

Chapter 1351: An Extraordinary Chemical Reaction (2)

However, Lu Tianqing was too desperate for a crushing victory, so she edited the script till it was nothing like what it was in the beginning. When she saw any popular points that attracted the audience, she wanted to add them in and try her best to please more viewers.

However, there was a limit to how long a movie could be. The movie length was only two hours, yet she wanted to give the audience everything possible. Hence, it lost its integrity.

Sometimes, one had to practice the art of subtraction when it came to making movies. It wasn't easy to master the balance needed to make a good movie. It was like cooking a dish. One couldn't cook a good dish with just any seasoning. Only the right seasoning could maximize the main points of a dish.

Lu Tianqing's failure was inevitable.

Lu Tianqing also realized that there was something fishy about these movie theaters. They had secretly increased the number of screenings for Su Bei's movie.

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She was so angry that she wished to ask them to clarify the situation.

However, her manager stopped her. "It's not easy for Boss Jin to cultivate these relationships. Besides, they did give you the most screenings in the first three days. Even now, they didn't give Su Bei too many screenings. If things get too ugly, Boss Jin won't be able to maintain his reputation. You can only blame Su Bei for being too good at creating hype. She used so many people to create hype for her movie."

Lu Tianqing reluctantly accepted this explanation.

However, if her movie's box office results were suppressed after only three days of screening, it would be really difficult to turn the tide after this.

All she could do was increase the movie's marketing budget.

But how could they promote it as naturally as Su Bei did?

Seeing that the box office results were getting lower and lower, Lu Tianqing was very worried. "What's going on?"

The manager had no choice. "The producers have already thought of many ways. However, when some movie theaters saw that Su Bei's box office results were better, they took down ours and switched to just solely screening Su Bei's movie. Besides, there are no other movies at this time. Su Bei really has the advantage."

Lu Tianqing closed her eyes heavily. "My dad spent so much money to ensure that only our movie could be released during this period, but it wasn't to help Su Bei make more money!"

“There probably isn’t much else we can do right now. Many people aren’t choosing to watch our movie... and a lot of the movie theaters are going to have to reduce our screenings.”

Once the number of screenings decreased, their box office results would plummet even more.

Lu Tianqing gritted her teeth. “Get the assistant to find someone to make arrangements at the movie theaters.”

The manager paused. “Do we really have to do this?”

“Don’t you understand what I’m saying?”

The manager had no choice but to turn away.

The movie theaters would schedule a number of screenings for each movie. If no one watched a particular movie, they would switch to another movie.

This was the situation that Lu Tianqing was in now. If no one watched her movie, it would be replaced with Su Bei’s movie.

Hence, Lu Tianqing got her assistant to buy one or two tickets for each movie screening to lock the venues so that the movie theaters would not replace the movie.

However, in that case, the movie theaters would be the ones on the losing end. Therefore, such an action would offend the movie theaters.

That was why the manager had tried to dissuade Lu Tianqing.

However, Lu Tianqing did not want to lose too badly. Not only was she starring in this movie, but she had also invested money in it. Furthermore, she had bet all her future honor on this.

If Su Bei pressed her against the ground with her movie this time, she would never be able to raise her head again.

Hence, this was the only solution she could think of.

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The producers of Su Bei’s movie wanted to give Su Bei, He Xuyan, and Lu Bei a sum of money for helping them with their movie’s publicity.

Clearly, the momentum of the entire movie was influenced by them. After the audience watched the movie, they felt that the movie was good. When they went back, they recommended the movie to the people around them.

The movie theater managers who had accepted Jin Mingchang’s money were now filled with regret. They watched helplessly as the other theaters made money. Although they had given Su Bei more screenings, they couldn’t give her too many. After all, they still had to consider Lu Tianqing’s request.

They had no choice but to suffer the consequences.

They could only wait until no one watched Lu Tianqing’s movie. Then, they would naturally switch to Su Bei’s movie.

However, it was also at this time that many movie theaters discovered that there were people buying tickets for Lu Tianqing's movie.

However, only one or two people bought tickets for each screening.

Chapter 1352: An Extraordinary Chemical Reaction (3)

They examined the situation carefully. The purchaser had bought all the tickets almost at the same time, and they paid through the same software.

"Someone's locking up our venues!" The manager was quick to spot the fact.

"I wonder if it's Lu Tianqing herself or her fans."

"But no matter who it is, it's so unethical! If no one had bought the tickets, we could have naturally switched to another movie that would sell well. Now, we have to screen this movie while making a loss."

"Right. I noticed too. Even though there were people who bought the tickets, no one showed up to watch the movie. The whole theater was empty."

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"Previously, we were worried that we would let Boss Jin down by replacing Lu Tianqing, but since they're so heartless, we can only do the same. Return all these tickets to the buyer immediately and change Lu Tianqing's movie to Su Bei's movie!"

"Yes, change it to Su Bei's movie!"

Everyone had long wanted to change it. After all, it was really too uncomfortable to see a lot of money not being earned.

Now that they had found such a good reason, they would act immediately.

With this change, the box office results of Su Bei's movie completely soared. Lu Tianqing could only occupy a fraction of Su Bei's results.

Lu Tianqing said to her manager, "Let's announce it to the public directly. Let's say that Su Bei maliciously snatched our showtimes and made the movie theater managers deliberately refund the tickets to our movie. She doesn't want people to watch my movie, so she's forcing everyone to only watch her movie."

Soon, many people posted photos of the refund notice for their tickets.

They claimed: [We originally wanted to support Lu Tianqing, but after we bought the tickets, the movie theaters refused to let us watch the movie and forcibly refunded our tickets. We later discovered that the tickets they gave us were all for Su Bei's movie.]

[Is it so difficult to watch a movie we want? We like Lu Tianqing. Is that wrong?]

[The movie theaters should give us an explanation. Why did they do that?]

[Must Su Bei treat us like this just because she has the support of a famous director?]

The matter caused a huge commotion. After all, a Best Actor and other popular actors were also in Lu Tianqing's movie. The fans of these people were not to be underestimated. They followed suit and said: [No wonder the box office results of the movie were surpassed by Su Bei's movie. Later on, we couldn't even catch up. So there's such an inside story. If you don't give us an explanation, you can't blame us for not letting it go.]

