.



Some were fans who supported them, praising their strong bond of brotherhood.

The rest were furious netizens, ranting and raving about how they had mistaken him for a great person and how he was colluding with scumbags like Nie Zehai!

Apart from Zhou Chunheng, a female celebrity named Yin Jiaojiao also supported Nie Zehai.

Yin Jiaojiao had been in the industry for many years. Her acting was great, but she had never really become a sensation, nor made it to the A-list.

She was a few years older than Nie Zehai, nearing her thirties now. The two had collaborated before.

Yin Jiaojiao was a bold, forthright woman, and had no tolerance for evildoings.

This time, she stood up for Nie Zehai too.

“Hai is a kind soul who never loses his integrity. I believe he’s innocent!”

As expected, the comments below were of two extremes as well.

“How can you lose your integrity over benefits? That’s outrageous of you, to take the rapist’s side instead of defending women, despite being a woman yourself!”

Some of her old fans even tried to admonish her, “Jiaojiao, let’s not get involved in matters like this, ok?”

The nature of the problem was too severe, unlike usual bickering and sabotaging. Who would want to get their hands dirty?

However, regardless of what people said, neither Yin Jiaojiao nor Zhou Chunheng took down their posts. They chose to support Nie Zehai with their resolute attitude.

Apart from the two of them, Xia Xibei also posted in her feed.

“I believe in Brother Hai’s innocence! He is the real victim! Besides, I’d like to remind someone- don’t presume that your deeds have gone unnoticed. Own up to your mistake now, don’t embarrass yourself later!”

Xia Xibei had opened an account earlier, which had not only been verified but was followed by many.

She didn’t usually update her Weibo feed and barely posted any selfies, apart from occasionally sharing what she was up to.

This time, her unexpected post sparked a commotion.

“Holy jeez! When did you even become close with Nie Zehai?”

“My goodness, am I reading it right? Beibei, do you actually know Brother Hai?”

Very soon, people hurried over to her post and launched their attack.

“So this is how shameless you can be just to curry favor with someone, huh?”

“Whoa, looks like you won’t miss any opportunity to get famous, huh? B\*tch!”

“Those who hang out with rapists can’t be decent people either. I guess you’ve slept with him. Is that why you believe in him?”

The comments just got more and more lewd and nasty.

Very soon, some random marketing ID released a photo of Xia Xibei and Nie Zehai.

That marked the beginning of yet another major uproar on the internet.