[Su Bei, you're really too much. Did He Xuyan give you the courage? You contracted all these movie theaters? Why are you still making movies when you're so rich, then?]

[That's right. It was all hype before, but now, you're promoting your movie in such a vicious way. Don't tell me we can only watch your movie with our heads down? What about our dignity as movie-goers?]

Jin Mingchang also flared up at the movie theater managers. "Everyone, we've been working together for many years. Your actions this time are too disrespectful to me. What benefits did Su Bei give you?"

The managers had no choice but to give the evidence of the venue lock to Jin Mingchang.

Jin Mingchang was also an expert in this area. When he saw this, he understood what Lu Tianqing had done.

Although these managers had indeed been paid, they just did what they had to do. No one watched Lu Tianqing's movie, so it was their freedom to replace Lu Tianqing's movie with Su Bei's.

Lu Tianqing had maliciously locked their venues first. Jin Mingchang was indeed in the wrong.

"This must've been done by fans. I hope that you won't ruin our many years of friendship because of the actions of some brainless fans!" Jin Mingchang said and turned to leave.

The managers breathed a sigh of relief. At least they knew they wouldn't have to take full responsibility for this.

The reprimands online were too fierce, but the managers couldn't be bothered to clarify things for Su Bei. Wouldn't it be a slap to Lu Tianqing's face?

They would give Jin Mingchang face, but not Su Bei.

This was especially so for Manager Liang, who was leading the group. He said to everyone, "There's no need to respond to the matters of the outside world. When something like this happens, the blame will all be on the celebrities. Everyone, let's just guard our own cinemas well. We won't get involved."

When he got home, he counted the money he earned from Su Bei's movie and used her popularity as a stepping stone. However, he was not the slightest bit swayed despite seeing how badly Su Bei was being scolded online.

"What are you so happy about, Dad?" his son and daughter asked.

"Why shouldn't I be happy? I've made money."

Manager Liang went to sleep after drinking.

His son and daughter were both Su Bei's fans. They planned to check his computer to see if there was any news about Su Bei. As high school students, they had a lot of lessons and a very packed schedule. Manager Liang usually didn't allow them to use the computer.

Chapter 1353: Eat, Wear, Sleep (1)

The siblings turned on the computer and saw that their father had obtained evidence of Lu Tianqing locking movie theaters and that he had communicated with the other movie theater managers.

"So Su Bei is really being slandered. The movie theaters refunded the tickets not because Su Bei bribed the movie theaters but because Lu Tianqing locked the venues!" The siblings discussed. They were familiar with some professional terms because they often heard their father mention them.

"We can't let Su Bei continue to be slandered like this. We have to tell everyone what happened!" After discussing it, they decided to release all the evidence.

Young people were always righteous and only cared about justice. They rarely thought about anything else. They only knew that Su Bei was in the right, so they could not let her suffer.

Before Manager Liang woke up, the siblings sorted out all the evidence and released it.

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Soon, everyone saw that those people were refunded because they had locked the venues.

They bought tickets for the movie, but they didn't go to watch it, causing the movie theaters a big loss.

Besides, the purchaser bought tickets using the same software and used the same method of payment.

After the news was released, the fans of the actors in Lu Tianqing's movie also realized this.

The people who had mocked Su Bei previously started to mock Lu Tianqing.

[To be honest, there's really no problem with everyone's acting in Lu Tianqing's movie. However, the plot elements in it are too complicated, causing it to be a little difficult to get into the vibe.]

[I think so too. I felt a little confused after watching it. It was part comedy, fantasy, romance, and action. Even with everything combined, there was nothing memorable.]

[That's right, so no one can be blamed for the poor box office results. Besides, the movie theaters basically gave her 90% of the screenings. This is really an unprecedented number of screenings. No matter how good the other movies are, it's already good enough to get 50% of the screenings. However, Li Tianqing's movie still suffered a crushing defeat in terms of box office results. What can the movie theaters do?]

[Cutting off someone's income is like killing their parents. Really, the act of locking the venues is too much. It costs money to operate a movie theater. The cost is very high. If the movie can't be sold for money, then they'll naturally replace it with another movie. Why must they resort to locking the venues?]

[Apologize to Su Bei. You really can't blame Su Bei for this. Don't the movie theaters need to earn money? Who will support their many employees and their families, then?]

[That's right. Su Bei is really too pitiful. She has to take the blame for everything. Besides, this is happening when her movie is selling well. I can imagine how everyone would talk about her if she failed at the box office.]

[Everyone should be cautious in the future. Don't let anyone lead you by the nose.]

For a moment, everyone who had misunderstood Su Bei before collectively knew what was going on and stood up to voice their opinions.

When Manager Liang woke up, things had already gotten out of hand. However, it was his children who did it. What else could he do?

All he could say was that he had to bear the responsibility for his actions and pay the price.

When Lu Tianqing saw the outcome, she had nothing to say. She just hurriedly went online and posted on Weibo: [I don't know who are the kind fans who helped me lock the venues. While I really appreciate your kindness, the movie market is fair and just. Everyone is competing from the same position. No matter what, we can't use such a method to participate in the competition in the market. Please look at all the problems with a rational mind next time. To my fans, please don't do anything inappropriate.

[I also apologize on behalf of my fans. In the future, I will lead by example and achieve better results.]

With just a few sentences, she had completely removed herself from all blame. She did a clean job and made it seem as though it was her fans who locked the venues.

Although she received a lot of ridicule, she could still pretend to have a positive character and win back some superficial glory.

Even if the outside world knew that she was the one who did it, there was not much concrete evidence pointing to her now. Moreover, she apologized sincerely. This matter finally subsided peacefully.

As the matter had blown up before, it had a greatly positive impact on Su Bei's movie.

The producer gave her a big bonus.

Chapter 1354: Eat, Wear, Sleep (2)

"Su Bei, regard this as a bonus."

"Thank you, then." Su Bei accepted it with peace of mind, taking it as compensation for all the scolding she endured.

As soon as she put the phone down, another call came in.

She picked it up and heard He Xuyan's cold voice on the other end. "Su Bei, let's meet."

"Okay," she agreed while thinking of Madam He's eyes.

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Su Bei met He Xuyan at a private clubhouse.

He was still dressed in very ordinary clothes, but with his figure, ordinary clothes looked elegant and aristocratic.

Su Bei sat down, and He Xuyan handed her the drink menu.

She ordered a glass of something at random.

He handed over a box. "Your hat. It's been washed. You can have it back. Thank you."

"Thanks," she said while taking it back.

"I'm really sorry about the other day. My mother isn't usually like that. She hasn't relapsed in a long time." He Xuyan was very honest. Perhaps it was because Su Bei had already seen his mother in that state, so there was no need to hide it from Su Bei.

Su Bei smiled. "I can understand that. There's no need to apologize. You guys helped me earn a wave of box office sales that day. Otherwise, I don't know if I would've achieved anything in this movie. Speaking of which, I should thank you."

He Xuyan gave a rare smile.

"Is Aunt feeling better?"

"Yes, she's doing better now." He nodded. "She also mentioned you and said she's sorry."

Su Bei smiled. "Actually, I think she's quite amiable."

Anyway, she couldn't describe the feeling. Madam He's behavior that day was a little scary, but Su Bei felt that she was a good person.

He Xuyan's black eyes darted around. "When my mother was pregnant with my sister, she always liked to buy panda plushies. She bought all kinds of things related to pandas. She originally planned to give them to my sister after she was born. But after my sister was born, she died. My mother has never been able to get over it. Hence, she would occasionally fall ill, especially when she sees panda-related things.

"I was careless that night. I wasn't watching her when I went to buy the tickets."

"So, it was because of my panda hat. No wonder. I can understand Aunt's feelings. If it were me, I would've reacted the same way too." Su Bei's words came from the bottom of her heart. As a mother, she could understand how a mother felt when she lost her child.

"I'm also sorry about the scandal I caused you."

"Director He, I'm not used to it when you're not scolding me. Not only are you not picking on me, but you keep apologizing. I think I'll be even more afraid to see you next time."

He Xuyan smiled again. He always had a very lonely and cold aura, making him very difficult to approach.

However, after this incident, Su Bei felt that he was quite a good person. At least he was reasonable and had more character than when he was a director.

After seeing He Xuyan, Su Bei sent the big bonus to Lu Heting.

[This is?]

[It's a bonus from the producers to thank me for my contribution to the movie's publicity. I thought that your and Lu Bei's publicity efforts shouldn't be underestimated, so I should reward you too.]

[I thought you were giving me an allowance.]

[If you want, I don't mind being your sugar mommy." Su Bei smiled. "But forget it. The amount of money I have to give to you, a big shot, won't be small. I'm afraid I can't afford it.]

[I'm indeed not cheap. I have to eat, buy clothes to wear, and... sleep.]

Although it was only a message, Su Bei could feel it through the screen. The word 'sleep' was strangely coy. She felt as if she could see the man's Adam's apple moving.

Probably because Su Bei didn't reply, Lu Heting sent another message. [I can eat less.]

Su Bei couldn't help but laugh until her shoulders trembled.

She was about to reply when a call came in. She saw the caller ID and answered.

The caller was Lin Shulian.

As soon as the call went through, she said guiltily, "Su Bei, I'm really sorry about Tang Yue. I didn't know she did that to you when she was young..."

"I don't need you to apologize to me on her behalf, and I won't accept it either." Su Bei's voice was indifferent, but she later softened her tone as she said, "You don't have to apologize for her."

Lin Shulian's cries came softly.

Chapter 1355: Eat, Wear, Sleep (3)

Su Bei listened calmly. Because her relationship with Lin Shulian was very dull and unfamiliar, she didn't know how to comfort her.

Was she supposed to accept her apology on Tang Yue's behalf? She couldn't do that.

Hence, it could only be a stalemate.

After a while, Lin Shulian probably felt bored herself. She stopped crying and said, "Su Bei, come back home. I have something to tell you."

"I've been a little busy recently..." Su Bei declined. She was most afraid that her family would ask her to reconcile with Tang Yue. As it was such a large family, she was not in the mood to socialize.

“No, Su Bei. What I want to tell you has nothing to do with Tang Yue. It’s something else. Please come back.”

Lin Shulian’s tone was already pleading.

Although Su Bei had no feelings for her, she couldn’t help but feel a certain way. She could only say, “Okay, I’ll go back.”

“Good, good, that’s good.”

Su Bei hung up and took a deep breath.

Knowing that she was going back, Lu Heting frowned slightly. “What else does the Tang family have to tell you?”

“I don’t know either. But I’ve promised Mom.”

“Then I’ll go back with you and wait for you outside the Tang family’s house.”

Lu Heting was worried about her going alone.

At night, Lu Heting drove Su Bei to the Tang family’s house.

Regarding the scandal between Lu Heting and Lu Bei, only Old Master Tang and Tang Xinru knew the truth. As such, it was not convenient for him to go to the Tang family now.

He stopped the car and gave Su Bei some reminders before watching her enter the Tang family’s house.

Su Bei, who was carrying her bag, had just reached the Tang family’s house when a butler immediately came forward to welcome her. “Second Miss, you’re back. Please come in.”

Su Bei nodded and followed him in. She saw that only Old Master Tang, Tang Jianming, and Lin Shulian were in the house. Tang Yue was not around.

Su Bei heaved a sigh of relief. She was not afraid of Tang Yue, but she did not want to feel uncomfortable in front of her elders.

Out of sight, out of mind. This was perfect.

“Su Bei, you’re back. Come and sit with me.” When Old Master Tang saw Su Bei, his turbid eyes lit up.

“Grandpa, Dad, Mom.” Su Bei sat down in front of Old Master Tang.

As if knowing that Su Bei would not like it if they brought up Tang Yue, Old Master Tang did not mention Tang Yue at all. He only asked a few questions to know if Su Bei was alright.

Su Bei answered his questions one by one, but she knew in her heart that Lin Shulian wouldn’t have asked her to come back just for this.

She asked, “Mom, did you call me back for anything else?”

“It’s time for you to know. I haven’t taken you to your grandmother’s house since you came back, but that doesn’t mean you don’t have a grandmother,” Lin Shulian said. “Tomorrow, I’ll bring you and Tang Yue along. I happen to have something to do there.”

Su Bei had never thought about this before. She nodded. "Alright, I'll go with you. What do you need me to do?"

"Your grandmother is still alive, along with your aunt and uncle. However, your grandfather passed away some years ago. When he passed away, he left behind a large inheritance. It wasn't distributed to his children but to his grandchildren. You're naturally included among them. According to the will he left behind, it's almost time for his inheritance to be distributed, so tomorrow, you need to go over."

So that was it. Su Bei had never thought that she would have any inheritance.

However, she was not interested in the inheritance. Besides, she did not have any feelings for her grandparents. She was afraid that she would not feel at ease getting these things.

Hence, she said, "It's only right for me to visit Grandma, but the inheritance..."

Sensing that she didn't want it, Lin Shulian immediately said, "It should be yours, so why wouldn't you want it? Besides, this is a will your grandfather left behind years ago. No one has the right to change it. The lawyers will distribute the inheritance according to your grandfather's will. It's not a matter of whether you want it or not. You have to accept it."

"Alright." Su Bei nodded.

"Then come early in the morning."

Su Bei nodded again. She was not close to Tang Jianming and Lin Shulian. After exchanging a few words, she stopped talking and only chatted with Old Master Tang.

Seeing that it was getting late, she got up and said goodbye.

When she got into the car, Lu Heting's eyes flashed with nervousness. "What happened with the Tang family?"

"It's a good thing this time. There's no need to worry." Su Bei beamed.

"Hmm?"

"Mom said that my late grandfather left behind an inheritance for his grandchildren, so we have to go over tomorrow. The lawyer has something to say."

Chapter 1356: Retain A Little More Kinship

When he heard this, Lu Heting let go of all his worries.

"I wasn't going to accept it, but they said it was necessary I accept it, so I'll have to make the trip tomorrow."

Lu Heting didn't show any reaction to this. "In that case, you go ahead."

"Money is dropping from the sky this time. If I had known that I had a share of the inheritance, I wouldn't have needed to work so hard," Su Bei sighed.

Lu Heting smiled happily. "Your husband is rich enough, but you're still working hard."

"That's different. My husband is above everyone else. I can only follow in his footsteps if I work hard enough. This kind of hard work is not the same as working hard to earn money."

"Then I'll slow down a bit until you catch up."

"No, no, no. If you slow down, someone else will catch up with you. You might as well go faster. I'll just try to follow you."

Su Bei stopped and thought for a moment. "But maybe the so-called inheritance is only a few thousand or tens of thousands of yuan. I wonder who my grandfather is?"

Lu Heting knew her grandfather's family quite well. Previously, Lin Hancheng had also caused trouble for the Tang family.

However, there was no need for her to know these things yet. He should let her heart retain a little more kinship.

The next day, Su Bei met up with Lin Shulian and Tang Jianming.

Tang Yue followed behind Lin Shulian. When she saw Su Bei, she glanced at her coldly and looked away.

Tang Yue had not been living well recently. She was visibly haggard, and even her exquisite makeup could not hide the dark circles under her eyes. Her face was gray and did not look good.

She had not gone out for a long time. When she walked out of the Tang family's house, her eyes narrowed uncomfortably when she saw the sun.

Su Bei pretended not to see her and greeted Tang Jianming and Lin Shulian.

Tang Yue sat in the front passenger seat and glanced at Su Bei in the rearview mirror. Seeing that her eyes were bright, her expression was clear, and her complexion was very good, she felt angry and clenched her fists tightly.

Su Bei did not say much the entire time. Lin Shulian was afraid that Tang Yue would be unhappy, so she did not find a topic to talk about either. The atmosphere was very dull and uncomfortable.

When they finally reached their destination, Su Bei got out of the car first and took a breath of fresh air.

Before she could steady herself, a figure rushed toward Su Bei. "Su Bei!"

"Wenyu! What are you doing here?" Su Bei was surprised to see her.

"Why can't I be here? This is my home. Your grandmother is my grandmother," Lin Wenyu said bluntly.

Su Bei: "???"

For a moment, she did not understand. No one had told her about this before.

Besides, Lin Shulian had never mentioned it.

Tang Jianming and Lin Shulian got out of the car. Lin Wenyu greeted, "Aunt, Uncle."

Lin Shulian was very surprised by the relationship between Lin Wenyu and Su Bei, but this surprise disappeared in an instant.

After Tang Yue got out of the car, Lin Wenyu ignored her. Clearly, because of what had happened a while ago, she had long lost all good feelings for Tang Yue.

Seeing Su Bei and Lin Wenyu holding hands, Tang Yue clenched her fists again. Her exquisitely polished nails almost broke.

"Let's go in first," Lin Wenyu said while holding Su Bei's hand as they walked in.

Previously, Su Bei had not imagined what kind of family the Lin family was. Now that she walked in, she realized that although this antique house looked inconspicuous on the outside, it was not to be underestimated on the inside. It was filled with vintage items and nostalgia. The materials used to build the house and their combination were very exquisite.

It could be seen that this residence was quite old and had a very deep history.

Lin Wenyu chatted with her as they walked. It had been a long time since they last met, so she had too much to say.

Su Bei smiled back at her. When they reached the living room, Lin Wenyu stopped talking. She let go of Su Bei's wrist and said in a low voice, "My father is here. I'll talk to you later."

With that, she quickly slipped to the side and stood straight as if she didn't know Su Bei. It was obvious that she was afraid of someone.

Su Bei looked over in confusion and saw a man in his 50s with a particularly dignified expression walking over. His square face was very stiff, and his unsmiling appearance was a little scary.

Su Bei had seen the woman walking with him somewhere before. She suddenly remembered that the woman's name was Qin Zufang. She had attended the president's wife's banquet the last time, so her status could not be underestimated.

Therefore, the Lin family was indeed high and powerful, even more so than the Tang family.

No wonder they lived in such a place.

Qin Zufang also looked at Su Bei. She had a good impression of Su Bei, but because of her husband's attitude, she could only say indifferently, "Su Bei, you're here? Have a seat."

"Thank you." She sat down.

Tang Jianming and his family walked in. Compared to Su Bei's normal self, the three of them were clearly a little nervous, especially Tang Yue. She gulped gently.

If it were before, she would not be afraid. She did not think that the feud between her mother and the Lin family would affect her.

However, this time was different. The kidney transplant incident and her role in Su Bei's disappearance back then had already caused her to be condemned by everyone. It was obvious what the Lin family would think of her.

She could only tuck her tail between her legs and keep a low profile.

However, Su Bei didn't think much of it. She treated the other party with respect regardless of their background. She just needed to be herself. She didn't need to be timid or deliberately ingratiating.

"Grandma, you're here." Lin Wenyu ran over to greet an old lady.

Su Bei took a closer look. She knew this old lady. Last time, she had even sent her home.

How strange. Why were all the people she met today familiar?

However, this old lady's status was not ordinary. Su Bei did not act too familiar with her and only nodded at her.

Old Madam Lin also recognized Su Bei. Or rather, she had long known Su Bei's identity. She smiled knowingly.

"Aunt." Lin Shulian stood up and greeted Old Madam Lin.

Su Bei was puzzled again. Didn't they say that Lin Wenyu's grandmother was her grandmother? Why did Lin Shulian call her 'Aunt' instead of 'Mom'?

She quickly got a grasp of the situation. There were too many people in big families like these. They might have a lot of secrets that were not for outsiders to know. She didn't need to be curious now. She would find out soon enough.

Old Madam Lin sat down and said, "When Xuyan arrives later, everyone will be here."

Xuyan?

He Xuyan?

Su Bei recalled that Lin Wenyu had said before that He Xuyan was her cousin.

Chapter 1357: Unhappy

Other than Lin Wenyu's father, everyone here was a familiar face to Su Bei.

Sure enough, after a while, He Xuyan arrived.

At this moment, Old Madam Lin, Lin Hancheng, and Qin Zufang all had genuine smiles on their faces as they greeted He Xuyan gently.

He Xuyan's usually stern expression warmed up a little. He walked to Old Madam Lin's side and sat down. "Grandma."

"Are you still so busy, child? Look how much weight you've lost. It's obvious you haven't been eating properly."

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"I do eat good food, Grandma." There was actually a hint of playfulness in He Xuyan's voice.

It surprised Su Bei.

However, the person who was even more shocked was Tang Yue. She originally didn't think much of He Xuyan and did not know him at all. After all, Lin Shulian and the Lin family barely interacted.

Therefore, the last time she got into a conflict with He Xuyan in the parking lot, she scolded him and even tossed money at him to humiliate him.

Now that she saw this man again and heard his name, she remembered that this was the famous Director He Xuyan, the best among the young directors of S Country.

More than that, he was from the Lin family.

Tang Yue subconsciously took half a step back, trying to avoid He Xuyan's gaze. However, He Xuyan was actually not looking at her at all. He did not even look in her direction.

She couldn't tell if he was disdainful or too lazy to care.

After Old Madam Lin finished speaking to He Xuyan, she slowly looked at everyone and said indifferently, "I'm sure you know why I called you here today. When the old man passed away back then, he left his assets in the foundation and left behind a will. He wanted to wait for the children of your generation to grow up before splitting the inheritance equally with you. It's about time now. The children have also grown up and can stand on their own. Therefore, I called you over to distribute the things that the old man left behind."

She looked from He Xuyan to Su Bei and said, "The old man had a son and two daughters. His son, Lin Hancheng, has only one daughter, Lin Wenyu. His daughter, Lin Xiruo, has He Xuyan. As for Lin Shulian, you have two daughters, Tang Yue and Su Bei. In that case, there are four children in this generation. Do you have any objections?"

"No," Lin Shulian said quickly. Her two daughters would be taking advantage of her father's will. Of course, she had no objections.

Su Bei thought, 'So, He Xuyan's mother is called Lin Xiruo. She's indeed a woman from a rich family. She looks elegant, but her mental state is indeed a little unstable.'

"Four children. In that case, the inheritance has to be divided into four equal parts. Each child will have a share," Old Madam Lin said. "There's no objection, right?"

"No," said Lin Shulian again.

"That's good," said Old Madam Lin. "Since no one has any objections, the legal team will come in a few days to split the inheritance as agreed. Regarding how much of the inheritance you get and what it is, you can each contact the legal team to ask them about it. Don't come and give your opinions to me when the time comes."

Su Bei could tell that these words were most likely meant for Lin Shulian. From the looks of it, Old Madam Lin was very close to Lin Hancheng and Lin Xiruo. Only Lin Shulian was distant from this family.

No wonder Su Bei had not heard anything about the Lin family after returning to the Tang family for so long, nor had she been brought to the Lin family by Lin Shulian.

She wondered what the reason was.

Lin Shulian smiled and said, "Aunt, the legal team has always helped to take care of these things. There won't be a problem. Even if I don't go to the legal team to ask them, I already know that there's no problem at all. Naturally, there won't be any objections when the time comes."

"In that case, we'll wait until we hear from the legal team. I'm tired, so I won't keep you."

"Alright, we'll leave now." Lin Shulian stood up tactfully and left with Tang Jianming.

Tang Yue sat in the living room, feeling like she was sitting on pins and needles. She could not wait to leave. She hurriedly followed Lin Shulian.

Su Bei also wanted to leave, but just as she took a step, she saw Lin Wenyu winking at her. She had no choice but to say to Lin Shulian, "Mom, I still have something to do later, so I won't be following you. You guys can leave first."

"Sure. Take care, then."

Su Bei slowed down and fell behind. Lin Wenyu ran over quickly and took her arm.

Su Bei heard Lin Hancheng say from behind, "Tang Yue's character is very problematic. Do we really have to split the inheritance with her?"

Old Madam Lin said, "When your father left his will back then, he didn't say that we had to consider one's character. Everything will be done according to the agreement between the lawyers and your father. After the inheritance is distributed, I'll be able to relax. Money is just an external object."

When she said that, Lin Hancheng stopped talking and tacitly agreed to the current arrangements.

Lin Wenyu pulled Su Bei and ran into the garden behind.

"Sigh, I know you're busy. I haven't seen you in a long time. I really didn't expect you to leave so soon." Lin Wenyu couldn't bear for Su Bei to leave now.

Su Bei smiled. "I don't think I'll be very welcome here. We can just meet up next time."

"Su Bei, don't blame Grandma and my father for being cold. They're not targeting you. It's just that they don't really like Lin Shulian."

"What's the story between them?"

"Please don't take offense. Back then, Lin Shulian was the child of a servant in the family. Originally, that servant was a servant Grandma thought highly of and took good care of. She brought her out of the village so that her parents could seek medical treatment and gave her a stable job so that she didn't have to worry about food and clothes. When Grandpa was sick, she volunteered to take care of him. Then, she became pregnant with Grandpa's child. She even secretly gave birth to Lin Shulian.

"Grandma and Grandpa had known each other since they were young. They experienced many things together, and she did many things for him. It was not difficult for them to risk their lives for each other. This matter broke Grandma's heart, but if Grandpa wanted to acknowledge Lin Shulian, Grandma had no choice but to do so."

Hearing this, Su Bei nodded. "No wonder she called the old madam 'Aunt' instead of 'Mom'."

"I heard my parents mention it when we were chatting. Grandma would never let her call her 'Mom'. Come to think of it, if I treated a man wholeheartedly and he rewarded me with the child of another woman, I definitely wouldn't be able to stand it. Grandma naturally isn't happy about it, and I understand where she's coming from."

Chapter 1358: Somewhat Unfair

"I can understand how she feels too." Su Bei nodded gently.

"Back then, Grandpa was old and broke his leg once. Lin Shulian took care of him for several years. Before Grandpa passed away, he was very grateful for her and wanted to leave a portion of the inheritance to her. However, Grandma was very unhappy about it. Although she didn't object, he could tell her true thoughts. Grandpa didn't want to leave Grandma any regrets, but he also didn't want Lin Shulian to have nothing at all. That was why he made such a decision. He decided to split the inheritance among the children of our generation and didn't give it directly to Lin Shulian.

"With that, Grandma had nothing to say. She also often said that although she didn't like Lin Shulian, Lin Shulian's children were innocent. There was no need to target the children."

"So that's how it is. The old man put in a lot of effort," Su Bei whispered.

"That's right. When I was young, Grandpa was quite nice to us and treated us kindly. But as long as Lin Shulian came over, the atmosphere in the house would become very bad."

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Su Bei said softly, "I can understand that feeling. There's nothing wrong with Lin Shulian, but her existence is like a thorn in the old madam's heart. But she's a person, not a real thorn. It's impossible to pull it out. It's indeed a little troubling for such a person to appear in the family."

"That's right. It would've been fine if Grandma and Grandpa had reconciled. Unfortunately, Grandma and Grandpa didn't reconcile until Grandpa passed away. Grandpa left with regrets, and Grandma is still angry with herself. Whenever she mentions Lin Shulian, she'll get angry. Actually, even if you leave this world first, it still might not bring you any relief."

These words made Lin Wenyu and Su Bei lower their heads in deep thought as their hearts felt heavy.

After a long while, Lin Wenyu said, "Lin Shulian's existence angers Grandma, so she also deprived Aunt of many things. Therefore, my father hates Lin Shulian. Previously, when Grandpa's leg was injured, my father investigated it and said that it was Lin Shulian who did it. However, Grandpa refused to believe it, and Dad couldn't produce any more concrete evidence, so this matter could only be left unsettled. Therefore, my family has some opinions about Lin Shulian."

Su Bei sighed as she listened to these words. Many such tragedies were actually caused by the disloyalty of men or women to their relationships, which led to these tragedies continuing from generation to generation.

But how many people were truly faithful to their marriage? They were used to hearing about such things, and sometimes, it was quite exhausting. Beliefs collapsed, and values were refreshed.

Seeing that Su Bei was still deep in thought, Lin Wenyu stuck out her tongue and said, "Su Bei, we don't have any opinions about it. It's just Lin Shulian. All this isn't directed at you. I'm just stating objective facts. I'm not deliberately targeting your mother either."

"It doesn't matter. Since it's the truth, there's nothing you can't say." Su Bei smiled. Besides, deep down, her relationship with Lin Shulian was not deep.

She said, "So the inheritance will be divided equally in this way now?"

"That's right. My father only has one daughter, and my aunt only has one son, who's also my cousin. With you and Tang Yue, there are four of us. Although Grandpa said that one more child means an extra share of the inheritance, my father is a very magnanimous person. He wouldn't decide whether to have another child just because of these things. Of course, Aunt and Lin Shulian are the same too. They probably had another child purely because they wanted to and it had nothing to do with the inheritance. It's just a pity that Aunt's child..."

Su Bei knew that the aunt she was talking about was He Xuyan's mother, Lin Xiruo, so she asked, "What happened to that child of hers?"

"Sh*t, my cousin won't let me talk about it. He'll be pissed off again later."

Lin Wenyu stuck out her tongue, clearly a little afraid of He Xuyan. She looked around to see if He Xuyan had come over.

Su Bei was amused by her actions. Then, she said seriously, "It's fine. Actually, I already know that he had a sister who died prematurely."

"Wow, you even know that. Did Cousin tell you that?"

"Have you forgotten? I've worked with Director He before, and we're quite close." Su Bei didn't mention Lin Xiruo's relapse. Perhaps He Xuyan didn't want anyone to mention his dead sister because he didn't want anyone to trigger Lin Xiruo's illness.

Lin Wenyu nodded heavily. "Then I can tell you. Aunt's child died at birth. Aunt was very sad because of it. She was pregnant with that child not for the inheritance but because she really wanted that child, so she poured a lot of effort and feelings into the baby.

"If it was really about the inheritance, she wouldn't have stopped getting pregnant and having children after that baby died."

"What about your aunt now?"

"She and Uncle are usually abroad. This time, because of the inheritance, they came back to pay respects to Grandpa and accompany Cousin. It's just that Aunt seems to be a little ill again. She's been in a bad mood for the past two days.

"When she came back the other day, she kept talking about looking for her daughter. She even insisted that Cousin bring that panda hat to do a DNA test. She insisted that the owner of the panda hat was her

daughter. Sigh, I can't bear to see her like this. I didn't think her emotional problems were so serious before. I didn't expect them to worsen this time."

Lin Wenyu seemed to have a very good relationship with Lin Xiruo. When she mentioned Lin Xiruo, her eyes turned red.

Su Bei recalled the panda hat she was wearing that night. She had originally worn it casually, but she didn't expect it to cause Lin Xiruo to have such a serious relapse.

However, she did not mean it. It would be strange if she deliberately apologized for it.

Lin Wenyu wiped her tears and smiled. "Look at me. I said that I would talk to you for just a while. In the end, you were trapped by my side to listen to my story."

"It's fine. The Lin family's matter is related to me. I've never heard of it before. It's good to hear it now. It also solves some of the doubts in my heart."

Lin Wenyu said, "In any case, Grandma is determined to split the assets according to Grandpa's will. The only person I feel is undeserving is Tang Yue. What she did to you was really too much. However, she's going to get the same inheritance as us. I'm really unhappy."

"It's alright. Since none of this was mentioned in Grandpa's will, there's no point arguing."

As the two of them were talking, the butler came over with a document and stood respectfully beside Lin Wenyu.

"Miss, Young Master said that this is for Eldest Miss."

Chapter 1359: It's My Daughter

"Give it to me. I'll give it to Aunt." Lin Wenyu took it.

The butler handed it over with both hands.

Lin Wenyu took it and shook it in her hand. She said to Su Bei, "Guess what this is?"

"Don't tell me it's the DNA test report you were talking about?"

"How clever of you to guess it right. Cousin really had it done. Aunt is very clever. She would've seen through it at once if she was given a fake document."

"But..." Puzzled, Su Bei pointed to the document in her hand. "This is also fake?"

How could one do a DNA test with a panda hat? And how? It must be fake, right?

Lin Wenyu hurriedly made a shushing gesture. "Although this is fake, the procedure was done in a designated hospital. Moreover, it's done according to the real procedure. It's just that we can't do a real DNA test."

"Director He is really filial to his mother," Su Bei said.

“It’s more than that. My uncle loves and indulges my aunt. The father and son never object to what my aunt wants to do. They’ll definitely help her do anything she requests of them,” Lin Wenyu said. “Why don’t you accompany me to deliver this document to my aunt? I’ll also take the chance to ask about her health.”

Su Bei had plans to visit Lin Xiruo. She naturally agreed to Lin Wenyu’s invitation.

Lin Wenyu held her hand and walked to the back. It turned out that the Lin family’s old residence was even more spacious than Su Bei had thought. Moreover, it was an old-fashioned structure. The other courtyard was connected to this side, and it was very convenient.

“Aunt? Aunt?” Lin Wenyu shouted as soon as she reached the entrance of the courtyard.

“Wenyu, is that you? Come in quickly.” Lin Xiruo’s voice sounded. It was gentle, calm, and very elegant, making it difficult to associate her with her crazy appearance that night.

She must be in her 50s, but she still looked very young. It was as if the years had treated her exceptionally well and there were no signs of her deteriorating mental health.

There was a smile on her lips as she looked in Lin Wenyu’s direction.

Su Bei and Lin Wenyu walked in together.

Lin Wenyu ran to Lin Xiruo and said with a smile, “I came to see you and give you this document. Cousin asked me to bring it over.”

“Really?” Lin Xiruo said. “Put it over there.”

“Aren’t you going to take a look at it first?”

Lin Xiruo’s mind was clear at this moment. She smiled and said, “No, I’m not.”

In fact, she knew very well that her daughter was already gone. How could she still be here?

When her daughter was born, her little body stopped breathing in her hands. Everything came to an abrupt end at that moment. From then on, her world became a little less brilliant as though everything was in black and white.

Everything that happened after that was just a sign that she had lost control of her mind.

She was well aware of her own condition. It was just that she was helpless about it.

She couldn’t control herself, so most of the time, she felt guilty toward her husband and son for causing them so much trouble.

Seeing that she did not want to read the document, Lin Wenyu knew that she was clear-headed at the moment and was not having a relapse. She said, “Aunt, you know that there are many guests at home today, right? Grandma is arranging to split Grandpa’s assets.”

“I heard that Shulian brought her daughters back.” Lin Xiruo smiled. “I was rude and didn’t go out to meet them. Speaking of which, my relationship with Shulian was quite good back then. When we gave birth, we were still living together. We went to the hospital to give birth together...”

Lin Wenyu smiled. "I didn't expect you to be so close to Aunt."

"Actually, I had a prejudice against her in the beginning, but during the years when your grandfather's leg was injured, she ignored her studies and work abroad to come back home. She diligently took care of Grandpa for several years. Even I, his biological daughter, was ashamed of my inferiority. It was also at that time that I changed my opinion of her and no longer treated her with my old attitude," Lin Xiruo said.

"That's true. Speaking of the years she took care of Grandpa, no one can deny her efforts. I just didn't expect you and her to get along so well that you even gave birth together, Aunt."

Lin Xiruo smiled. The face of her child appeared in front of her again, and she felt a little dizzy. She stretched out her hand and supported herself on Lin Wenyu's body before managing to stabilize herself.

Seeing this, Lin Wenyu hurriedly said, "Aunt, are you alright? Do you want me to bring you for a check-up?"

"I'm fine, don't worry too much. I just remembered an old memory."

"Aunt, the past is the past. Don't think too much. Think of those who love you," Lin Wenyu advised gently.

"Good girl. You're right. I'm always the one thinking too much, and it's easy to get caught up in things. Not only do I worry your uncle and cousin, but I'm worrying you as well."

"It's only right for me to worry about you, Aunt. I just want you to be well. By the way, Aunt, I brought a friend to see you." Lin Wenyu decided that it was better to introduce Su Bei as a friend. Otherwise, if Lin Xiruo heard that Su Bei was Lin Shulian's daughter, she would remember their past and it would make her fall ill.

"Really? Introduce your friend to me, then."

Su Bei had been walking behind Lin Wenyu. Then, after seeing that they were reminiscing, she didn't want to disturb them.

Now that Lin Wenyu mentioned it, Su Bei walked forward and greeted her. "Hello, Aunt."

When Lin Xiruo saw Su Bei, her originally calm eyes suddenly changed.

She froze, then stood up. Her eyes became urgent and anxious. She rushed toward Su Bei and grabbed her hands.

Su Bei was a little helpless by her enthusiasm. Lin Wenyu quickly said, "Aunt, this is my friend, Su Bei. Why don't you let Su Bei sit down first?"

"Nonsense!" Lin Xiruo's voice became sharper as she raised her voice. "This is clearly my daughter! My daughter! None of you can take my daughter away! It's my daughter! Daughter... My daughter..."

Lin Wenyu hurried forward and tried to separate the two of them.

Su Bei was also very confused. He Xuyan had explained that Lin Xiruo made a mistake that night in the movie theater because of the panda hat she was wearing.

However, Su Bei was very sure that there was nothing on her body that had anything to do with pandas. Even the thin sweater she was wearing today was lake blue. It did not look like a panda at all.

"Aunt, Aunt, let go of her first." Lin Wenyu did not expect such a situation to happen.

Chapter 1360: I Didn't Make A Mistake!

"Aunt, I'm not your daughter. I'm Su Bei, Wenyu's friend," Su Bei tried to explain.

However, Lin Xiruo's eyes turned red again. She looked at Su Bei steadily and reached out to cup her face. "You are. You clearly are. I knew it, you're my daughter. You didn't die. Who said you died prematurely? No, they're all spouting nonsense!"

Her fingers were gently placed on Su Bei's face. Su Bei's heart throbbed inexplicably. She gave up explaining and stared into Lin Xiruo's eyes.

This was a pair of eyes that contained deep love and hope. They were suddenly filled with light as if her entire world had been lit up. She looked at Su Bei with such eyes, and Su Bei couldn't refuse such a gaze.

Perhaps it was because she was a mother herself and understood deeply how important children were to mothers.

Just like back then, when she thought that Gun Gun was gone after he was born, there were many days and nights when she couldn't get out of her misery. To outsiders, she was carefree and had a bright smile. But in a corner where no one could see her, she missed him so much.

At this moment, she felt that she could not reject Lin Xiruo.

Lin Xiruo keenly sensed the change in Su Bei's emotions. She could clearly sense Su Bei's resistance changing to acceptance. She hugged Su Bei and cried, "Right? You know that you're my daughter, right? I knew it. We're mother and daughter. You must be able to recognize me too, right? You're my daughter, right?"

"Alright," Su Bei replied softly. She really couldn't hurt a mother in despair.

"I knew it. I knew it. I knew that my daughter was still alive and would come back to find me." Lin Xiruo laughed and cried. "Wenyu, go find your cousin. Hurry up."

Lin Wenyu didn't know what to do. She looked at Lin Xiruo, then at Su Bei. She hesitated for a moment before turning around and running out.

He Xuyan was chatting with Old Madam Lin. The two of them had not seen each other for a long time and had endless topics to talk about.

Lin Wenyu rushed in.

Old Madam Lin rebuked affectionately, "Why are you so reckless? What happened?"

"I..." Lin Wenyu glanced at her father, who was sitting at the side. She didn't dare to say that she had brought Su Bei to see Lin Xiruo. Hence, she could only say, "I have something to say to Cousin."

She whispered something in He Xuyan's ear.

Old Madam Lin couldn't help but laugh. "How old are you? You're still the same as when you were young. As soon as Cousin comes back, you're pestering him to play with you. Don't you have any shame?"

He Xuyan stood up and said, "Grandma, Wenyu and I have something on. We'll go over first. I'll come back to see you later."

"Go, go," Old Madam Lin said lovingly. "Don't run around. Remember to come home for dinner later."

"Got it." He Xuyan and Lin Wenyu walked out quickly. "How did this happen?"

"I'm sorry. I just took Su Bei to see Aunt. I didn't expect Aunt to suddenly have a relapse. She was fine before, and her mental state was very stable. I think Su Bei was also frightened."

He Xuyan quickened his pace toward the courtyard where his mother lived.

When he arrived, Lin Xiruo was still hugging Su Bei and refusing to let go.

"Mom!" He Xuyan had a headache. He owed Su Bei a huge favor the last time, and this time, Su Bei had suffered again. He really didn't know how to make up for it.

Hearing that her son was here, Lin Xiruo's eyes lit up. "Son, look, this is your sister. Your sister is back. I told you that your sister didn't die prematurely, right? The hospital is full of lies! Come quickly!"

He Xuyan apologized to Su Bei with his eyes.

When Su Bei received his apology, she gave him a nonchalant expression. She did not take it to heart.

She moved aside, but Lin Xiruo immediately came forward and grabbed her wrist.

Su Bei couldn't avoid it. She smiled awkwardly.

"Mom, it's windy out and a little chilly. Let's go inside and talk, okay?"

"No! Your sister will go in with us together." Lin Xiruo insisted.

Su Bei said, "I'll go in with you."

He Xuyan looked at her gratefully. Lin Wenyu was also very grateful and said, "Then let's go in first."

Lin Xiruo held Su Bei's hand. "Daughter, look. I planted the flowers over there for you. They're already blooming. Aren't they beautiful? Come in quickly. Your brother isn't very gentle. He always has a cold face, so just ignore him."

He Xuyan touched the tip of his nose, embarrassment flashing in his dark eyes.

"Mom, can you let go of Su Bei first?" He Xuyan said. "She'll be in pain if you do that."

"Okay, okay." Lin Xiruo let go of Su Bei's wrist.

"Also, let's sit over there first." He Xuyan supported her. Lin Wenyu hurriedly held Su Bei's hand, planning to escape.

Unexpectedly, just as she turned around, Lin Xiruo turned around and pulled Su Bei. "Daughter..."

She grabbed at empty air, and her expression changed. "Daughter, where are you going? Xuyan, stop your sister! Don't let anyone take her! You can't let anyone take her away!"

Lin Wenyu and Su Bei had just turned around when they couldn't take another step forward.

"Mom..." Helplessness flashed in He Xuyan's eyes.

"Don't you believe me? Do you just think that I must have gotten it wrong?" Lin Xiruo had always been magnanimous and reasonable, but now, she was anxious and angry. "You think I'm sick again and made a mistake! But no! I can tell you clearly now that I didn't make a mistake! If you don't believe me, go do a DNA test on my daughter!"

Hearing that, He Xuyan, Lin Wenyu, and Su Bei's expressions froze as they recalled the DNA test for the panda hat.

She even insisted on doing a DNA test for a panda hat. Who would believe her?

"I believe you, Mom," He Xuyan said gently with extreme patience.

"If you believe me, go and investigate again. This is definitely your sister and my daughter. You'll know with a DNA test that I'm not lying!" Lin Xiruo's attitude was firm!

He Xuyan whispered, "Yes, I didn't say that you were lying. I believe you."

"You obviously don't believe me. You only investigate when I urge you." Lin Xiruo went forward and grabbed Su Bei's hand. "My daughter, be good. Don't be afraid of the pain, okay? Let your brother draw some blood for you so that he can investigate. It won't hurt, and he'll believe me after he investigates. There are always some people who want to separate us, but I won't let that happen. I won't separate from you. Wenyu, don't you have a medical kit? Go get it. My daughter and I will go do the test."